



State of Play of Key EU Environment, Energy and Climate Change Policy Proposals

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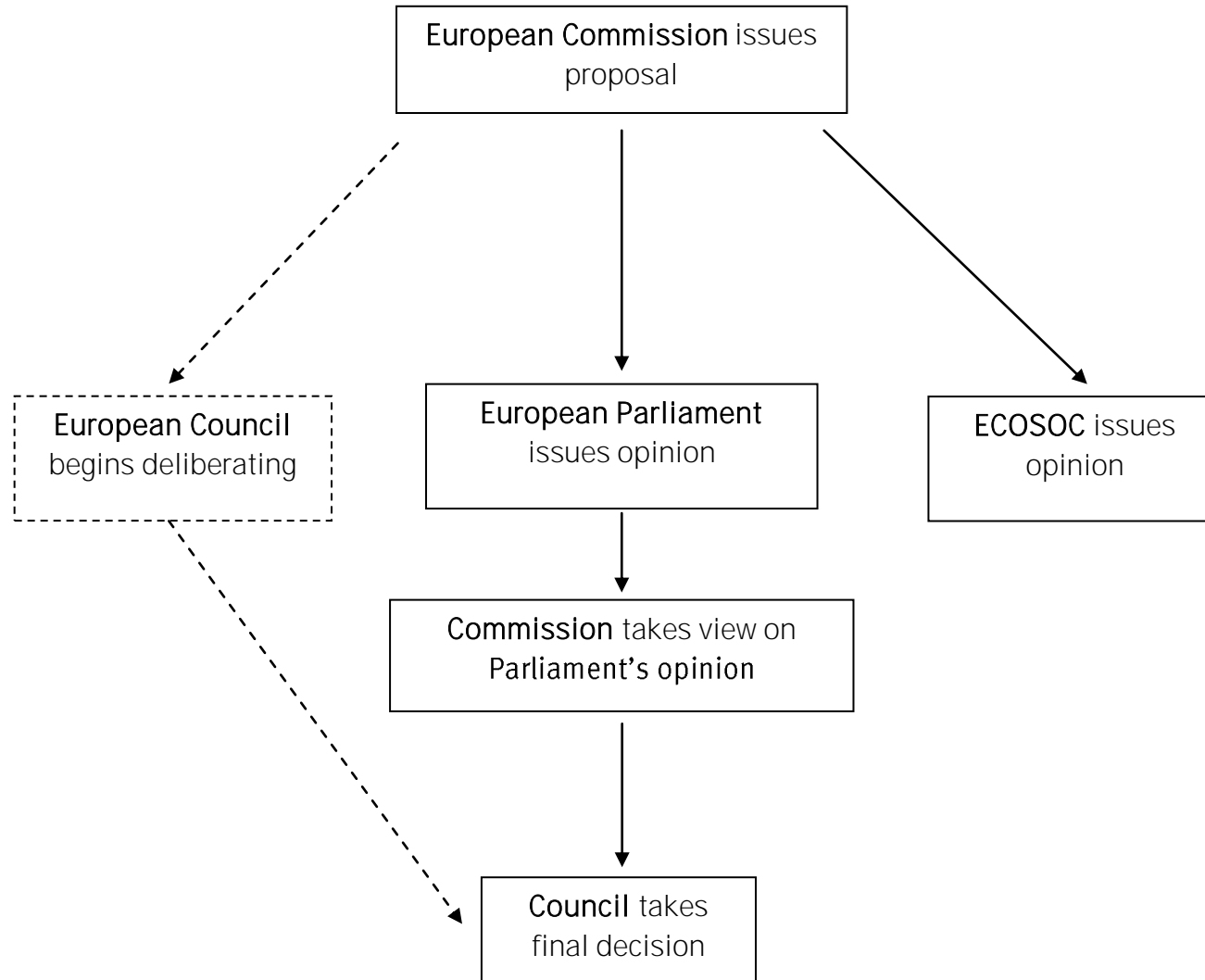
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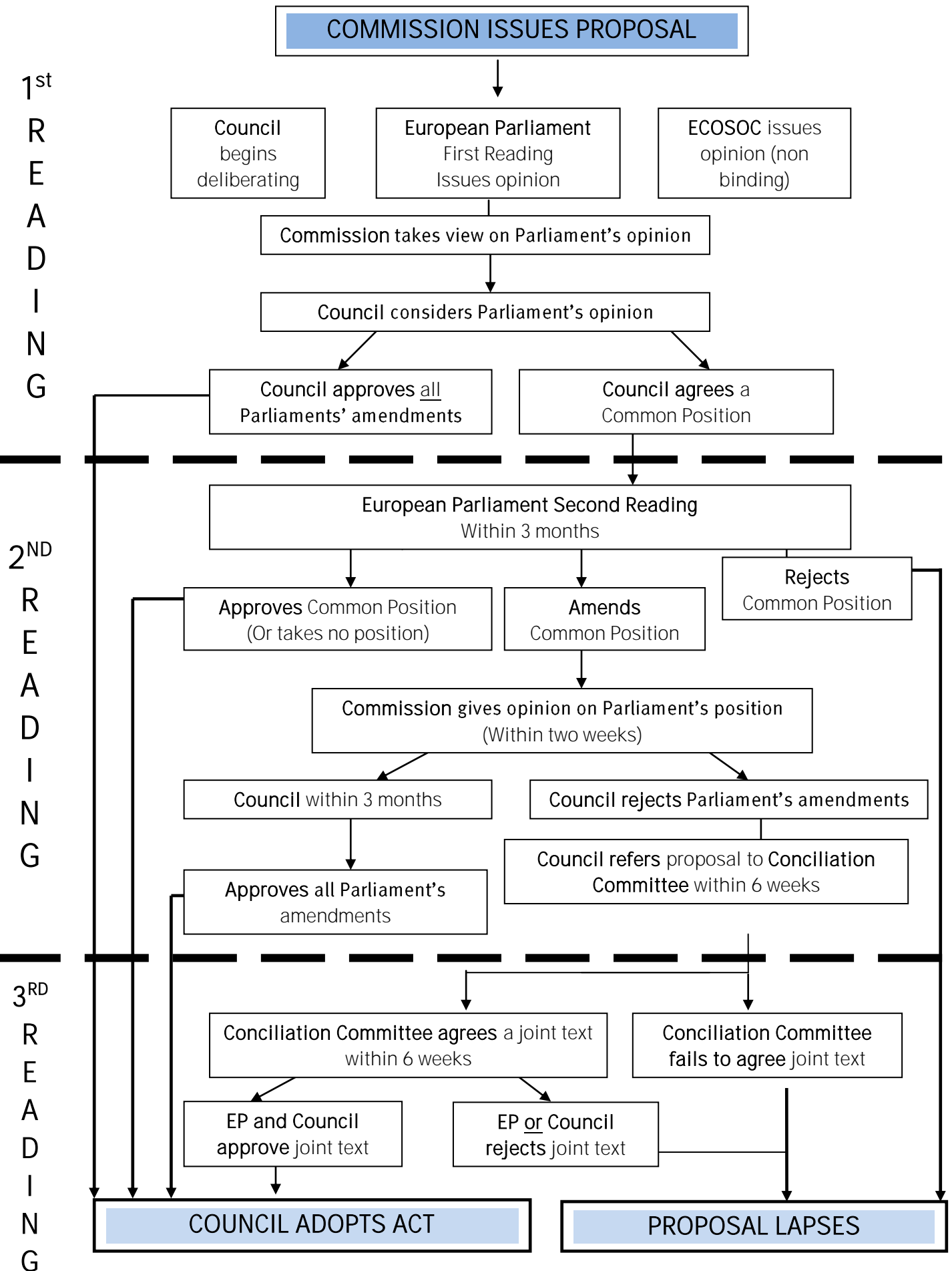
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THE CONSULTATION PROCEDURE



THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE



GENERAL				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
<p>Energy Taxation Directive (recast)</p> <p>DG Taxation & Customs Union</p>				<p>Revision expected in May 2010. Impact assessment is currently being finalised.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Recast is expected to include minimum taxes on fuel, natural gas and coal, based on their CO₂-intensity. Commission stakeholder meeting took place on 28 September 2009.</p>
<p>Emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles (Vans CO₂)</p> <p>COM (2009) 0593</p> <p>DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Martin CALLANAN (ECR, UK)</p>	<p>ITRE</p> <p>TRAN</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EP Committee vote scheduled for 28 September 2010. EP Plenary vote scheduled for 23 November 2010. Progress report to be discussed in the Council on 21 June 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Draft report due to be discussed on 3-4 May with deadline for amendments then 18-19 May. First EP exchange of views took place on 17 March. First Council discussion took place on 15 March 2010. Commission issued proposal on 28 October 2009.</p>
<p>Legislative framework to reduce CO₂ emissions from light duty vehicles.</p> <p>COM (2007) 856</p> <p>DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Guido SACCONI (PES, Italy)</p>	<p>ITRE</p> <p>IMCO</p> <p>TRAN</p>		<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal on 5 June 2009 L140. Implementation phased between 1 January 2012 and 1 January 2015. Commission expected to present progress report in mid-2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> EP Plenary adopted resolution on 17</p>

