



# Brussels News Update

## July 2011



### GENERAL EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS

#### Polish presidency of the EU Council

On the 1st July, Poland took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU and announced its focus on leading the European Union on a path to faster economic growth and an enhanced political community. In order to achieve these targets, the Polish Presidency will concentrate on three basic priorities: "European integration as the source of growth", a "Secure Europe" and a "Europe benefiting from openness". One of the first events under the auspices of the Polish Presidency entitled "Scientific Support to a Competitive European Low Carbon Economy: Energy, Transport and Emerging Technologies" addressed these specific issues and was co-organised by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

Source: <http://pl2011.eu/>; <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/>

#### Analysis of public consultation on the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding

On 10<sup>th</sup> June the outcome of the consultation on future EU research and innovation funding was discussed at a conference in Brussels. The outcomes are now being used by the European Commission to design the legislative proposals concerning the Common Strategic Framework which will be presented to the Council and the Parliament by the end of this year.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/pdf/>

#### "Horizon 2020"

The Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, announced that "Horizon 2020" will be the name of the future EU funding programme for research and innovation. The choice of the name was based on an online poll and its full version ("The Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation") is due to be finalised by the end of this year.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

#### "Smart specialisation platform" to further boost innovation in EU regions launched

The Commission launched the "smart specialisation platform" to support regions and Member States in better defining their research and innovation strategies. As there is no "one-size-fits-all" policy solution, the new facility will help the regions to assess their specific Research and Innovation (R&I) strengths and weaknesses and build on their competitive advantages. This is another step on the path to achieving the objectives set by the Member States in the field of research and innovation as part of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

#### Towards a global green economy and better governance

The European Commission adopted a Communication preparing the ground for the EU's position at the Rio+20 UN Sustainable Development Conference in 2012. The



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**IYC 2011**  
International Year of  
CHEMISTRY

Communication outlines objectives and specific actions on the two inter-linked themes of the Conference: enabling the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and ensuring better governance for sustainable development. On the basis of this Communication, the Commission will work together with the Council and the Parliament to build a consistent EU position that will contribute to Rio+20 outcome with concrete policies and actions for greening the economy.

**Source:** <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/>

### **The European Commission has launched a search for European Green Capital 2014**

The European Green Capital Award recognises and rewards cities that are at the forefront of environmentally friendly urban living and can act as role-models to inspire other cities. The award is open to EU Member States, Candidate Countries and European Economic Area countries. The deadline for applications is **14<sup>th</sup> October 2011**.

**Source:** <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/>

### **Petrol from bituminous sands in Europe?**

The European Commission is preparing a Directive which would put a halt to the arrival of petrol from bituminous sands on the European market. This is necessary due to the fact that the process of extracting from oil sands releases three to five times more greenhouse gasses. A Directive on the quality of fuels would aim to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions coming from transport by 10%.

**Source:** <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/>

### **GMOs: Commission adopts a Regulation harmonising controls of non-authorised GM material in feedmaterial**

The European Commission adopted a Regulation that harmonises the implementation of the zero tolerance policy on non-authorised genetically modified (GM) material in feed. The regulation addresses the current uncertainty that the EU operators face when placing feed products imported from third countries on the EU market. The regulation ensures a harmonised approach to controls in all Member States and improves the legal certainty for importers of feed from third countries.

**Source:** <http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biotechnology/>

### **GMOs: Parliament backs national right to cultivation bans**

EU Member States should have the flexibility to ban or restrict the cultivation of genetically modified crops and should be able to cite environmental motives for doing so, according to MEPs voting on a draft legislation. The draft amendment to existing legislation will now go to the Council for further consideration.

