

EPEE NEWS

JUNE-AUGUST 2009

The EPEE Secretariat is pleased to present its bi-monthly 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. EP Elections: Changes within the Political Groups

Following the European elections on 4-7 July, important changes have occurred in the membership of the different political groups and parliamentary committees in the new European Parliament. The outcome of the elections was mainly positive for the Conservatives and the Greens.

The Socialists have lost an important number of seats as they decreased from 216 to 161 MEPs. They also rebranded to become the Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in Europe. The Liberals (ALDE) also lost seats but less than the Socialists and they are likely to remain the 'deal-breaker' between the Conservatives and the Socialists on economic issues and between the Conservatives and the Green on the environmental issues.

A new Conservative group called the "European Conservatives and Reformists" was also created. This group is the 4th largest group in the new Parliament, and follows the UK Conservatives announcement that they would be leaving the EPP-ED (henceforth to be known as just the EPP) in the next Parliament.

The formation of the group has divided Conservative MEPs, since they understand that they will be losing significant clout within the Parliament as a result and will receive fewer 'Rapporteurships' and Chairs of influential committees. Indeed, some see it as a political stunt by Conservative leader David Cameron to have impact back in the UK, and it does seem to demonstrate his lack of interest and/or awareness of how the European Parliament actually works. Proponents argue that the new grouping better reflects the Conservatives' view on Europe, which is indeed less "federalist" than their former EPP colleagues.

This new group is however expected to vote with the EPP on most legislation related to the single market.

2. EP Elections: Changes within the Parliamentary Committees

The new European Parliament has appointed new members as well as Chairs and Vice-Chairs in the different Parliamentary Committees.

The Chair of ENVI is Jo Leinen (S&D, Germany), with the four Vice-Chairs being Corinne Lepage (ALDE, France), Carl Schlyter (Greens/EFA, Sweden), Boguslaw Sonik (EPP, Poland) and Dan Jorgensen (S&D, Denmark). Other key MEPs in the committee are Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP, Germany), Vittorio Prodi (S&D, Italy), Martin Callanan (ECR, UK) Holger Kraemer (EPP-ED, Germany) or Jill Evans (Greens, UK). Relevant substitute MEPs include Godfrey Bloom (EFD, UK), Christofer Fjellner (EPP, Sweden), Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE, UK), and Bart Staes (Greens/EFA, Belgium). A full list of members can be found [here](#).

Avril Doyle, who was rapporteur for the F-gas Regulation back in 2005-2006, has left the European Parliament. Karl-Heinz Florenz, who also played a key role on the F-gas Regulation, may potentially become involved again during the review.

The Chair of ITRE is Herbert Reul (EPP, Germany) with the four Vice-Chairs being Patrizia Toia (S&D, Italy), Jens Rohde (ALDE, Denmark), Anni Podimata (S&D, Greece), and Evzen Tosenovsky (ECR, Czech Republic). Other key MEPs in the committee are Jorgo Chatzimarkakis (EPP-ED, Germany), Fiona Hall (ALDE, UK), Lena EK (ALDE, Sweden), Angelika Niebler (EPP-ED, Germany), Paul Rübzig (EPP-ED, Austria), Britta Thomsen (S&D, Denmark), or Claude Turmes (Greens, Luxembourg). A full list of members can be found [here](#).

The new Chair of the ITRE Committee Herbert Reul is a climate change sceptic who doubts human activity is the primary contributor to climate change. He played a very supportive role for EPEE at the time of the adoption of the F-gas Regulation back in 2005-2006, and his appointment as the chair is therefore positive news. Finally, Claude Turmes, Paul Rübzig, and Britta Thomsen were all three very actively involved in the RES Directive, and Mr Rübzig played a key supporting role for EPEE.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

3. Commission President: A difficult re-election campaign for Barroso

José Manuel Barroso, candidate to his succession as Commission President, has met early September all the political groups of the European Parliament in a bid to convince them that he is the best candidate for the job of Commission President. The European Conservatives

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are expected to back him, same for the eurosceptics, but Barroso also has to convince the Liberals, the Socialists, the and the Greens, who are expected to give him a hard time. The Greens and the Extreme-left are its fiercest opponents while the Socialists and the Liberals have less clear opinions.

President Barroso has recently said he was presenting a pro-European programme and that he hopes he would win the support of pro-European forces in the Parliament. This comment has irritated a lot of MEPs who consider themselves as pro-Europeans but not pro-Barroso.

The vote will take place on 16 September 2009 at noon. The Liberals and the Socialists, whose votes will be decisive, will officially decide on their position on the evening of 15 September. Suspense is in the air...

4. Copenhagen: Choice of reference year critical issue

While the EU, and its neighbours including Iceland, Switzerland and Ukraine, have decided to use 1990 as the base year for the upcoming climate negotiations in Copenhagen – the US and Japan have opted for 2005.

The base year, or reference year, used in the negotiations is as much a political as a technical matter. For instance, the US and Japan have both pledged to reduce emissions by 15% by 2020 based on 2005 levels. If compared to 1990 levels, this reduction would translate into a 4% reduction for the US and an 8% reduction for Japan. This effectively means that American and Japanese targets are much less ambitious than the EU's target of a 30% reduction by 2020 based on 1990 levels.

