

EPEE NEWS

JULY-AUGUST 2008

The EPEE Secretariat is pleased to present its bimonthly newsletter. Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please send us an e-mail at secretariat@epeeglobal.org. Please note that this version of the newsletter is for internal use only. A shortened version will be made available for external use and published on the website.

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Message from the Director General

For EPEE members only!

I. Monitoring & recent events

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. **Climate Change: A new round of UN talks on climate change held in Africa**

The third and last round of United Nations-sponsored international negotiations on climate change, held in Accra (Ghana), from 21 to 27 August, ended up with slight progress. The major move of the talks is that governments agreed to study several proposals for a future post-2012 agreement at the next Annual Conference of Parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in Poznan (December 2008).

Negotiating parties made progress on key topics: combating deforestation, enhancing technology transfers, defining a possible sector-based approach for setting targets for the industrialised countries, and determining the instruments available to meet targets on reducing GHG emissions.

The working group on long term cooperation under the UN Climate Convention discussed the issue of technologies and rules that developed countries should be able to use to reach the objectives to be set for post 2012. Clean development mechanism – investments in clean technologies by the industrialised countries in the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in exchange for emission allowances - was also addressed by this group.

The Accra meeting might have paved the way for a draft negotiating text to be first discussed in Poznan and likely agreed in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

Key documents:

- Please see the final [Press Release](#).

2. **Climate Change: EU consults on post-2012 climate pact talks**

On Monday 4 August, the European Commission released a questionnaire as a basis for a public consultation on the EU's position regarding post-2012 climate discussions at the Poznan Conference in September and Copenhagen next year.

With this consultation, the Commission mainly wants to know if the objective of halving greenhouse gases emissions by 2050 can still be reached and how can developing countries be involved in the agreement. The results of the consultation will help the Commission to put together a draft based on views on several critical issues related to the post-2012 climate change challenge.

Interested stakeholders have until 10 October to answer.

Key documents:

- Please see the [link](#) to the public consultation.

3. Sustainable Consumption and Production: Commission unwraps Action Plan focusing on Green Public Procurement, EuP, Ecolabel, and EMAS

The European Commission published in July an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and on Sustainable Industrial Policy (SIP) along with voluntary and binding proposals aiming to limit the environmental impact of products.

The Action Plan presents the strategy of the Commission to support an integrated approach at EU level to sustainable consumption and production. It was published with the following documents:

- A Communication on Green Public Procurement;
- A proposal to recast the EuP Directive;
- A proposal to recast the Ecolabel Regulation;
- A proposal to review the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

The Communication on Green Public Procurement proposes to set common European guidelines for green public procurement to favour the uptake of 'green' products, reduce market distortions due to different practices, and reduce administrative burden. The Communication proposes Member States to use an existing list of EU criteria for 10 priority product groups. For the other product groups, such as air-conditioners and boilers, guidelines should be developed by a committee of Member States experts. The Commission plans to publish a proposal for a Directive on Green Public Procurement setting quantified targets for the Member States in September 2008.

The proposal on the revision of the EuP Directive exclusively aims to extend the scope EuP directive in order to include mandatory eco-design standards for all "energy-related" products (windows for example). The proposal is a recast, meaning that it is not aimed to amend the original directive but to simply replace it for clarity purposes. The adoption process of eco-design requirements for the different product groups are therefore not to be changed.

The Commission has proposed to expand the scope of the Ecolabel to “any goods or services” supplied on the Community market, the objective being to move from the current 25 to 40-50 product groups by 2015. The revision also aims to reduce bureaucratic processes, raise awareness on the scheme and reduce costs for companies wishing to apply. In particular, the verification and assessment procedures which currently have to be set up for each product group might be replaced by a harmonised registration system.

The proposed revision of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme has the objective of increasing the number of companies registered under the scheme, especially SMEs. To that end, the proposed scheme will incorporate incentives to speed up registrations. The EMAS is a voluntary instrument bound to reduce companies’ environmental impact and improving the efficiency of production processes.

The Council has already started to discuss the Action Plan and the proposals and has welcomed the provisions detailed in the proposals, especially the principle of setting targets for green public procurement through voluntary measures.

