

## EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

New ▾ Actions ▾

| Update | Issue | Brief description | Latest developments |
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### Policy Sector : 1. Presidency of the EU (3)

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| October 2013 | Presidency of the EU | <p><b>Lithuanian Presidency of the European Union (1 July – 31 December)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>On 1 July 2013 Lithuania took over the EU Presidency for the next six months.</p> <p>The Lithuanian Presidency's main priorities include, among others, the 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme, Environmental Impact Assessment, Indirect Land Use Change, forestry and biocides.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| October 2013 | Sport                | <p>The treaty of Lisbon has given the EU competence in the area of sport. The EU now has powers to initiate and manage a direct and coherent European Sports Policy and to allocate financial resources to it.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>During Q3 2013, the European Commission adopted its first ever proposal for a Council Recommendation on Sport. It also announced its intention to organise an Annual European Week of Sport (EWOs) as of 2015. In October, Sports Ministers met to discuss the role of sports in the economy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| January 2012 | Fertilizers          | <p>The European Union gathers all rules applying to fertilizers into a single piece of legislation in order to ensure the uniform application of a package of very technical provisions.</p> <p>The EU has rules relating to the placing of fertilizers on the market, i.e. the conditions for designating "EC fertilizers", as well as the provisions regarding their labeling and packaging.</p> | <p>In Q4 2011, the European Commission announced that it is preparing for the revision of the Fertilizers Regulation. The revision will assess new products on the EU market and if they should be regulated under the Regulation. The European Commission is currently working on a study to support the revision of the Regulation. The study aims at collecting information on the EU fertilizers market and at developing and assessing a set of policy options in terms of their possible impacts on human health and environment, as well as economic and social impacts. Also in the first months of 2012, the Council (Member States) working group on fertilizers will start meeting to prepare for the revision.</p> |

### Policy Sector : 2. Global views on business and biodiversity (1)

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| October 2013 | Biodiversity and Business | <p>The conservation of biodiversity has become a key issue worldwide, impacting all areas of life, in particularly the business sector.</p> | <p>In Q3, the European Parliament adopted the draft European regulation which transposes the Nagoya Protocol into EU law and the EU Joint Research Centre released a study that looks into potential threats to soil biodiversity.</p> |
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### Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

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| October 2013 | Water scarcity and drought | <p>The growing scarcity of water is causing a tension of the demand for water and leading to a price increase of water. Furthermore, the quality of water has become ever more important with regards to health standards.</p> | <p>In Q3 2013 the Commission launched a public consultation on the revision of the Groundwater Directive and published its Seventh Report on the Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Finally, the Joint Research Centre published</p> |
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its final report on the River Basin Network on the Water Framework Directive.

#### Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

October  
2013

Regulation  
on pesticide  
statistics

The Regulation on pesticide statistics is the final step towards completion of the "Pesticides package" which contains 3 proposals, 2 of which have already been formally adopted in December last year (the Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and the Directive relating to the sustainable use of pesticides).

By Q3 2013 the majority of National Action Plans for the sustainable use of pesticides have been published on the European Commission's website. There is no common approach to how member states will measure pesticide use and there are limited targets for reducing pesticide use. 

#### Policy Sector : 6. Soil (1)

July  
2012

Soil policy

Soil protection is becoming an increasingly important issue at European level. The Commission adopted a soil thematic strategy and framework directive on soil. In addition, Different EU policies (water, waste, chemicals, industrial pollution prevention, nature protection, pesticides, agriculture) are contributing to soil protection.

On 12 April the European Commission (EC) issued [Guidelines on best practice to limit, mitigate or compensate soil sealing](#). 

The guidelines were officially presented at the [conference on 'Soil remediation and soil sealing'](#) organized by the Joint Research Centre of the EC in Brussels on 11-12 May. In the context of the draft revision of the Soil Directive being blocked in the EU Council by a number of Member States, the EC guidelines aim to temporarily address the issue of soil sealing through the establishment of best practices for users and authorities.