



Brussels News Update

August 2011



GENERAL EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS

Renewable energy: the first certification schemes for biofuels

On 19th July 2011, the European Commission recognised seven voluntary schemes for biofuels. In order to receive government support or count towards mandatory national renewable energy targets, biofuels used in the EU, whether locally produced or imported, have to comply with sustainability criteria. These criteria aim at preventing the conversion of areas of high biodiversity and high carbon stock for the production of raw materials for biofuels. The sustainability of biofuels needs to be checked by Member States or through voluntary schemes preapproved by the European Commission.

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

Investing in research and innovation: vital to economic recovery

The European Commission announced a budget of €7 billion for research in 2012. This is the largest research budget in the world bar the US National Institutes for Health and Nasa. This fund is part of the Seventh Framework Programme running from 2007 to 2014. Its successor, Horizon 2020, has a proposed budget of €80 billion. Research and innovation spending is thereby the only major area for increased resources in the EC budget after the year 2014.

Source: <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/sciencetoday/>

ECHA: Toolbox for grouping chemicals available

The release of 2.2. version of the OECD QSAR Toolbox is part of a four-year collaborative project between the OECD and ECHA. The software helps registrants and authorities to use Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship ((Q)SAR) methodologies to group chemicals into categories and fill data gaps by read-across, trend analysis and assess the (eco)toxicity hazards of chemicals under REACH. This helps reduce the costs and unnecessary testing on vertebrate animals.

Source: <http://echa.europa.eu/news/>

FUNDING UPDATE

COST: Open call

This support covers the costs of networking activities such as meetings, conferences, workshops, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools, publications and dissemination activities. COST does not fund the research itself. The deadline is **30th September 2011**.

Source: <http://www.cost.esf.org/participate/>



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Call for ESF Research Conference Proposals

The European Science Foundation invites researchers to submit proposals for high-level research conferences to take place in **2013** within the framework of its Research Conferences Scheme in the following scientific domains (i) Molecular Biology+, (ii) Physics/Biophysics and Environmental Sciences, (iii) Social Sciences and Humanities.

The deadline for submitting the proposals is **15 September 2011**.

Source: <http://wbc-inco.net/call/>

BUSINESS UPDATE

New EU Prize for Women Innovators

The European Commission has announced a new prize to give public recognition to the very best women innovators who have brought their outstanding achievements to market. The aim of this new prize is to raise public awareness of the needs for more innovation and especially more women entrepreneurs in research and industry. The deadline for application is **20 September 2011**.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/>

The Commission published its sixth EU Survey on R&D Investment Business Trends

Top R&D investing companies based in the EU expect their global research and development investments to grow by 5% annually from 2011 to 2013. This is more than double last year's expectations, and represents a significant upturn from the 2.6% R&D cuts in investment implemented by these companies in 2009. The companies surveyed also revealed that an average of 27% of their annual sales comes from innovative products introduced in the past three years, demonstrating again that innovation is the key to commercial success and to job creation.

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

CONSULTATION

Consultation: Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive

The reform of the system of recognition of professional qualifications as a means of facilitating mobility is one of 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, (iii) modernisation of the automatic recognition. EuCheMS is preparing its position paper on the matter. The consultation will close on **20 September 2011**.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/



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Consultation: Toxicity and Assessment of Chemical Mixtures

The European Union Chemicals legislation is based predominantly on assessments carried out on individual substances. However, humans, animals and plants are in fact exposed to a wide variety of chemicals at any moment and throughout their lives. While current assessment methods for single chemical substances incorporate safety factors to take account of a range of uncertainties, the Commission is keen to ensure that EU chemicals' legislation takes proper account of the latest scientific information on mixture toxicity and has asked to issue a joint opinion on the Toxicity and Assessment of Chemical Mixtures.

The consultation will close on **9 September 2011**.

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

Consultation: Sixth adaptation of Annex II to the Directive on end-of-life vehicles

Following the requirements of Article 4(2)(a) of Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, the Member States of the European Union have to ensure that materials and components of vehicles put on the market since 1 July 2003 do not contain lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium and cadmium. A limited number of applications exempted from the provision of this article are listed in Annex II to the Directive. The Annex also includes the scope and expiry date of the exemption and labelling requirements. Some provisions of Annex II include a mandatory review date. The consultation will close on **9 September 2011**.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/elv_en.htm

Consultation: Scientific information in the digital age

In late 2011, the European Commission intends to adopt a Communication and Recommendation on access to and preservation of digital scientific information. The Communication will take stock of developments in the area of scientific information, and set out the actions that the Commission intends to take on open access to publications and data in the context of research projects funded by the Union budget. The consultation will close on **9 September 2011**.

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

Consultation: EU air quality legislation

The objective of the consultation is to gather 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 marks the beginning of a broad consultation on the review of

EU air policy foreseen to end in 2013 at the latest. The consultation will close on **30 September 2011**.

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

Green paper consultation: Information and promotion for EU agricultural products

The Commission is convinced that the information and promotion policy for agricultural products could be simplified and improved in order to better address the needs of the European and world market. A revised policy on promotion should lead to a better knowledge of European agriculture within the internal and external market, as well as bring the taste of Europe across the world. The consultation will close on **30 September 2011**.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

European Congress on E-Inclusion

6th – 7th September 2011, Brussels

Source: <http://www.ecei11.eu/>

Conference on the new energy efficiency directive

12th September 2011, Brussels

Source: <http://www.buildup.eu/events/>

IV International Conference on Environmental, Industrial and Applied Microbiology (BioMicroWorld2011)

14th -16th September 2011, Torremolinos-Malaga

Source: <http://www.ourglobal.com/event/>

Local steps towards Innovation Union Why? What? Who? How?

22 September 2011, Brussels

Source: www.cliqproject.eu/localsteps

CHEM-MED 2011, The international chemical event

5 - 7 October 2011, Milan

Source: <http://www.chem-med.eu/>



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