In addition, Canada and Australia are also using different base years; 2006 and 2000 respectively. In the case of Canada the difference between its base year and 1990 is massive, -20% using 2006 compared to +24 using 1990. The use of different base years is simply a way for countries to make their target look the most ambitious. Whatever base year is used, the key is to remember the bottom line figure, proposed by the UN, which is a 25-40% global reduction target on 1990 levels by 2020. Meanwhile, countries such as China and India are unlikely to commit to reduce or even cap actual emissions by 2020, rather they will most likely pledge to reduce the intensity of their emissions, i.e. slow the growth of their emissions.

In the meantime, the EU Troika (the Swedish Council Presidency, the European Commission, and the future Spanish Presidency) have visited Washington DC in order to try and kick-start climate talks ahead of Copenhagen, which so far have been very slow. Head of the Troika, Swedish Environment Minister Anders Carlgren, stated that *"The pace of negotiations is slow, and they need a kick-start at political level if they are to be concluded in Copenhagen. It is vital that the US is involved in the next climate agreement if we are to manage climate issues...the world needs, and the EU expects more from the US"*.

EPEE Actions:

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5. Copenhagen: Bonn meeting puts Copenhagen success into question

The informal session of climate negotiations which brought together delegates from the 192 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention and 37 parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Bonn, Germany, from 10-14 August only produced meagre results.

Mr. Yvo de Boer, the UN Climate Chief, stated after the meeting that *“If we continue at this rate, we are not going to make it”*. This sentiment was echoed by US climate negotiator Mr. Jonathan Pershing who said that *“If we don’t have more movement and more consensus than we saw here, we won’t have an agreement”*.

The informal session merely resulted in a consolidation of the negotiation text reducing the number of options on the list. And in debate over technical issues concerning, amongst other things, the carbon market and a system for the sectorial trade in emissions, and how the offers made by the industrialised countries on reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases in the medium term (up to 2020) could be translated into legally binding commitments.

Mr. Anders Turesson, chief negotiator on behalf of the Swedish EU Presidency, stated that he thought an agreement could still be reached in Copenhagen, *“if we adopt other working methods and, more importantly shift it up a gear”*.

The next session of negotiations, this time formal, will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, between 28 September and 9 October. Inbetween there will be a climate meeting of the Heads of State, to be held on 22 September in New York.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE Actions:

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6. Energy efficiency: Review of EU energy efficiency plan and national efficiency plans

The European Commission has drawn up a list of “priority issues” it ways will be addressed in the forthcoming review of the 2006 EU energy efficiency action plan. There have been calls

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from, among others, MEPs and countries such as France to make the EU's indicative 2020 target of a 20% improvement in energy efficiency to be made legally binding as part of the review.

The European Commission has in addition called for further debate on whether the EU should fix a date by which all new buildings must have 'net zero energy use'. EU governments are thought to oppose the move, but MEPs have called for a 2019 deadline in amendments to a revision of the EU energy performance of buildings directive.

Meanwhile, the European Commission should also provide a template to help member states draw up the second round of national energy efficiency action plans due to be submitted in June 2011.

In June 2009, the European Commission published a template for national renewable energy action plans that member states must submit by 30 June 2010 under a new EU renewable Directive. However, a national efficiency plan template is currently lacking as required under the 2006 energy services directive.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

7. Energy Efficiency: Commission adopted four Eco-design regulations which are expected to save the equivalent energy consumption of Austria and Sweden

On 22 July, the European Commission adopted several implementing measures for energy-using products, amongst them electric motors, circulators and refrigerators. These implementing measures are supposed to improve significantly the energy efficiency of the products.

With 190 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity supposedly saved per year by 2020, this will be equivalent to the power consumption of Austria and Sweden.

The biggest energy saving is expected from industrial electric motors which will have to meet energy standards as from 2011.

Low- and standard-efficiency water circulators will be phased out by 2013 and only "intelligent" circulators will be sold from 2015.

Finally, as from July 2010, refrigerator and freezer models with a current efficiency rating of class B and below will be removed from the market. To be noted that awaiting the

publication of a consumer study at the end of September 2009, the revised energy label for household refrigerating appliances has not been published yet.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE actions:

For EPEE members only!

8. Energy Efficiency: Parliament and Council committed to strike a deal on EPBD before Copenhagen

In September, at the first meeting of the European Parliament's Industry Committee, the rapporteur, Mrs Silviana-Adriana Ticau (Romania - S&D), presented the state of play of the recast of the EPBD and insisted that progress has to be made on EPBD by Copenhagen, in particular on the following issues: the general methodology (a national or a EU harmonised one?); the methodology of cost calculation; the goal of zero energy buildings; and the required financial tools and fiscal measures

She announced that informal trilogue meetings between MEPs, the Commission and the Council would take place in September-October-November to discuss and solve outstanding issues before the Copenhagen Summit.

