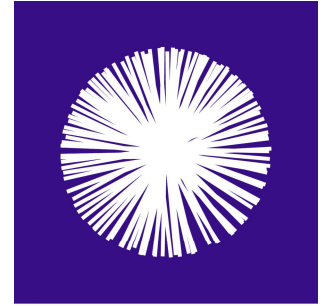


European Monitoring

March 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

The European Citizens Initiative (ECI)

In a simple sound-bite the European Citizens Initiative, or ECI as it's already being shortened to, is "a million signatures to get a EU law changed", but of course it's a bit more complex than that.

"not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties."

The ECI is part of the Lisbon treaty, and the details of how it will work are still being discussed (a consultation on a [green paper](#) has just closed). For example what a significant number of member states is still hasn't been decided.

The broad features of citizens' initiatives are already laid down in the Lisbon treaty - namely that they must:

- have at least 1 million signatories, from a significant number of EU countries
- concern a policy area where the Commission has powers to act...
- and an issue for which people think an EU law is needed to implement the EU Treaties.

The commission will be using 2010 to look at drafting regulations relating to the ECI and it should be operational in early 2011. Some issues that they are looking at sorting out include registration of proposals (and transparency around who's backing them), language, IT standards, permissibility and adjudication. That hasn't stopped some people going ahead with getting one organised thought (eg [GM petition](#))

I attended a seminar hosted by the EU Parliament's Scotland office last week, so if you want to talk more about this let me know.

More info: www.citizens-initiative.eu | [FAQ \(pdf\)](#) | [The Green paper](#) (and [short version](#)).

7th European Action Plan (EAP)

Following on from our last [euro-bulletin](#), which gave some background on the EAPs, Jonny Hughes (SWT) from the LINK board attended a seminar organised by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) on developing the 7th EAP. The 6th EAP expires in 2012, so work starts now on shaping the next one.

This seminar was meant to be the first step towards a position of the EEB on what a new Environmental Action Programme for the EU should focus on. This position is going to be developed in the period till mid June, when the Board of the EEB will discuss and hopefully adopt it. This position is then going to play a key role in the further debate on whether a 7th EAP is needed and what it should be about.

There's a report from the seminar attached – looks like a positive start to the process. You can also catch Jonny for an insiders view on how it all went

2. The European Parliament

3. The European Commission

IUCN European Redlist

The European Red List – compiled using the same criteria as the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, but limited to Europe – is a review of the conservation status of c. 6,000 European species (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fishes, butterflies, dragonflies, and selected groups of beetles, molluscs, and vascular plants). It identifies species that are threatened with extinction at the regional level so that conservation action can be taken to improve their status.



The European Red List is primarily funded by the European Commission. The Commission is currently developing its position for a new global target to halt the decline in biodiversity to be discussed at the Convention on Biodiversity COP in Nagoya in October.

The European Red List is available at: ec.europa.eu/redlist along with reports on different animal families.

Forests Green Paper

At the start of March 2010 the Commission launched a green paper which sets out the main challenges facing Europe's forests. It presents existing forest information systems and the tools available to protect forests, and raises a series of questions relevant to the development of future policy options. The paper is part of the follow-up to the White Paper on adapting to climate change adopted by the Commission in April 2009.

Since competence for forest policy lies primarily with the Member States, the debate focuses on how climate change is modifying forest management and protection in Europe and how EU policy should evolve to enhance its contribution to Member State initiatives.

The consultation runs from the 1st March until the 31st July 2010.

More info: [Brussels Bulletin](#) (pg6) | [Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU: Preparing forests for climate change](#). | [Info on the Consultation](#)

New Commission

Since the [Last European Bulletin](#), where we discussed the commissioners connected with environment, the commissioners have been finally selected and are

- Janez Potocnik (Slovenia): Environment
- Connie Hedegaard (Denmark) Climate Action
- Siim Kallas (Estonia), Transport
- Maria Damanaki (Greece), Maritime affairs and fisheries
- Günther Oettinger (Germany), Energy
- Dacian Cioloş (Romania), Agriculture and Rural Development

More info: [Good summary here](#) | [All commissioners](#)

4. The European Council

Environment Council 15th March 2010

The Agenda focussed on; Climate change, soil, biodiversity and van emissions.

EEB put quite a lot of work in to persuading the Council about EU2020 issues (that it's too focused on economic growth – not sustainability) – please see their press releases [below](#).

More info: EEB In-brief 3

Future Environment Councils

- 15th March 2010
- 12th & 13th July (Informal)

5. European Environmental Bureau (EEB) News

EEB Publications

- [Biodiversity after 2010. Time to Launch the Ultimate Rescue Plan](#) (pdf)



Press Releases

- [Civil society network calls on EU leaders for bold EU 2020 Strategy](#) – 23 March
- [Opportunity to steer EU towards green prosperity](#) – 12 March
- [Green groups sue Commission over withheld biofuels docs](#) – 9 March
- [Media Briefing: EEB comments on upcoming EU Environment Council meeting, 15th March 2010](#) – 8 March
- [Achievement award for former EU Environment Commissioner Dimas](#) – 4 March
- [EU 2020: Seeing the light, but not the urgency](#) – 3 March
- [Environmental groups welcome calls for greener standards and more balanced participation](#) – 25 February
- [EEB welcomes MEP's e-waste report](#) – 18 February
- [EEB critique on EU2020 Public Consultation Summary](#) – 4 February

EEB In Brief

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

In Brief 3

- Substances of Very High Concern
- Weee
- Environment Council

In Brief 4

- GM Food
- Wolf Hunting
- Environment Council
- Biodiversity
- Soil

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