				December 2008. Initiated from the review of the Community Strategy to reduce CO2 emissions from passenger cars. Commission issued proposal on 19 December 2007.
Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law COM (2007) 51 DG Environment	JURI Hartmut NASSAUER (EPP, Germany)	ENVI LIBE	Co-decision	EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 6 December 2008 L328 . Transposition into national legislation by 26 December 2010. Background: Commission issued proposal 9 February 2007, EP Plenary vote on 21 May 2008.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – PROTECTING RESOURCES				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
<p>Framework Directive for the protection of soil (amending 2004/35/EC)</p> <p>COM (2006) 232</p> <p>DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Cristina GUTIERREZ-CORTINES (EPP, Spain)</p>	<p>ITRE</p> <p>AGRI</p> <p>JURI</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>Latest discussion in Council on 15 March 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The Spanish Presidency unsuccessfully tried to achieve progress with a new compromise text in the Environment Working Party on 4 February 2010. Commission proposal 22 September 2006. EP Plenary 1st reading agreement on 14 November 2007.</p>
<p>Obligations for operators who put timber on the market</p> <p>COM (2008) 644</p> <p>DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Caroline LUCAS (Greens/EFA, UK)</p>	<p>DEVE</p> <p>INTA</p>		<p>Council submitted its opinion on 1 March 2010. EP Committee vote scheduled for 4 May 2010, Plenary vote scheduled for 6 July 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Council reached 2nd reading agreement on 28 January 2010. EP Plenary adopted 1st reading report on 22 April 2009. Commission issued proposal on 17 October 2008.</p>
<p>Report on the implementation on EU legislation aiming at the conservation of biodiversity</p> <p>COM (2010) 4</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Esther DE LANGE (EPP, Netherlands)</p>	<p>FISH</p> <p>PETI</p>		<p>Council adopted conclusions on 15 March 2010. EP Committee vote scheduled for 2 June 2010, Plenary vote for 6 July 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission published Communication on 19 January 2010. The Parliament's own-initiative report is likely to call for further action or a strategic plan.</p>

DG Environment				
Action Plan on Sustainable Production and Consumption (SCP) COM (2008) 397 DG Environment				See below for individual elements of the Action Plan. <u>Background:</u> Action Plan published on 16 July 2008.
Regulation for Eco-Label Award Scheme (Revising 1980/2000/EC) COM (2008) 401 DG Environment	ENVI Salvatore TATARELLA (EPP, Italy)	ITRE IMCO ENVI	Co-decision	EP Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 30 January 2010 L27 . Implementation from 19 February 2010. <u>Background:</u> Commission issued proposal on 16 July 2008. EP Plenary adopted resolution on 2 April 2009.
Voluntary participation by organisations in a Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) (Revision of Directive 2001/761/EC) COM (2008) 402 DG Environment	ENVI Linda MCAVAN (S&D, UK)	ITRE IMCO	Co-decision	EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 22 December 2009 L342 . Implementation from 11 January 2010. <u>Background:</u> Commission issued proposal on 16 July 2008. EP Plenary adopted resolution on 2 April 2009.
Eco-design Framework for products COM (2008) 399 DG Environment	ENVI Magor Imre CSIBI (ALDE, Romania)	ITRE JURI	Co-decision	EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 31 October 2009 L285 . Transposition into national legislation by 20 November 2010. <u>Background:</u> Commission issued proposal on 16 July 2008. EP Plenary adopted resolution on 2 April 2009.