The Commission hopes that the proposals will go through a first-reading by March-April 2009, i.e. before end of the current parliamentary legislature. Final adoption on the package of measures might be expected for 2010.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE’s action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

4. RES Directive: ITRE Committee adopts report on RES proposal

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EPEE’s action points/comments:

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5. Energy Solutions: Energy Solution Fair 2008: Heat pumps in the limelight

At this year’s ‘Energy Solutions & Thermal Storage Fair’, held in July in Tokyo, more than 150 organisations gathered to discuss and showcase the latest climate friendly heat-pump and thermal storage solutions.

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The organisers, the Tokyo Electrical Power Co. (TEPCO), the Heat Pump & Thermal Storage Technology Centre (HPTCJ), and the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, in collaboration with leading Japanese developers of CO₂ (R744) “EcoCute” hot water heat pump models are all calling for widespread use of R744 units in Japan and abroad.

Last year an HPTCJ report showed that using heat pumps could cut Japan’s total CO₂ emissions. Another 2% reduction could come simply from replacing conventional home water heaters with R744 Eco Cute units.

Leading Japanese manufacturers, including Itomic, Sanyo and Hitachi, showcased their latest CO₂ heat pump models. Hitachi boasted the first vacuum tank insulation to reduce energy consumption by 5%, while Sanyo’s hot water heater featured the lowest noise levels in the industry.

6. [EuP Directive: EPEE stays committed on EuP](#)

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Key documents:

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7. [RoHS: Öko Institut expected to delete references to Halogenated Organic Compounds in study on hazardous substances](#)

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Key documents:

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8. [ODS: Legislative proposal set to revise rules governing ozone-depleters](#)

The European Commission is set to revise rules governing ozone-depleting substances according to a legislative proposal published on 1 August 2008.

The recast of the Regulation will bring forward the production phase-out of HCFCs in line with the recent decision of the Montreal Protocol. It also introduce amendments to the current legislation to facilitate enforcement and prevent the illegal trade or use of ODS in the EU and tightens the existing provisions on the recovery and destruction of ODS contained in products and equipment.

Clarifications will also likely be made to derogations applied to the use of ozone-depleting substances and the conditions under which they can be imported and exported. In addition the Commission mentioned that substances contained in refrigeration equipment and insulation material in buildings should be tackled, as measures in this area could help save up to 100m tonnes of CO₂ equivalent annually. Finally, it introduces new substances, including Dibromodifluoromethane, Bromopropane, Bromoethane, Trifluoriodomethane.

Key documents:

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9. F-Gas Regulation: Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on the possible extension of the Regulation to transport

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Key documents:

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10. Montreal Protocol: International working group meeting urges use of Natural Refrigerants

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Greenpeace are warning that massive climate benefits achieved through the Montreal Protocol are set to be lost unless decisive action is taken to ensure that climate friendly refrigerants, rather than HFCs, are adopted as replacements for ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

This was the main message delivered by the EIA and Greenpeace at the 28th Working Group meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held 7-11 July in Bangkok. The two NGOs strongly encourage that climate-friendly, namely natural refrigerants, such as CO₂ (R744), should be a priority in all forthcoming discussions of HFCF phase-out in developed and developing countries.

At the meeting, policymakers, industry players as well as international organisations agreed that the Montreal Protocol and the Kyoto framework have to be linked in order to achieve significant benefits. Echoing this was the World Bank stressing the importance of recognising synergies between the various climate change and ozone agendas worldwide.

Key documents:

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11. EU environmental policy: European environment agencies set out advice to the Commission

The heads of 31 national and regional environment agencies in the EU urged the European Commission to adapt its approach to environmental policy in order to improve the effectiveness of the policy tools. In a report published in August, they listed down a series of actions that the Commission should consider.

European environment agencies' directors highlighted four key advices:

1. Exploit potential regulatory synergies;
2. Focus its agenda on improving the effectiveness of environmental outcomes;
3. Move towards regulations based on few horizontal directives setting standards and results;
4. Target its effort on high risk sectors and substances.

The report states the Water Framework Directive as an example to be followed for future horizontal environmental legislation covering the entire industry.

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