

EPEE NEWS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2009

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment is pleased to present its bi-monthly newsletter. Please note this version is designed for external use and its content has thus been reduced. The full version of the newsletter (including links to key documents, EPEE's comments/action points, calendar of events, "on the intranet" section and "Message from the Director General") is available for EPEE members only.

To receive additional information on EPEE and the benefits of membership, please contact the Secretariat: secretariat@epeeglobal.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director General

I. Latest developments

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. **Institutional:** Race for EU President job starts
2. **Greenhouse gas emissions:** UN data shows upward trend in developed nations' emissions levels
3. **EU legislation:** EU moves from legislation to enforcement
4. **Lisbon Agenda:** New green vision
5. **Climate change:** Linking climate and air policies
6. **RoHS:** Environment Committee MEPs show signs of support for an open RoHS scope
7. **WEEE:** Environment Committee supports 65% collection target as well as the single registration for producers of EEE.
8. **Energy efficiency:** EU wants more energy efficient buildings, but lacks money
9. **Energy efficiency:** Consumer survey backs open-ended energy label
10. **Energy efficiency:** Lighting eco-design rules adjusted after adoption of very strict limits
11. **Energy efficiency:** Binding EU energy saving target proposed by the Commission
12. **Heat Pumps:** European market grows by 9.5% in 2008
13. **Climate Change:** Finance Ministers fail to agree on climate aid

II. Calendar of events

Upcoming events of relevance to EPEE members, including industry/RAC conferences, as well as institutional and EPEE-specific events

III. On the Intranet

Latest documents uploaded on EPEE's intranet, with relevant weblinks for direct access

Message from the Director General

For EPEE members only!

I. Monitoring & recent events

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. Institutional: Race for EU President job starts

Now that the Czech Republic has ratified the Lisbon Treaty, which should come into force on 1 December, the path is now open for the race for the top EU jobs of President of the EU and new foreign policy high representative that the Lisbon Treaty has created. A European Summit to appoint the two candidates is expected to take place between 10 and 19 November.

Whilst Tony Blair (former UK Prime Minister) first appeared to be the most high profile candidate for the job, several Member States have recently hinted that his commitment for the European Union has never been well established or recognised enough to get such a high profile position. Several Member States have also stated that the first President should come from a smaller country

The most serious candidate so far appears to be Belgium's Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy who has impressed his fellow Heads of States during latest Council meetings. His other competitors for the job are the Dutch Jan Peter Balkenende (Dutch Prime Minister), Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxembourg's Prime Minister), Paavo Lipponen (former Prime Minister of Finland), Fredrik Reinfeldt (Sweden's prime minister), and Wolfgang Schüssel (former Austrian Chancellor).

2. Greenhouse gas emissions: UN data shows upward trend in developed nations' emissions levels

According to the latest UN data on greenhouse gas emissions emitted by developed or industrialised countries, emissions rose by 1% in 2007 and a total increase of 3% between 2000 and 2007.

The UNFCCC reports an emissions reduction of 4.3% in the EU-15, and emissions from old EU member states will fall another 3.6% below 1990 levels by 2010 according to predictions by the European Environment Agency. The UNFCCC data also confirms that Spain is the country furthest away from its Kyoto target among the EU-15 countries.

UN Climate Chief, Yvo de Boer said that emissions from industrialised countries remain “worrying” and that they further reinforce the need for a deal at Copenhagen later in the year.

Key documents:

- UNFCCC greenhouse gas emissions [fact sheet 2009](#)

3. EU legislation: EU moves from legislation to enforcement

The European Commission is shifting its focus from creating legislation to enforcement and implementation of legislation, according to Pai Bucella, Director of Civil Protection, European Commission. This new direction was presented in the context of a speech delivered during a conference in Romania in late September 2009, “Conference on Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Legislation”.

According to Bucella, enforcement and implementation will be given higher priority during the next five years, more specifically the areas of biodiversity, air quality, and soil protection will be scrutinised more closely. Water quality will also remain an important area in the coming years according to Bucella, especially with regard to urban waste water treatment.

Key documents:

- [Pai Bucella’s speech](#), September 2009

4. Lisbon Agenda: New green vision

European Environment Ministers agreed in late October in Luxembourg that an eco-efficient economy should be a key objective of a post-2010 Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs. However, Ministers remain divided over whether a fiscal reform would be necessary to reach these targets.

Further, a Commission official told media at the Ministerial meeting, that eco-efficiency has to play a “much bigger” role in a new Lisbon strategy. This was partly echoed by Ministers who called for an EU action plan on eco-innovation. Ministers want the Commission to generate further proposals on market-based instruments and consider extending the eco-design directive to non-energy-using products in 2012.

Key documents:

- [Ministerial resolution](#), 21 October 2009

- Swedish EU Presidency [Press Release](#), 21 October 2009

5. Climate change: Linking climate and air policies

The Swedish EU Presidency in late October presented the work of an expert task force that stated that if the EU does not integrate its policies on climate change and air quality, the EU will miss its targets in both areas.

This was echoed by the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations (EFCA) who drafted the task force paper. According to EFCA, EU air quality legislation lacks incentives for actions on climate change.

EFCA further calls for this integration not to be limited to policy, ideally staff and resources should be allocated towards the integration of the two areas of legislation.