CHEMICALS & SUBSTANCES				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
Waste Electric and Electronic Equipments (WEEE) (amending Directive 2002/96/EC) COM (2008) 810 DG Environment	ENVI Karl-Heinz FLORENZ (EPP, Germany)	JURI	Co-decision	EP Committee vote scheduled for 4 May 2010, Plenary vote for 15 June 2010. Spanish Presidency pushing for political agreement by 21 June 2010. <u>Background:</u> EP draft report discussed on 8 February and 23 February 2010. Commission legislative proposal on 3 December 2008. Closely linked to RoHS (see below).
Limitation of the use of certain hazardous substances in the electric and electronic equipments (RoHS) COM (2008) 809 DG Environment	ENVI Jill EVANS (Greens/EFA, UK)	JURI	Co-decision	EP Committee vote scheduled for 4 May 2010, Plenary vote for 14 June 2010. Spanish Presidency pushing for political agreement by 21 June 2010. <u>Background:</u> EP draft report discussed on 14 December 2009. Commission legislative proposal on 3 December 2008.
Repeal of Directive 98/8/EC on the placing on the market and use of biocidal products COM (2009) 267 DG Environment	ENVI Christa KLASS (EPP, Germany)	ITRE IMCO	Co-decision	EP Committee vote scheduled for 27 April 2010, Plenary vote for 15 June 2010. Spanish Presidency pushing for political agreement by 21 June 2010. <u>Background:</u> EP draft report discussed on 4 February 2010. Commission issued proposal on 12 June 2009. The scope of the directive is extended to include

				biocides which might come into contact with food.
Regulation on the placing of Plant Protection Products on the market COM (2006) 388 DG Health and Consumer Protection	ENVI Hiltrud BREYER (Greens/EFA, Germany)	ITRE IMCO AGRI	Co-decision	EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 24 November 2009 L309 . Application from 14 June 2011. Background: Commission proposal on 12 July 2006. EP Plenary adopted 1 st reading report on 23 October 2007. Council common position adopted on 15 September 2008. EP adopted resolution on 13 January 2009.
Revision of the Directive on Pesticides COM (2006) 373 DG Environment	ENVI Christa KLASS (EPP, Germany)	ITRE AGRI	Co-decision	EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 24 November 2009 L309 . Transposition into national legislation by 14 December 2011. Background: Commission proposal on 12 July 2006; EP Plenary adopted 1 st reading report on 23 October 2007; Council common position adopted on 19 May 2008; EP adopted resolution on 13 January 2009.
Directive concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market COM (2008) 618 DG Environment	ENVI Daciana Octavia SARBU (S&D, Romania)		Co-decision	EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 6 October 2009 L262 . Transposition into national legislation by 14 May 2010. Background: Commission issued proposal on 7 October 2008 extending the 10-year work programme evaluating active substances used in biocidal products. EP Plenary adopted 1 st reading resolution on 24 March 2009.

<p>Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)</p> <p>COM (2007) 355</p> <p>DG Enterprise & Industry</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Amalia SARTORI (EPP, Italy)</p>	<p>ITRE</p> <p>IMCO</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 31 December 2008 L353. Implementation phased between 1 December 2010 and 1 June 2015.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission issued proposal on 27 June 2007. The EP Plenary adopted 1st reading resolution on 3 September 2008.</p>
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CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMISSIONS				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) (Recast) COM (2007) 844 DG Environment	ENVI Holger KRAHMER (ALDE, Germany)		Co-decision	<p>Council Common Position on 15 February 2010. EP Committee vote scheduled for 28 April 2010. EP Plenary vote expected in July 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Council reached political agreement on 25 June 2009. EP Plenary had adopted 1st reading resolution on 10 March 2009.</p>
EU Positions on Copenhagen COM (2009) 475 DG Environment	ENVI		Non-legislative	<p>EU Copenhagen positions adopted. Next UNFCC summit will take place in Mexico at the end of 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> EU associated itself with the Copenhagen Accord and informed the UNFCC of its emissions reduction target on 28 January 2010. On 17 January 2010 the Council decided against moving unilaterally to a 30% carbon emissions CO2 emissions reduction target by 2020. Prior to the Copenhagen climate summit, the EU had adopted positions on the 2-degree warming objective and climate financing.</p>
EU Post-Copenhagen strategy COM (2010) 86 DG Climate Action				<p>Council adopted Conclusions on 15 March 2010. Debated in EP Plenary on 9 March 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission Communication issued on 9 March 2010.</p>

