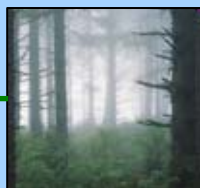
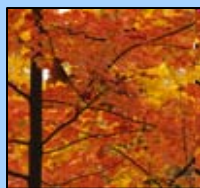


# EU Environment Policy Brief



Issue 37, April 2010

The monthly newsletter that keeps you informed about developments in EU environment policy

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## **BIODIVERSITY**



### **Commission launches campaign to raise awareness of biodiversity loss; survey shows Europeans not well informed**

The Commission has launched a campaign aimed at informing the public about the loss of biodiversity in the EU. The EU-wide campaign, which coincides with the UN's designation of 2010 as the Year of Biodiversity, aims to raise awareness about the problem through a website, a video clip, PR actions, street art and media, including social media. A recent Eurobarometer survey shows that the majority of Europeans do not understand what is meant by biodiversity and do not feel well informed about biodiversity loss. The main thrust of the campaign will be to show citizens the real implications these losses will have in their daily lives, with a focus on actions citizens can take to prevent such losses. The campaign revolves around a slogan – "we are all in this together".

[Press release](#)

[Biodiversity campaign website](#)

[Biodiversity page on Facebook](#)

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## **FUNDING**

### **Commission launches €35 million call for projects that turn environmental challenges into business opportunities**

The European Commission this month launched a €35 million call for eco-innovation projects to be funded under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. Under the 2010 CIP Eco-innovation call for proposals, funds are available for new projects in the area of materials recycling, sustainable building products, the food and drink sector and green business practices. Applications are particularly welcome from small businesses with green products or services that need backing to penetrate markets. With a total budget of around €200 million over the period 2008-2013, CIP Eco-innovation supports the first application and further market uptake of sustainable solutions that make better use of Europe's natural resources. The call runs until 9 September 2010. Some 50 projects could end up being chosen for funding.

[Press release](#)

## **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**



### **Commission launches new service to help public purchasers go green**

The European Commission has launched a new service to deal with enquiries on Green Public Procurement (GPP). The GPP Helpdesk will answer questions related to the use of environmental criteria in tendering procedures. Every year European public authorities spend 17% of EU GDP – around €2,000 billion – on goods, services and works. By using their purchasing power to choose options that respect the environment, they can make an important contribution towards sustainable consumption and production. The Commission provides information on all aspects of Green Public Procurement. The GPP Helpdesk has been created to handle enquiries that fall outside the scope of standard information available. It can be used by all interested parties including procurement officers, policy-makers, public authorities, producers and suppliers, environmental groups and researchers.

[Further details on GPP](#)

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## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **Second EU-Mexico High Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change**

The second EU-Mexico High Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change met in Mexico City on 13-14 April. The talks focused on three broad themes: the green economy, climate change and biodiversity. Both sides acknowledged the key role of a green economy in supporting recovery from recession in both regions and agreed to step up cooperation on eco-innovation. Mexico confirmed its support for the establishment of an intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), similar to the successful model of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Participants also agreed that the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya this October must result in an ambitious post-2010 global biodiversity policy framework, including new targets and milestones. On climate change, parties acknowledged the need to ensure that the political guidance of the Copenhagen Accord is brought into formal negotiating texts at the UN climate conference in Cancún at the end of this year. Parties agreed to cooperate on a project to assess Mexico's needs on the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions. The results of the meeting will be forwarded to the first EU-Mexico Summit, which will take place in Santander, Spain, on 16 May 2010.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

### **Six finalists vie for title of European Green Capital 2012 and 2013**

The competition for the 2012 and 2013 European Green Capital Awards has entered its final stages, with 17 candidate cities now shortlisted to six. The finalists are Barcelona and Vitoria-Gasteiz in Spain, Malmö in Sweden, the French city of Nantes, Nuremberg in Germany and Reykjavík, the capital of EU candidate country Iceland. Cities are evaluated against a comprehensive checklist of environmental criteria which includes the local contribution to the fight against climate change, transport facilities, green urban areas, sustainable land use, nature and biodiversity. Applicant cities must now provide information on a variety of indicator areas relating to their present environmental status and results, what they are doing to improve the urban living conditions, their future initiatives and dissemination plans. The winners of the European Green Capital title for 2012 and 2013 will be announced at a ceremony in Stockholm in late October 2010.

[Press release](#)

[More details about the European Green Capital Award](#)

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## CLIMATE CHANGE



### **Emissions trading: Commission accepts Polish national allocation plan for 2008-2012**

The European Commission has taken a decision on the new national allocation plan (NAP) submitted by Poland for distributing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission allowances for the 2008-2012 trading period of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The only change to the earlier NAP concerns some technical rules governing the reserve of allowances not allocated to companies. Therefore the Commission decided not to raise objections to the new NAP. The EU ETS ensures that greenhouse gas emissions from the energy and industry sectors it covers are cut in a cost-efficient manner, thus helping the EU and its Member States to meet their emission commitments.

[Press release](#)

## CONFERENCE CALENDAR

**Green Week conference, 1- 4 June 2010, Brussels, Belgium**

**Theme: Biodiversity – our lifeline**



In the International Year of Biodiversity, Green Week turns its attention to the variety of life on Earth. The tenth edition of Green Week will be looking for answers. As well as taking a close look at the threats biodiversity is facing around the globe and underlining the benefits we are at risk of losing, it will also highlight solutions and success stories that point the way to a different relationship with nature. The event will provide a unique opportunity for debate, exchanges of experience and best practice among non-governmental organisations, businesses, various levels of government and the public. Entry is free but those wishing to attend must register.

[Green Week website](#)

[Registration](#)

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## BOOKSHOP

Latest DG Environment publications available:

Brochure: Water for life - LIFE for water - protecting Europe's water resources, available in print and [online](#) in English.

Brochure: LIFE improving the conservation status of species and habitats - Habitats Directive Article 17 report, available in print and [online](#) in English.

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