


## EU Environmental Legislation Monitoring

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Update Issue Brief description Latest developments 


### Policy Sector : 1. Presidency of the EU (3)

Update	Issue	Brief description	Latest developments
April 2012	<a href="#">Danish Presidency of the EU</a>	<b>Danish Presidency of the European Union (1 January – 30 June)</b>	<p>In Q1 Denmark indicated that the main priorities in the area of environment for their Presidency are greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Denmark, which took over the rotating EU presidency in January, will also aim to deliver a first-reading agreement between member states and MEPs on the Energy Efficiency directive by June.</p> <p>In regards to water, the Danish Environment Minister, Ida Auken, indicated that in the context of the year of water and the various initiatives proposed by the Commisison, the Danish presidency vows to prioritise this issue in the Council discussions.</p>
January 2012	<a href="#">Sport</a>	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>On 10 November, the Committee for Culture, Education and Sport of the European Parliament endorsed a proposal submitted by MEP Santiago Fisas (EPP) to set an insurance mechanism to compensate clubs allowing players to play in their national team and to regulate at the European level the profession of sports agents. However, the report underlines that insurance mechanism cannot be applied to all sports. The Royal and Ancient proposed amendment on taking account environment factors when building sports facilities was taken into account. The report will be voted in the February plenary session.</p>
January 2012	<a href="#">Fertilizers</a>	<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",</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</p>


as well as the provisions regarding their labeling and packaging.

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.


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

April 2012	<a href="#">Biodiversity and Business</a>	The conservation of biodiversity has become a key issue worldwide, impacting all areas of life, in particularly the business sector.	Following the adoption of the Council conclusions on biodiversity, in Q1 the European Parliament adopted its report on the need for more efforts to protect biodiversity. Now all three institutions (Commission, Council and European Parliament) identified the need to allocate more resources and instruments to halting biodiversity loss. In the coming months, the EU Institutions will continue to develop specific tools to address this issue.	
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#### Policy Sector : 4. Water (1)

April 2012	<a href="#">Water scarcity and drought</a>	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>In Q1 the Commission continued to work on its Blueprint on European Waters by seeking input from European Stakeholders on the most appropriate actions to improve water management in Europe and to safeguard water resources for all users. The Commission also continued to publish reports on various specific issues such as the impact of agriculture on water that will feed into the Blueprint that is now set to be published at the end of 2012. Austrian Member of European Parliament, Richard Seeber, is also putting together an own initiative report on water scarcity and droughts in the European Union that will be included in the Commission's Blueprint as well.</p> <p>Moreover, the European Commission also published an EU survey on the attitudes of Europeans towards water related issues.</p>	
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#### Policy Sector : 5. Pesticides (1)

April 2012	<a href="#">Regulation on pesticide statistics</a>	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	In Q1 pesticides continued to be discussed in the European Parliament. A few MEPs have asked the Commissions questions on the effects pesticides have on bees and on counterfeit pesticides entering the EU market. Moreover, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) also published an opinion on the ranking of pesticides emissions.	
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sustainable use of pesticides).

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

April  
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[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.

In Q1 discussions began on re -launching the draft Directive on Soil. Recently there have been reports and studies funded by the European Commission analyzing the importance of preserving EU soil and the Commission has been calling for better data collection. The Commission believes that soil would be better monitored and data would be more effectively collected if there was an EU piece of legislation for all Member States to comply with. The discussions are still at an early stage; however we will monitor the developments on this issue in the coming months.