<p>Adaptation to climate change COM (2009) 147 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI Vittorio Prodi (S&D, Italy)</p>	<p>AFET , DEVE EMPL, ITRE TRAN' REGI AGRI, PECH JURI</p>	<p>Non- legislative</p>	<p>EP Committee adopted report on 16 March 2010. EP Plenary vote expected on 19 April 2010. Background: Commission White Paper of 1 April 2009 presented the framework for adaptation measures and policies to reduce the EU's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>Green Paper on forest protection and information in the EU: preparing forests for climate change COM (2010) 66 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p>	<p>ITRE REGI AGRI</p>		<p>Commission issued Green Paper on 1 March 2010. Public consultation to run until 31 July 2010. Background: Initiative part of the White Paper on adaptation to climate change.</p>
<p>Revision of Directive 2001/81/EC on National Emission Ceilings (NEC) for certain atmospheric pollutants DG Environment</p>				<p>Commission proposal is likely in the second half of 2010. Background: The Commission will review the 2001 Directive setting national emission ceilings (NECs) for 4 air pollutants causing acidification and the formation of ground-level ozone: sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and ammonia (NH₃).</p>
<p>Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels (Review) 1999/32/EEC DG Environment</p>				<p>Commission proposal likely in 2010. The current Directive was last amended on 22 July 2005 L191. Background: The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) decided to create an Emissions Control Area in</p>

				the Baltic Sea, North Sea and English channel region which results in higher sulphur emissions requirements than globally. Some Member States argue that this distorts the common market and call for harmonised EU rules.
<p>EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for NO_x and SO₂</p> <p>DG Environment</p>				<p>Commission ordered second study on the economic impact of an ETS, expected in early 2011. Commission held a stakeholder meeting on 10 February 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The Commission published a first study from ENTEC supportive of an ETS on 4 February 2010.</p>
<p>EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for CO₂ emissions for ships arriving and leaving EU ports</p> <p>DG Environment</p>				<p>Commission proposal is likely in 2011 if there is no agreement on an international set of rules</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission published a study considering the various options of tackling maritime emissions and supports an ETS in December 2009. A legislative proposal is likely if the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) fails to set up a global legislative framework for maritime CO₂ emissions.</p>
<p>Revision of Regulation 2037/2000/EC on substances that deplete the ozone layer</p> <p>COM (2008) 505</p> <p>DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Johannes BLOKLAND (IND/DEM, Netherlands)</p>		Co-decision	<p>EP Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 31 October 2009 L286. Application from 1 January 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission issued proposal on 1 August 2008; the EP Plenary adopted resolution on 25 March 2009.</p>

<p>Promotion of the use of Energy from Renewable Sources COM (2008) 019 DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Claude TURMES (Greens/EFA Luxembourg)</p>	<p>INTA, ECON ENVI, TRAN REGI, AGRI</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 5 June 2009 L140. Transposition into national legislation phased between 31 December 2009 and 31 December 2012. <u>Background:</u> Commission Proposal 23 January 2008; EP 1st reading vote 17 December 2008.</p>
<p>EU Emissions Trading Scheme (Revision of Directive 2003/87/EC) COM (2008) 016 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI Avril DOYLE (EPP, Ireland)</p>	<p>INTA ECON ITRE REGI</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 5 June 2009 L140. Transposition into national legislation by 5 December 2010. <u>Background:</u> Commission Proposal 23 January 2008. EP 1st reading vote 17 December 2008.</p>
<p>Directive on Carbon Capture and Geological Storage (CCS) COM (2008) 018 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI Chris DAVIES (ALDE, UK)</p>	<p>ITRE</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 5 June 2009 L140. <u>Background:</u> Commission Proposal 23 January 2008. EP 1st reading vote 17 December 2008.</p>
<p>Decision on the effort of Member States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions COM (2008) 017 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI Satu HASSI (Greens/EFA, Finland)</p>	<p>INTA ECON ITRE REGI</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 5 June 2009 L140. Implementation from 25 June 2009. <u>Background:</u> Commission Proposal 23 January 2008. EP 1st reading vote 17 December 2008.</p>
<p>Fuel Quality Directive COM (2007) 018</p>	<p>ENVI Dorette CORBEY (S&D,</p>	<p>ITRE AGRI</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 5 June 2009 L140. Transposition into</p>