**Source:** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/>



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### The Global Innovation Index 2011

INSEAD, the leading international business school, announced the findings of The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2011 edition. Switzerland topped this year's GI ranking, with Sweden (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Singapore (3<sup>rd</sup>). Joining INSEAD as Knowledge Partners for the report were Alcatel-Lucent, Booz & Company, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Source: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/news/>

### The European Research Council: its future

The task force set up by the European Commission on the future of the European Research Council (ERC) has recommended from 2014 a quasi-full time role for the President of the ERC, who chairs its Scientific Council, which sets the organisation's scientific and research policy. The task group made also other recommendations about a more extensive and explicit delegation of scientific and administrative responsibilities from the Commission to the ERC Scientific Council and ERC Executive Agency respectively.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

## BUSINESS UPDATE

### The Agreement between EU and Canada on equivalency in Organic Products

The EU and Canada have reached an agreement on equivalency in organic products. The review of these specific rules has shown that there is an important convergence of the EU and Canadian legislation in the field of organic production and control systems. This equivalency will facilitate and hence boost trade in agricultural organic products between the EU and Canada. Following the agreement, the respective organic logos will be authorised for use on both European and Canadian markets.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/>

### Key Enabling Technologies to spur Europe's technological leadership

A European Commission expert group set out guidelines on giving European industry a competitive edge in deploying industrial technologies of the future (Key Enabling Technologies). The main conclusions call on decision-makers to adopt radical policy objectives to retain critical capability and capacity in Europe through a single and comprehensive approach to KETs. In particular, the group recommends that the vital importance of KETs should be reflected in the structure and funding balance of the upcoming Framework for research and innovation and in the priorities of the EU's future regional policies.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>



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### FUNDING UPDATE

#### FP7 calls for proposals

A number of Calls for Proposals under FP7 in the areas of Cooperation, Capacities, People and Ideas are planned to be published in **July 2011**. For some of them, the European Commission has already published "Orientation papers". An overview of all expected FP7 calls is given at the web address below.

Source: <http://www.euresearch.ch/>

#### FP7 Joint Technology Initiatives call

A call (ENIAC-2011-2) is published in a specific programme »Cooperation« on Joint Technology Initiatives. The budget is approximately 88 million EUR. The deadline for submitting applications is **15<sup>th</sup> September 2011**.

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>

#### Cefic opens grant applications for five LRI projects

The European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) has announced that it is accepting grant applications to carry out research in various areas as part of its Long-range Research Initiative (LRI). The deadline for applications is **31<sup>st</sup> August 2011**.

Source: <http://www.cefic-lri.org/>

#### The South East Europe Programme (SEE)

The SEE Programme will open its last call in **early October 2011** allowing the submission of proposals in all Programme Priorities and Areas of Intervention. As it will be a one stage procedure, it is necessary to start preparations for proposals already at this stage. The funds available for this call will be of at least EUR 43 million from the ERDF, more than EUR 6 million from IPA and EUR 1 million from the ENPI.

Source: <http://wbc-inco.net/object/news/>

#### New European Energy Efficiency Fund launched

The European Commission launched a new European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEE-F) as a part of the European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR). It will allocate around EUR 146 million from the EEPR towards a new financial facility dedicated to projects in energy efficiency and renewable energies sectors.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/>

### CONSULTATION

#### Consultation on EU air quality legislation

The consultation aims at gathering views and additional information on the effectiveness, strength and weaknesses of EU air quality legislation, in particular as regards Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polyaromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. This consultation is **open until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011**.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/>

#### Consultation on modernising the professional qualifications directive

The reform of the system of recognition of professional qualifications as a means to facilitate mobility is one of the priority actions proposed by the Commission in the Single Market Act. With the view to preparing this reform, the Commission wishes to consult stakeholders on (i) new approaches to mobility, (ii) ways to build on achievements and (iii) the modernisation of the automatic recognition.

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/)

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*CoastGIS 2011*, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Oostende, Belgium

Source: <http://www.coastgis.info/>

*Chemical Industries Regulation*, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Barcelona, Spain

Source: <http://www.informaglobalevents.com/event/cir1>

*REACH & CLP Enforcement & Appeals*, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Brussels, Belgium

Source: [www.chemicalwatch.com/REACH](http://www.chemicalwatch.com/REACH)

*Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive*, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011, venue tbc.

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/)

*SciTech Europe*, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Brussels, Belgium

Source: <http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/programme/>

*Industrial Green Chemistry World*, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December, Mumbai, India

Source: <http://www.biztradeshows.com/trade-events/>



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