Key documents:

- EFCA [draft discussion paper](#) and accompanying [annex](#).

6. RoHS: Environment Committee MEPs show signs of support for an open RoHS scope

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7. WEEE: Environment Committee supports 65% collection target as well as the single registration for producers of EEE.

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8. Energy efficiency: EU wants more energy efficient buildings, but lacks money

The concept of energy efficiency is gaining more and more attention and credit at EU level in view of the UN Summit in Copenhagen. The EU is willing to include this concept in all future legislation as a booster to reach its target of 20% cut in energy consumption by 2020.

Accounting for up to 40% of all energy consumed in the EU, the building sector has been identified to have a great potential for energy reduction through more energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

Currently revising several pieces of legislation affecting buildings, the EU is intending to regulate the sector towards more energy efficiency through incentives, tax cuts and public financing.

In the review of the EU action plan on energy efficiency, the Commission is considering setting energy efficiency binding targets, especially for the building sector.

Member States are likely to agree on a deadline for “zero-energy buildings” meaning that by that date all new buildings would have to produce more renewable energy on-site than they consume. This option is currently being discussed between the three EU institutions, meeting in trilogue meetings, in the frame of the recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

In addition, ambitious and mandatory eco-design requirements for boilers, water heaters and air-conditioning equipment might be approved by the Commission in early 2010. These measures will also contribute to reduce energy consumption of buildings thanks to energy efficient systems.

However, a coherent legislative framework needs to be adopted by the EU to bring more consistency between legislations, as expressed by both NGOs (see the Cool Products Manifesto) and the industry.

If consistency seems to be a pretty easy problem to sort out; the financing of actions and initiatives in the field of energy efficiency is expected to be the thorny point of discussions. Indeed, Member States have already expressed the fiscal burden of incentives and tax cut for buildings and are opposed to binding requirements on financing.

Key documents:

- Cool products warm homes [Manifesto](#) – October 2009
- Cool products [Conference](#) on Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling in Building – 14 October 2009
- EuroACE – Financial and fiscal [instruments](#) for Energy Efficiency in Buildings – September 2009
- EuroACE – [Position paper](#) on EPBD recast – September 2009

9. Energy efficiency: Consumer survey backs open-ended energy label

In May, MEPs rejected a new open-ended label for TVs although they approved one for fridges. In a separate vote on revising the Energy Labelling directive the European Parliament said all energy labels should be based on a closed scale.

The contradictory votes have created confusion within the EU institutions. The adoption of energy labels for other products has been put on hold and Council discussions on the revised energy label were frozen.

Beginning of October, the European Commission published the results of the survey undertaken on the comprehension of the different systems of energy label by consumers. 8,000 consumers were interviewed in Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, and the UK. The questionnaire and the methodology were developed in consultation with the EU Labelling Committee and the stakeholders.

The conclusions clearly show that there is a strong support from consumers for the A+ and A-X% systems. For them, these systems better reflect energy consumption improvements and savings of a product.

The European Commission hopes the survey's findings will help unblock the situation. The Swedish Presidency is dedicated to get an agreement on the recast of the Energy Labelling Directive by the end of the year.

Key documents:

- [Results](#) of the consumer survey on the Energy Label – October 2009

10. Energy efficiency: Lighting eco-design rules adjusted after adoption of very strict limits

The European Commission will have to adjust EU eco-design implementing measures for household lamps agreed earlier this year. Indeed, because the limits set on ultraviolet radiation are very strict, certain tungsten halogen light bulbs, which are widely used and alternatives do not currently exist, are to be banned. This consequence is contrary to the Commission's intention.

The European Parliament did not oppose the proposed changes during the scrutiny period. The amendment will then be adopted by the Commission.

Similar changes were proposed by the Commission to eco-design rules on tertiary lighting products (streets, offices and plants); after several errors were stressed by the industry.

These changes are expected to be adopted before the new standards enter force in April 2010.

11. Energy efficiency: Binding EU energy saving target proposed by the Commission

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12. Heat Pumps: European market grows by 9.5% in 2008

112,157 heat pump sales (both air source and ground source systems) were registered by renewable energy consortium in 2008. This follows the slight decline of sales in 2007.

The change in sales is not consistent among member states, with the Swedish, Irish and Estonian contracted while the German, British, Finnish and Dutch sales are increasing steadily. The growth rates are expected to stay at around 10% in 2009 and 2010 in EU member states.

Key documents:

- The [2009 Renewable Energy Directive](#)
- EU Observer [Heat Pump Barometer](#)

13. Climate Change: Finance Ministers fail to agree on climate aid

On 20 October, EU finance ministers met in Luxembourg and for a second time could not agree on Europe's contribution to financing efforts to combat climate change in developing countries. This agreement is a crucial step towards reaching a deal for the successor of Kyoto in December.

Member states are divided on the issue as some of them, reportedly from Eastern European countries, are calling for individual contributions related to the ability to pay as opposed to fixed contributions split between public and private sources. Germany reportedly backed the Swedish revised text, although in the past it was reluctant to accept such a proposal.

It will be left to the European leaders who are meeting in Brussels at the end of October to sort out the issues and reach an agreement without which a comprehensive global climate deal at Copenhagen will not be possible.

Key documents:

- [Video of final press conference.](#)