



Brussels News Updates

January 2012

General European Highlights

The Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The programme of the Danish presidency was officially presented 6th of January at a press conference in Copenhagen. The programme describes the most important issues on the agenda during the next six months, including the four fundamental priorities for the Danish Presidency: (i) a responsible Europe; (ii) a dynamic Europe, (iii) a green Europe and (iv) a safe Europe.

Source: <http://eu2012.dk/en/NewsList/>

The European Parliament approved measures to restrict phosphate content of household cleaning products

The European Commission had proposed in 2010 to ban phosphate and other phosphorous compounds in laundry detergents. An existing regulation (EC) No 648/2004 is aimed at reducing the phosphates found in wastewater and to improve water quality. The draft regulation at the time did not make any specific mention to automatic dishwashers detergents or the ones used by professionals as "economically feasible alternatives". The European parliament now backed changes which had already been endorsed by EU member states' representatives in November aimed at creating a common European phosphate standard. The next steps are: (i) June 2013: Standard dose of washing powder must not contain more than 0.5 grams of phosphorus; (ii) January 2017: Dishwasher soaps will be limited to a phosphate content of 0.3 grams per dose.

Source: <http://www.euractiv.com/specialweek-waterpolicy/>

EU to agree new end-of-waste criteria in 2012

End-of-waste criteria for copper, paper and glass are due to be adopted by a regulatory committee on 4 May, according to the European Commission. These criteria specify when a material ceases to be waste and can be reused as scrap or a product.

Source: <http://www.endseurope.com/>

ECHA 2011 milestones

Publishing the new website was an important milestone, although the work is still ongoing, and several sections and functionalities will be further developed next year. Another important step was the introduction of joint strategic workshop. It proved an excellent opportunity to discuss priorities and to get your input for future planning. ECHA is currently going through received suggestions, and will come back with ECHA's response in early 2012. ECHA now also have an almost complete overview of the Transparency Register numbers, which will be used for further input from the accredited stakeholders.

Source: www.echa.europa.eu



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European City of Science 2012

Part of Dublin's role, as European city of science 2012, will be to organise a year-long programme of science-related events and activities throughout the country. It will also be the setting for the Euroscience Open Forum in Dublin's Convention Centre from July 11th to 15th, which is expected to draw up to 6,000 of the world's leading scientists, researchers, educators, industry experts, policy makers and media. The European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, said: "This will give Dublin and Ireland a wonderful opportunity to showcase the best research that is being performed in Ireland and to lead the European-wide debate on the most important research and science issues." The Euroscience Forum will be the biggest science event in Europe in 2012.

Source: <http://www.c-s.ie/cityofscience2012/>

Funding update

ERA-Chemistry

The ERA-Chemistry published the 2012 "Open Initiative" to fund transnational collaborative projects in the broad field of curiosity-driven chemical research. After two thematic calls in 2005 and 2007, since 2008 the "Open Initiative" aims now to stimulate excellence in chemical research through competition and cooperation without any thematic restriction. All pre-proposals must be submitted via the electronic application system for this call not later than **10 February 2012**.

Source: www.erachemistry.net/call-for-proposals/open-initiative-2012

Consultations

Commission consults on review of R&D&I rules

The European Commission is inviting stakeholders' comments on the review of EU state aid rules for supporting research, development and innovation (R&D&I). The Commission is interested in statistical information and qualitative comments on national R&D&I policies, at large, and on national state aid support measures for R&D&I, in particular. On the basis of the replies received to the published questionnaire, the Commission will prepare a first draft of a revised EU Framework for State aid for R&D&I which it expects to publish in the second half of 2012 for consultation. The review was launched in August 2011 by the publication of a midterm review on the application of the current framework that will expire at the end of 2013. Comments can be submitted until **24 February 2012**.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/competition/>; <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

Business update

Bringing research results to the market: demonstration activity

Demonstration activities are funding packages of the FP7 designed to bridge the gap between research and the market. They do this by aiming to prove the viability of a new solution that offers a potential economic advantage but which cannot be commercialised directly as further technological or other developments are required.

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

The Executive Training Programme (ETP) supports European managers and their companies in developing business in Japan and Korea

The ETP is a European Commission funded programme that provides European managers and their companies with high quality business, language and cultural training necessary for success in the Japanese and Korean markets. The programme is open for EU participants from EU companies with a turnover above 1 Mio € and more than 5 employees, and considering entering or expanding their business activities in the Japanese or Korean markets. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2012.

Source: www.euetp.eu

Forthcoming events

ERA conference 2012

Brussels, 30 January 2012

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/>

6th World water forum

Marseille, 12 – 17 March 2012

Source: <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/>

More drive for the ERA - What science needs to flourish and deliver

Barcelona, 3 - 4 May 2012

Source: <http://www.i-se.org/conference.html>

Euroconference 2012

Brussels, 15 May 2012

Source: <http://www.kelleneurope.com/>



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