

The European Commission, as the initiator of EU legislation, published the 2011 annual work programme on Wednesday 27th October, 2010. The priorities for 2011 can be grouped under five main headings:

- **Sustaining Europe's Social Market Economy** out of the crisis and beyond (*including a legislative framework for bank crisis management, proposals to reinforce the protection of consumers of financial services and a regulation on credit rating agencies – to complete the reforms of the financial sectors*);
- **Restoring Growth for Jobs** (*including new economic governance mechanisms, proposals to support the competitiveness of EU enterprises, especially SMEs, a European Energy Efficiency Plan, a Social Business initiative, legislative initiative on working time, proposals for company taxation and VAT*);
- **Pursuing the Citizens' Agenda: Rights, Freedom and Justice** (*including strengthening of consumer rights, a Common Framework Reference for contract law, renewed Civil Protection Legislation*);
- **Europe Pulling its Weight on the Global Stage** (*including supporting the new European External Action Service and continuing to improve EU's development assistance to target those most in need*);
- **From Input to Impact: Making the Most of EU Policies** (*including a proposal for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework*).

The EC work programme sets out various legislative and non-legislative initiatives, a number of which will have an impact on the future work of environmental professionals, that ENEP should take account of from an early stage. The work programme has been published in the wake of the EU 2020 strategy being agreed with its [five headline targets](#), a [digital Europe strategy](#), the [fifth report on economic and social cohesion](#) and the [Single Market Act](#). The work programme includes a number of high profile actions in 2011 including a road map to resource efficiency, low carbon roadmap, follow up on biodiversity and climate change as well as changes to the water framework directive and an initiative to evaluate and improve effective implementation of environmental legislation. 2011 will launch the legislative process for the 2014-2020 Multi Annual Financing Framework (MFF) as a strategic initiative. The proposals will follow the [Budget review paper](#) issued by the European Commission in October 2010.

This briefing highlights a selection of the key strategic, other initiatives and post 2012 priorities for the European Commission that ENEP will no doubt be keen on engaging with during 2011.

Strategic Initiatives (40 of these in total)

This list highlights proposals that may have greatest significance for local and regional authorities.

Policy Area	EU Proposal	Outline of Proposal
<p>Economic – future EU funding <i>(June 2011) and (3rd quarter 2011)</i></p>	<p>A new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)(an EU Budget for the post 2013 period)</p>	<p>The Commission will set out the budgetary priorities and a new MFF post 2013. In this context the Commission will also present proposals for the next generation of EU programmes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesion Policy – Structural Funds; • CAP and Rural Development; • Common Fisheries Policy, • Research Framework Programme and other programmes. <p><i>These proposals will come in a number of packages in the second half of 2011 and will be key in determining the level of funding that respective Member States will receive under various programmes.</i></p> <p>Reforms will affect all policy areas and greater emphasis will be given to financial engineering and leverage funding.</p>
<p>Economic – policy <i>(January 2011)</i></p>	<p>Annual Growth Survey</p>	<p>The Commission will present the first Annual Growth Survey which will analyse the economic situation, highlighting potential imbalances and systematic risks. It will also review progress on the five headline targets in the Europe 2020 Strategy, as part of a benchmarking exercise. Member states have until April 2011 to submit their NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMMES.</p>
<p>Economic – public services <i>(4th quarter 2011)</i></p>	<p>Revision of State aid rules for services of general economic interest (SGEI)</p>	<p>The current framework for State aid expires in November 2011 and the revision will evaluate current provisions and present possible adjustments, in particular on PUBLIC SERVICE COMPENSATION, <i>which may have implications for some services provided by local & regional authorities in the environmental sphere.</i></p>
<p>Environment <i>(1st quarter 2011)</i></p>	<p>Low-Carbon Economy 2050 Roadmap</p>	<p>This communication will analyse the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050, with a view to making the EU energy secure and promoting sustainable growth and jobs, while ensuring that the proposed measures are most cost-efficient and do not bring negative consequences. This also contributes to the flagship initiative "Resource efficient Europe" of the Europe 2020 strategy.</p>
<p>Environment <i>(2nd quarter 2011)</i></p>	<p>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe</p>	<p>As part of the Resource Efficient Europe flagship initiative, the roadmap will set out a framework of actions in a variety of policy areas, <i>for the shift towards a resource efficient economy.</i> The aim is to increase resource productivity and decouple economic growth from resource use and resource use from its environmental impact, enhance competitiveness and promote security of supply and resource independence of the EU.</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>Energy Roadmap 2050</p>	<p>The roadmap will present a range of possible development paths for the EU energy system to 2050, towards a low</p>

