



Burson • Marsteller

Lithuanian Presidency of the European Union (1 July – 31 December)

Last updated in October 2013

Latest Developments

On 1 July 2013 Lithuania took over the EU Presidency until December 2013. The Lithuanian Presidency's main priorities include, among others, the 7th Environment Action Programme, Environmental Impact Assessment, Indirect Land Use Change, forestry and biocides.

The first Environment Council under the Lithuanian Presidency took place in Luxembourg on 14 October. Ministers adopted a common EU position ahead of the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which will take place in Warsaw from 11 to 22 November 2013. An exchange of views was also held on the proposal for the amendment of the waste shipment regulation.

[Press Release](#)

On 5 and 6 October 2013 an informal meeting was held between national environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment experts in Vilnius. The discussion focused on the consideration of amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive that is being discussed in the Council Working Group meetings.

[Press Release](#)

[Commission Webpage](#)

An informal meeting of the EU Sport Ministers took place on 1 October 2013. Discussions focused on strengthening sport as a sector of the economy, one of the key issues identified by the Lithuanian Presidency in the area of sport. Ministers discussed the impact of major sporting events on the welfare of EU Member States and the contribution of sports to economic growth.

[Press Release](#)

The 12th European Tourism Forum 'Tourism – a Force for Economic Growth, Social Change and Welfare', organised by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with the European Commission, was held in Vilnius on 17-18 October 2013. Forum participants discussed the benefits of tourism for the EU economy and competitiveness, the diversity of tourism products, the future of tourism and tax issues in the tourism business. The Forum started with the Informal Ministerial meeting, where Vice President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani, ministers and representatives from the EU Member States in charge of tourism discussed visa policy and tourism related funding under the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.

[Press Release](#)

Impact for golf management



Burson•Marsteller

- Biodiversity
- Water

Background

Last updated July 2013

During its last three months, the Irish Presidency of the EU managed to achieve a first reading agreement with the European Parliament on the 7th Environment Action Plan (EAP), the Priority Substances in Water Directive and the Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) Regulation.

[Irish Presidency Achievements Report](#)

On 18 June 2013 EU Environment Ministers met for the last time under the Irish Presidency in Luxembourg. The Council adopted conclusions on the Commission communication "An EU strategy on adaptation to climate change" and took note of a progress report on a draft directive on Indirect Land-Use Change (ILUC). The Council also adopted draft conclusions on the overarching post-2015 development agenda which was adopted by the General Affairs Council on 25 June. Finally, the presidency provided a brief update to the council on the outcome of the meeting of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) which took place on 15-17 May in Dublin. The purpose of the meeting was to set out the needs for biodiversity research over the next 7 years.

[Press Release on the Environment Council](#)

[Press Release on the EPBRS](#)

During the EU Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council that took place on 16-17 May in Brussels EU Ministers were briefed by the Irish Presidency on the outcome of the World Anti-Doping Agency meetings in Montreal (11-12 May 2013). In this context, the Council held a policy debate on the role of public authorities in combating doping in sport, with the participation of the CEO of the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), Travis Tygart. The Council also adopted conclusions on dual careers for athletes.

[Press Release](#)

On 1 July 2013 Lithuania took over the EU Presidency for the next six months.

Presenting the Presidency's environmental priorities to the European Parliament's Environment Committee, Valentinas Mazuronis, the Lithuanian minister for the environment, said that obtaining a first reading agreement on the regulation on ratification of the Nagoya Protocol for balanced and sustainable use of biodiversity and resource sharing would be one of the Presidency's key priorities.

[Speech](#) and [Video](#)

During the informal Environment Council which took place in Vilnius on 16-17 July Ministers discussed the importance of mainstreaming of natural capital and biodiversity financing in different sectors and exploring the biodiversity financing opportunities at national, EU and international level in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

[Press Release](#)

Mr Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas, Minister of the Interior (sport and leisure policy), presented the Presidency priorities on sport and leisure policy to the European Parliament's Culture and



Burson•Marsteller

Education Committee on 10 July 2013. He indicated that the Presidency's first legal document on sports would be a Recommendation of the Council on health promotion through physical activity (HEPA) and Council conclusions on the contribution of sport to the economic stability and growth would follow. In addition, the Lithuanian Presidency will focus on the fight against doping and the promotion of the integrity of sport; the pursuit of work on match-fixing in the international fora; and sustainable financing and good governance in sport.

[Speech](#) and [Video](#)

Last updated in April 2013

On 1 January 2013 Ireland took over the EU Presidency until June 2013. The Irish Presidency's main priorities include, among others, the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP), Priority Substances in Water and LIFE Regulation.

On 22-23 April EU Environment Ministers held an informal meeting in Dublin. Discussions focused on the [Single Market for Green Products](#) and on Air Quality and Urban Environment. The Ministers also received a presentation on the green economy from Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP. The next Environment Council under the Irish Presidency is planned to take place in Luxembourg on 18 June 2013.

[Agenda](#)

[Press Release by the Irish Presidency](#)

On 21 March 2013 EU Environment Ministers met for the first time under the Irish Presidency in Brussels. The Ministers held a policy debate on proposed changes to the environmental impact assessment directive and exchanged views on the review of the REACH system and the follow-up process to the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 framework. Finally, the presidency and the Commission briefed ministers on the [first plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) that took place in Bonn on 21-26 January 2013.

[Council Press Release](#)