DG Environment	Netherlands)			<p>national legislation by 31 December 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission Proposal 31 January 2007. EP 1st reading vote 17 December 2008.</p>
<p>Modification of Directive 2003/87/EC to include aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme</p> <p>COM (2006) 818</p> DG Environment	ENVI Peter LIESE (EPP, Germany)		Co-decision	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 13 January 2009 L8.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission Proposal 20 December 2006. EP 2nd reading vote 4 June 2008.</p>

ENERGY				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
Measures to safeguard security of gas supply (repealing Directive 2004/67/EC) COM (2009) 363 DG Research	ITRE Alejo VIDAL – QUADRAS (EPP, Spain)	ENVI AFET ECON INTA	Co-decision	EP Committee adopted report on 18 March 2010. EP Plenary vote scheduled for 5 May 2010. Spanish Presidency pushing for political agreement by 31 May. <u>Background:</u> The Commission issued the proposal on 16 July 2009.
Investment projects in energy infrastructure within the European Community (repealing Regulation EC 736/96) COM (2009) 361 DG Energy	ITRE Adina-Ioana VALEAN (ALDE, Romania)	ENVI		Council reached political agreement on 12 March 2010. EP Plenary adopted report on 25 February 2010. <u>Background:</u> EP Committee voted on 23 November 2009. Commission issued proposal on 16 July 2009.
Energy Performance of Buildings (Review of Directive 2002/91/EC) COM (2008) 780 DG Energy	ITRE Silvia-Adriana TICAU (S&D, Romania)	JURI	Co-decision	EP Committee vote expected on 28-29 April. EP Plenary vote expected on 5 May 2010. <u>Background:</u> Political agreement reached in Council on 17 November 2009. EP Plenary adopted 1 st reading report on 23 April 2009. Commission proposal issued 13 November 2008.

<p>Labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products (Recast of Directive 92/75/EEC)</p> <p>COM (2008) 778</p> <p>DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Anni PODIMATA (S&D, Greece)</p>	<p>JURI</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EP Committee vote expected on 28-29 April. EP Plenary vote expected on 17 May 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Political agreement reached in Council on 17 November 2009. EP Plenary adopted 1st reading report on 5 May 2009. Commission issued proposal 13 November 2008.</p>
<p>Transparency of Energy Markets</p> <p>DG Energy</p>				<p>Policy debate in Council planned for 31 May 2010. Commission proposal is likely in the second half of 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission will conduct a presentation at a Council meeting. The directive is related to the Third Energy Package, and is expected to establish rules for record-keeping, transparency and regulatory information exchange.</p>
<p>Crude oil and/or petroleum products: obligation on Member States to maintain minimum stocks</p> <p>COM (2008) 775</p> <p>DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Miloslav RANSDORF (GUE/NGL, Czech Republic)</p>	<p>ECON ENVI TRAN</p>	<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 9 October 2009 L265. Transposition into legislation by 31 December 2012.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission proposal issued 13 November 2008. EP Plenary adopted resolution on 22 April 2009.</p>
<p>Third Energy Liberalisation Package</p>				<p>See 4 reports below, procedures completed.</p>

<p>Conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity (amending Regulation EC1228/2003)</p> <p>COM (2007) 531</p> <p>DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Alejo VIDAL-QUADRAS (EPP, Spain)</p>		<p>Co-decision Article 95</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 14 August 2009 L211. Application from 3 March 2011.</p> <p><u>Background</u>: Commission Proposal 19 September 2007.</p>
<p>Common rules for the internal market in natural gas (amending Directive 2003/55/EC)</p> <p>COM (2007) 529</p> <p>DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Antonio MUSSA (UEN, Italy)</p>		<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed, published in Official Journal 14 August 2009 L211. Implementation phased between 3 March 2011 and 3 March 2013.</p> <p><u>Background</u>: Commission Proposal 19 September 2007.</p>
<p>Common rules for the internal market in electricity (amending Directive 2003/54/EC)</p> <p>COM (2007) 528</p> <p>DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Eluned MORGAN (S&D, UK)</p>		<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 14 August 2009 L211. Implementation phased between 3 March 2011 and 3 March 2013.</p> <p><u>Background</u>: Commission Proposal 19 September 2007.</p>
<p>Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators</p> <p>COM (2007) 530</p> <p>DG Energy</p>	<p>ITRE Giles CHICHESTER (ECR, UK)</p>		<p>Co-decision</p>	<p>EU Procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 14 August 2009 L211. Implementation phased between 3 September 2009 and 3 March 2011.</p> <p><u>Background</u>: Commission Proposal 19 September 2007.</p>

