



EU Environment Report

November 2011

CHEMICALS

Council and Parliament agree on new EU biocides rules

On 17 November, during a third trilogue meeting, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the new EU biocide approval Regulation. The new Regulation is set to replace the existing 1998 Directive. It covers pest control products such as rat poisons and insect repellants, but not agricultural pesticides. If it enters into force, the new Regulation will allow different procedures for authorising biocidal products on the market and will set 'cut-off' criteria, banning a number of dangerous chemicals. The provisional agreement must now be officially approved by both the European Parliament and Council. The Parliament is expected to vote on the Regulation in its plenary session in January.

Provisional agreement reached on detergents

On 15 November, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the ban on phosphates in domestic laundry detergents and in dishwasher detergents. The Parliament is expected to formally approve the agreement in its plenary session in December.

CLIMATE CHANGE

UN climate change meeting in Durban

On 28 November, the UN's climate change talks commenced in Durban, South Africa. The aim of the talks is to determine the future of the protocol, and to create a legal framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Durban is the final chance to extend efforts under the Kyoto protocol, before the first commitment period expires in 2012. The EU has expressed its willingness to sign up to a second commitment period. However, chances of agreement are slim, since the US, Japan, Russia and Canada have all said they will not re-commit unless countries such as India and China also sign up. On 6 December, the UN chief Ban Ki-moon said that a globally binding climate deal looks increasingly unlikely to be agreed in Durban. However, a major breakthrough was reached on Thursday 6 December, when negotiators agreed on implementation of carbon credits from carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects in developing countries.

To visit the conference website, click here: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Commission proposes to update rules on emissions monitoring

On 9 November 2011, the Commission published two new draft Regulations on monitoring, reporting and verification under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). If adopted, the Regulations would change how Member States monitor and report their greenhouse gas emissions. The Regulations would come into force on 1 January 2013, to coincide with the start of Phase

In this issue...

Chemicals

Council and Parliament agree on new EU biocides rules

Provisional agreement reached on detergents

Climate Change

UN climate change meeting in Durban

Commission proposes to update rules on emissions monitoring

Energy

Belgium begins to phase out nuclear power

Green Public Procurement

Commission publishes Green Public Procurement guidance

Other

Commission adopts 2012 work programme

European water certification system launched

The Months Ahead

Workshops & Conferences

This newsletter briefly describes EU environment developments.

Due to the general nature of its content, this newsletter is not and should not be regarded as legal advice.

III of the EU ETS.

The proposal on monitoring and reporting is available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/g-gas/docs/regulation_20111123_en.pdf

The proposal on verification is available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/docs/draft_regulation_va_en.pdf

ENERGY

Belgium begins to phase out nuclear power

On 31 October, Belgium's main political parties agreed to phase out nuclear power. The agreement confirms a decision which was first adopted in 2003, but then shelved. The plan is to close down three of the country's seven reactors by 2015, with a complete phase-out by 2025.

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Commission publishes Green Public Procurement guidance

On 14 November, the Commission published a guidance document on Green Public Procurement entitled *Buying Green! A handbook on green public procurement*. The handbook is intended to help public authorities to implement green public procurement. It explains how environmental factors can be taken into consideration at various stages of the procurement process, within the framework of the EU rules on public procurement.

The handbook is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/docs/gpp/buying_green_handbook_en.pdf

OTHER

Commission adopts 2012 work programme

On 15 November, the European Commission adopted its work programme for 2012. According to the programme, in 2012 the Commission's DG Energy will focus on developing positions on energy technologies and efficiency. It will also put forward a proposal to harmonise the framework for nuclear power safety. DG Climate Action plans to make a proposal to revise the rules on fluorinated gas and start preparing a climate adaptation strategy. DG Environment plans to release a water "blueprint" which will review the Water Framework Directive, simplify the rules on environmental impact assessments, and propose revisions to the EU strategy on endocrine disruptors.

The work programme is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/cwp2012_en.pdf

European water certification system launched

On 24 November, the European Water Partnership launched a European water certification system, known as European Water Stewardship ("EWS"). The EWS aims to be a means of communication for industry and agriculture on good practices and compliance with standards. It provides guidance and defines tools for industrial water users to help them diminish any adverse environmental impact of their water use, and to achieve sustainable water management. The Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik applauded the initiative at its inauguration this month.

More information about the EWS is available here:
<http://www.ewp.eu/activities/water-stewardship/stewardship/>

The Months Ahead

DECEMBER

14 December

Climate change policy post-Durban: Briefing on the outcome and implications of the Durban climate negotiations, coinciding with the launch of the *CEPS Carbon Market Forum*, Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.development-institute.com/fr/rubrique/Contact/index.htm>

JANUARY

17–19 January

Energy Industry 2012: 19th Handelsblatt Annual Conference, Berlin, Germany

<http://www.handelsblatt-energie.de/>

18 – 20 January

11th International Electronics Recycling Congress IERC 2012, Salzburg, Austria

www.icm.ch

24 – 25 January

8th International conference on biofuels of the future 2011 German Bio energy Association, ICC, Berlin, Germany

http://event.bioenergie.de/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=132&Itemid=26

25 – 26 January

6^{ème} Conférence Annuelle REACH 2012: Relever les défis juridiques et organisationnels du partage des données, des substances dangereuses et de la phase d'enregistrement 2013, Paris, France

<http://www.development-institute.com/fr/rubrique/Contact/index.htm>

25 – 26 January

Commercial Strategies to Manage Antitrust and Regulatory Risks in the Energy Sector, Munich, Germany

<http://www.c5-online.com/energylaw>

30 – 31 January

Middle East and North Africa Energy 2012: Investing for the future in turbulent times, London, UK

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/mena2012?campaign=confalerts>

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