(3 rd quarter 2011)		carbon, resource efficient system, allowing implications of today's decisions to be better assessed and decisions needed today of strategic importance (e.g. infrastructure planning) to be better understood.
Energy (1 st quarter 2011)	European Energy Efficiency Plan until 2020	The Communication will identify measures to fully achieve the cost-effective energy savings potentials of 20% by 2020, across all sectors, including building, utility, transport and industry.
Energy (3 rd quarter 2011)	Directive on Energy Efficiency and Savings	This initiative is a follow up to the European Energy Efficiency Plan. It will provide a framework for energy efficiency and savings policies of Member States, including targets, role of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans, the exemplary role of the public sector, financing, consumer information. It will set framework conditions for increased generation, transmission and distribution efficiency, including strengthened measures for the promotion of cogeneration and district heating & cooling. It will replace the Energy Services Directive 2006/32/EC.
Transport (1 st quarter 2011)	White Paper on the Future of Transport	The White Paper will outline the future of transport until 2050. It will define the framework for actions up to 2020 in the field of transport infrastructure, de-carbonisation of transport and clean vehicles, technology for traffic management, road safety and various incentives.

**Other Initiatives (92 of these 'under consideration' in total)
EC proposals with an implication for local and regional government**

Policy Area	EU Proposal	Outline of Proposal
Environment - Water	Review of the list of priority substances under the Water Framework Directive	The Water Framework Directive requires the Commission to review the list of priority substances every 4 years. Priority substances are those posing a risk to or via the aquatic environment. They are part of the basis of the EU strategy to combat chemical pollution in EU waters.
Environment - Implementation	Communication on implementing EU environmental law and policy	With 20% of all infringement cases relating to environmental legislation this communication will address the shortcomings in implementation and explore a number of practical avenues for improvement. Issues to be addressed, among others, will be improving the coherence of legislation, enhancing compliance promotion, strengthening the effectiveness of inspections and enhancing the role of national judges in supporting the implementation of EU legislation.
Industry	Communication on the strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the EU construction sector	The Communication will define a strategy for strengthening the competitiveness of the European construction sector whilst meeting current and future societal challenges until 2020. It will present a set of priority actions, taking into account the different settings in the Member States, the various construction sub-sectors, the differences in role and size of the operators as well as the impact of cyclical

		economic developments.
Industry - Culture	Unlocking the potential of the cultural and creative industries	The objective is to foster the right environment for cultural and creative industries to flourish and contribute to growth. The initiative should make it easier for these industries to access funding, improve the monitoring of skills needs, better embed them in regional development strategies, and set up 'creative partnerships' between education institutions, businesses and public authorities.
Industry	Social Business Initiative	To promote social business and its development in the Single Market.
Research - Industry	European Strategy and Action Plan towards a sustainable bio-based economy by 2020	The Communication will provide a vision and action plan for a sustainable and innovative European Bio economy by 2020, including: to improve framework conditions for innovation and to stimulate the reforms of Member States national R&D and innovation systems, in order to enable the development of the bio-economy at national level.
Public Procurement	Modernisation of the EU Public Procurement legislative framework	This initiative will up-date and simplify the existing EU public procurement framework (Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC). While preserving the transparency and non discrimination principles, the review will seek the best possible procurement outcomes with the least possible transaction costs and administrative burdens. Issues such as the simplification of the procurement procedures, the updating of e-procurement provisions, public-public cooperation, the possible use of public procurement to achieve other environmental and social policy objectives will be addressed.
Maritime	Communication on an Integrated Strategy for the Atlantic Sea Basin	This communication (tbc) will set out the rationale for an integrated strategy for the Atlantic sea basin, addressing the challenges that this area faces, including economic, social and environmental issues and the possible future governance arrangements to develop more effective co-operation across the five Atlantic Member States.
Maritime - planning	Legislative proposal setting a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)	Ensure that Member States provide a stable, reliable and future-oriented integrated planning framework to optimise the use of marine space to benefit economic development and the marine environment and that in doing so they apply common approach to facilitate cross-border MSP.
Transport	e-Mobility package	This set of legislative measures will introduce deployment of new technology across various transport modes to support an efficient and sustainable transport system. Measures will include integrated rail ticketing, digital tachograph, electronic tolls, etc.
Transport	Registration of motor vehicles previously registered in another Member State	The main objective is to improve the functioning of the internal market through the elimination of barriers to the free movement of goods, caused by different administrative formalities and requirements for the registration of motor