The Swedish Presidency is driving towards the same objective and already announced its aim to reach a final agreement at a ministerial meeting on 7 December.

The recast of EPBD could be reinforced by a Commission's initiative, currently being contemplated, to renovate 20 million buildings by 2020, in order to obtain more energy efficient buildings. EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs announced this future plan earlier in July at a meeting of EU energy ministers.

EPEE actions:

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9. WEEE and RoHS: Swedish Presidency proposes open scope for RoHS

Following the publication of two proposals to recast the Directives on Waste Electric and Electronic Products (WEEE) and on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS), first preparatory discussions have started in the Council on 9-10 September.

The discussions so far mainly focused on the scope of WEEE and RoHS. Member States have challenged the Commission recast proposal in which the scope is set in a precise list of product categories in the Annex of RoHS (closed scope).

The Swedish Presidency has indeed circulated a compromise proposal which takes the opposite approach, stating that RoHS should have an open scope with an annex listing the products that should be exempted from the Directive.

In the interest of clarity, the Swedish Presidency has also de-linked the scope of WEEE from the scope of RoHS by moving the Annexes IA and IB (describing the products falling in the scope) into the WEEE Directive.

Negotiations are still ongoing and such proposal needs to be approved by the European Parliament as well but so far, most Member States were happy with the proposal of Sweden.

The next discussion on WEEE and RoHS should take place on 25 September during the next Environment Working Party of the Council. The European Parliament is expected to adopt a Committee report in February 2010 and to adopt this report in Plenary in April.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

Key actions:

For EPEE members only!

10. Energy Efficiency: Stockholm committed on pending energy efficiency laws

In its program and in the speeches of its ministers, Sweden made clear that energy efficiency was at the top of its presidency agenda (2nd semester 2009).

In particular, the Swedish presidency is willing to break a first-reading agreement on a package of draft energy efficiency laws covering buildings, energy labelling and tyre labelling.

The European parliament has already adopted first-reading positions on all three draft laws; but several Member States have expressed concerns, especially on the recast of the Energy performance of buildings directive, regarding the economic and administrative costs of the revised law.

The revision of the Energy labelling directive is also problematic, mainly because of its significant consumer impact. In this dossier, debates are focused on the A to G scale format for the new label to be displayed on the products.

On the road to Copenhagen, Swedish Energy Minister already stated that “We have to shift into top gear... if we are to meet our December deadline for a deal”. Indeed, the presidency set December as a target to strike a deal between EU institutions on these 3 key dossiers. Alike the French presidency and its Energy-Climate package a year ago, Sweden is committed to stick to its agenda.

EPEE actions:

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11. GHG Emissions: Less GHG emissions in 2008; Housing sector biggest emitter

On 31 August, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) released its estimated figures for greenhouse gas emissions in 2008 which reveal that for the fourth year running emission fell again. Indeed, EU emissions decreased by 1.5% compared with 2007 and stand 10.7% below their base-year levels (1990). The European Commission welcomed this reduction and noted that the EU15 “has once again taken a great step towards meeting the Kyoto target”.

But the reduction of emissions also reflects the impact of the economic recession, which began in 2008, and therefore slightly distorted its significance.

The EEB report also notes that the housing sector is the most important source of air pollution in the EU, and therefore stresses the need for improvement in the building sector, in particular as regards to energy efficiency of equipment installed and construction materials used. The transport sector and power plants remain significant sources of pollution.

This is actually the first time that the EEB released figures only few months after the end of a year. For comparison, EU official figures for 2008 are expected in June 2010.

Key documents:

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12. Climate Change: EPEE stand at Green Week 2009

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Key documents:

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EPEE actions:

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13. **MAC: Verheugen reminds car manufacturers they have to comply with the Regulation on Mobile Air Conditioning**

Enterprise Commissioner Verheugen has warned car makers that they would have to comply with the Regulation on Mobile Air Conditioning systems as from 2011. This reminder came as British MEP Chris Davies who is the Environment spokesperson for the Liberals stated that car manufacturers are challenging the European Commission and trying to avoid compliance.

According to Chris Davies car manufacturers are failing to order alternative refrigerant and chemical companies are consequently not investing in the plant capacities needed.

14. **Services Directive: Insufficient and delayed implementation**

The Services Directive (2006/48/EC), which aims to liberalise the services sector, should be completely implemented by the end of 2009. According to a current study by Eurochambres, the business is increasingly worried about the timely and complete implementation of the directive. Forty percent of the National chambers of commerce believe that their country will not manage to fully implement the directive by the end of the year.

Respondents have identified problems such as incomplete legislative screening in a number of Member States, as well as the unlikely timely implementation of points of single contact (PSCs). Germany and Italy are facing the most problems with PSCs due to their multi-level governmental structures and a few Member States are planning to have PSCs operating just in their national language.

The establishment of electronic structures, differences in implementation and involvement of business in the process are other concerns voiced by the Chambers in the survey.

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Position papers / Key documents

For EPEE members only!

Minutes and agendas

For EPEE members only!

Others

For EPEE members only!