Second Strategic Energy Review COM (2008) 781 DG Environment	ITRE Anne LAPERROUZE (ALDE, France)	AFET		EP adopted non-legislative resolution on 3 February 2009. <u>Background:</u> The Commission proposed a wide-ranging energy package on 13 November 2008, which aims to give a new boost to energy security.
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WATER				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
<p>Environmental quality standards for surface water (revision of Directives 2000/60/EC and 1996/641/EC)</p> <p>COM (2006) 397 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Anne LAPERROUZE (ALDE, France)</p>		Co-decision	<p>EU procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 24 December 2008 L348. Transposition into national legislation by 13 July 2010.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission proposal on 17 July 2006.</p>
<p>Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU</p> <p>COM (2007) 575 DG Fisheries & Maritime Affairs</p>	<p>TRAN</p> <p>Willi PIECYK (S&D, Germany)</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>ITRE</p> <p>REGI</p> <p>PECH</p>		<p>EP adopted non-legislative resolution on 2 March 2008.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission issued communication on 10 October 2007.</p>
<p>Water Scarcity and Droughts</p> <p>COM (2007) 414 DG Environment</p>	<p>ENVI</p> <p>Richard SEEBER (EPP, Austria)</p>	<p>REGI</p> <p>AGRI</p>		<p>EP adopted non-legislative resolution on 9 October 2008.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> Commission issued communication on 18 July 2007.</p>

WASTE				
Commission Proposal, Reference Number and Lead DG	EP Lead Committee and Rapporteur	EP Opinion Committees	Legislative Procedure & Legal Base	State of Play
Non-legislative report on the Commission Green Paper on the management of bio-waste COM (2008) 0811 DG Environment	ENVI José Manuel FERNANDES (EPP, Portugal)	ITRE AGRI		EP Committee vote foreseen for 2 June 2010, Plenary vote for 5 July 2010. <u>Background:</u> Commission proposal for the non-legislative report on 3 December 2008.
Revision of Waste Framework Directive COM (2005) 667 DG Environment	ENVI Caroline JACKSON (EPP-ED, UK)			EU procedure completed. Published in Official Journal 22 November 2008 L312 . Transposition into national legislation by 12 December 2010. <u>Background:</u> Commission proposal 21 December 2005.

Explanatory Note

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of issues in play.

EU legislation does not take on the status of law until it is published in the EU Official Journal. After this, it will be implemented in Member States, either through integration into Member State laws (the procedure for Directives) or by taking immediate effect and overriding any existing Member State legislation (Regulations).

Commission Communications are consultative documents submitted to the European Parliament and other interested parties for responses. They may form the basis of future legislative proposals, but they do not themselves constitute legislation. They are the equivalent of the UK Government's Green or White Papers suggesting possible legislation.

Forthcoming Council Meetings

Environment Council: 21 June

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council: 28 and 31 May, 17-18 June

European Council: 25-26 March, 17-18 June

List of Abbreviations for the Standing Committees on the European Parliament			
AFET	Foreign Affairs	TRAN	Transport and Tourism
DROI	Human Rights	REGI	Regional Development
SEDE	Security and Defence	AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development
INTA	International Trade	PECH	Fisheries
BUDG	Budgets	CULT	Culture and Education
CONT	Budgetary Control	JURI	Legal Affairs
ECON	Economic and Monetary Affairs	LIBE	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
EMPL	Employment and Social Affairs	AFCO	Constitutional Affairs
ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	FEMM	Women's Rights
ITRE	Industry, Research and Energy	PETI	Petitions
IMCO	Internal Market and Consumer Protection	CLIM	Climate Change (Temporary Committee)
Political Groups in the European Parliament			
ALDE	Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	GUE/NGL	European United Left / Nordic Green Left
ECR	European Conservatives and Reformists	IND/DEM	Independence / Democracies
EFD	Europe of Freedom and Democracy	NI	Non-attached
EPP	European People's Party	PES	Party of European Socialists
EPP-ED	European People's Party – European Democrats	S&D	Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats

Greens/EFA	Greens / European Free Alliance	UEN	Union for a Europe of Nations
N.B. After the 2009 European Parliament elections, the British Conservative MEPs joined the newly founded ECR. The former EPP-ED then changed its name to EPP, and the former PES to S&D.			