		vehicles previously registered in another Member State. This may have implications for local authorities.
Digital agenda	Communication on digitisation and digital preservation	The Communication will give an overview of progress in the Member States on digitisation and digital preservation, including on digital libraries (local authorities), and outline the next steps.
Digital agenda	Review of Directive on reuse of public sector information (2003/98/EC)	Review of directive including the scope of instrument, limitations on reuse of public sector information and clarification of the principle that all material that is generally accessible is also reusable for non-commercial and commercial purposes.
Digital agenda	Possible revision /clarification of universal service provisions in e-communications	Possible review of Directive 2002/22/EC with major implications for rural areas if Commission decides to set a minimum threshold for broadband and WI-MAX services in rural areas across the EU in light of social and technological changes since 2002.
Digital agenda	Web accessibility action plan	Concerted EU action to make sure all new electronic content is fully accessible to people with disabilities on international accessibility standards by 2015
EU Funding	Communication on innovative financial instruments for the new MFF	This communication will set out principles for the design and implementation of innovative financial instruments supporting Europe 2020 and other actions, 2014-2020. It is also expected to conclude on new joint instruments with the EIB as well as other capital market instruments like project bonds or financial instruments operated together with national public financial institutions. This will have significance in terms of the type of support that will be available in different EU regions under the key funding programmes for the next programming period.

Future initiatives 2012-2014

Policy Area	EU Proposal	Outline Description
Cohesion Policy (2013)	2nd Strategic Report on the implementation of Cohesion programmes 2007-2013	As required by Article 30 of the regulations 1083/2006 this report will present a strategic assessment of the implementation of the Structural Fund programmes.
Competition (2012)	Review of guidelines on national regional State aid	The current guidelines are in force until the end of 2013. This review will align the demarcation of regions with Cohesion Policy, set down aid intensities allowed and address aid to large investment projects.
Competition (2012)	Review of the State aid guidelines for broadband networks	The current guidelines must reviewed by end of September 2012 at the latest.
Internal Market (2012)	Review of Professional Qualifications legislation	Following the evaluation of professional qualifications acquis, appropriate amendments will be made to the legislative framework.
Environment (2012)	Revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive	The objective of the review is to improve the functioning of the Directive, by ensuring consistent and effective application of the principles of environmental assessment and ensure consistency with international obligations from the Espoo Convention (including Strategic Environmental Assessment).
Environment (2012)	Blue Print to safeguard Europe's water resources	The objective is to ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of good quality water to support ecosystems and use for human needs and economic purposes. It will be based on a review of existing water policy and on an assessment of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. An initiative on water efficiency could be envisaged to promote water savings in public and private buildings.
Environment (tbc)	Assessment of the results of the 6 th Environmental Action Programme	No further information available at this stage.
Environment (tbc)	Review of the thematic strategies on waste prevention and re-cycling	No further information available at this stage.
Industry-Environment (2012)	Review of the REACH Directive	The Commission is required to conduct an evaluation of the REACH regulation in 2012, taking into account the experience acquired with the operation of this Regulation.
Maritime (2012)	Communication on "blue growth" – a new vision for sustainable growth in coastal regions and maritime sectors.	The Communication will set out future growth scenarios for coastal regions and the maritime economy, with a particular emphasis on positive effects on employment.
Maritime (2013)	Proposal for a Regulation to support growth and sustainability through better Marine Knowledge.	To proposal will set out how to finance a more effective European architecture for marine knowledge.
Research (2012)	Framework Directive on the European Research Area (ERA)	As set out in the 'Innovation Union' flagship initiative, the European Research Area and supporting measures will remove obstacles to mobility and cross-border cooperation.

Public Services (2012)	Communication on a quality framework for services of general interest	This initiative will build on Protocol 26 annexed to the Treaty.
Employment (2012)	Communication on a new EU strategy on health and safety at work	The communication will define a new strategic framework for occupational health and safety at work for the period 2013-2020.