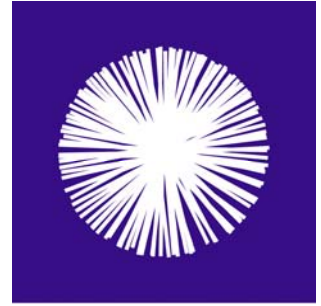


# European Monitoring

## January 2010



### Contents

1. General News
2. The European Parliament
3. The European Commission
4. The European Council
5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

## 1. General News

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### EU 2020

The EU-2020 Strategy, which will replace the current Lisbon Strategy (to foster economic growth and competitiveness) is drawing to the end of its consultation. The summary gives the impression that most stakeholders are in agreement with the general trend the Commission had suggested for this EU-2020 Strategy being: focus on “growth from knowledge, inclusive society and a greener, competitive economy. EEB have of course stepped in to argue that actually there are some folk who think different.

The Scottish parliament will be looking at 2020, and we hope to feed in the view for sustainability at this level.

### 7<sup>th</sup> EU Environment Action Programme.

Environmental Action Programmes (EAP) have, since 1971, given direction to the work of the European Commission in the environmental field. They set ambitions and targets, identified priority areas of work and, progressively, also elaborated on the need to integrate environmental objectives and conditions into other policies. The EAPs can act both as a measure of the commissions performance and a mandate for its work.

The content of the EAP is negotiated between the council, the commission and the parliament – the negotiation process is opportunity for stakeholders to get involved in shaping strategic direction.

The 6<sup>th</sup> EAP expires mid 2012, so normally the EU should discuss in 2010-2012 a new Environmental Action Programme

## European Green Week

Green week 2010 will be from 1-4 June 2010 the theme will be biodiversity.

## 2. The European Parliament

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## 3. The European Commission

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### New Commission

The vote on the election of the new European Commission takes place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. There will be a single vote in the European Parliament on whether or not to accept the whole team of Commissioners. A simple majority of votes cast is required. The new Commission could potentially take office on 10 February if the European Parliament vote is favourable and provided the European Council has also given its formal approval. Of the 27 commissioners including the president the following are of note

#### Janez Potocnik (Slovenia): Environment

He was Slovenian Minister for European Affairs from 2002-2004. He was appointed European Commissioner for Science and Research in 2004. He has no party affiliation. EEB met with him before his parliament hearing – the verdict – seems alright. You can read more in notes from the meeting in In-Brief 10-1.

More info: [europeanvoice.com](http://europeanvoice.com)

#### Günther Oettinger (Germany): Energy

He has been Minister-President of the German federal region of Baden-Württemberg since 2005 and a Member of the Christian-Democratic Union - CDU - who are allied to the EPP.

More info: [europeanvoice.com](http://europeanvoice.com) | [EEP Press Release](#)

#### Dacian Ciolos (Romania): Agriculture and Rural Development

Dacian Ciolos was Romania's Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development from 2007-2008. Although not belonging to any political party, he was proposed by the Romanian PDL party who belong to the EPP in the European Parliament.

More info: [europeanvoice.com](http://europeanvoice.com)

#### Connie Hedegaard (Denmark): Climate Action

Connie Hedegaard was Danish Environment Minister 2004-2007 and then Energy Minister. Her name is probably familiar as chair for some of Copenhagen climate talks. She is a member of the Conservative People's Party (EPP).

More info: [europeanvoice.com](http://europeanvoice.com)

## 4. The European Council

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### Informal Environment Council – 15<sup>th</sup> Jan

There was an informal council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January – mostly to chew over what happened (or didn't) at the Copenhagen climate talks. John Hontelez of the EEB addressed the meeting and talked about the European target.

More info: [EEB Press release](#) |

### Council Presidency

From 1 January 2010 Spain takes on this responsibility until the end of June 2010. The EEB hopes that under the Spanish presidency the soil directive (currently being blocked by 5 nations including UK) might move forward.

## 5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

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### Press Releases

- [EU Energy Commissioner designate Guenther Oettinger's hearing](#) - 13th Jan
- [To EU Environment Ministers: Time to increase efforts on climate change](#) – 15<sup>th</sup> Jan
- [Study reveals EU's drive for greener electronics is false marketing](#) – 15<sup>th</sup> Jan
- [EEB calls for action on biodiversity loss](#) - 25th Jan
- [EEB tells European Council to put EU on road to sustainable future](#) - 27th Ja

### EEB In Brief

In-brief is the EEB round up of environmental developments from across Europe.

#### IB-10-01

- Emissions reductions
- Energy versus biodiversity
- New environment Commissioner (seems alright)

#### IB-09-02

- Soil Directive
- Biodiversity in Madrid
- Eco-design

### EEB Publications

- [EEB comments on the consultation on the future "EU 2020" Strategy - Commission working document COM\(2009\)647/3](#)

- **EEB input for Informal EU Environmental Council Meeting: EU and global climate agenda after COP-15 at Copenhagen**
- **Analysis of EUP, ROHS, WEEE: Building Synergies between EU Policy Instruments or Simply Passing the Buck?**

Back Issues of European Monitoring and supporting documents are available from the **members section of our website** or the parliamentary office.

