

1 December 2017

In this issue:

- CEEP Statutory Meetings 13 December 2017
- CEEP Public Services Board: Call for input on SME Definition Evaluation
- Special end of the year – Social Partners hearing on Labour Authority and Social Security number – 11 December
- Update on issues under discussion in the CEEP Environment Task Force
- CEEP Water Task Force: Follow-up to last week's meeting
- REMINDER: CEEP Energy Task Force meeting with Member of European Parliament
- Social Europe e-newsletter : 28 November 2017
- Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

CEEP Statutory Meetings 13 December 2017

For the attention of: The Members of the Administration Council, The Members of the General Assembly, The Chairs, Vice-Chairs and General Rapporteurs of the Boards and Tasks Forces (29/11/2017):

Dear Members,

I am pleased to inform you that all documents for the CEEP Statutory Meetings (Administration Council, General Assembly, Joint Meeting of the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and General Rapporteurs together with the General Assembly) are now available in the respective CEEP extranet folders.

The meeting will take place at the usual hours, from 09:00 to 13:00 but not at the usual venue. This time, it will take place in the [EESC building at Rue de Trèves 74](#), which is just opposite the entrance of the main EESC building where we usually meet.

Three main issues will be on the agendas for discussion and approval:

- CEEP finances and notably the approval of the budget 2018.
- The election of the Presidential team and appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the CEEP Board and Task Forces.
- Please recall that the candidates will be elected/appointed for a mandate of 3 + 2 years (2017-2022) according to the new statutes and rules of procedures.
- Discussion and approval of the CEEP Work Programme for 2018.

In addition, the agenda will feature the usual items, amongst which the very important one on updates from national sections and sectoral members. This will enable participants to exchange information on membership recruitment and retention, which is a crucial priority for the development of CEEP.

Also, as there will be several issues up for approval, I kindly remind you to give the necessary proxies to other members of the Administration Council or General Assembly should you be unable to attend in person.

Please also remember that when it comes to observers in CEEP Statutory meetings, solely members of the General Assembly can be observers in the Administration Council, and Chairs, Vice Chair and General Rapporteurs of the CEEP Boards and Task Forces in the CEEP General Assembly.

I look forward to meeting you all on 13 December and remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Best regards,

Valeria Ronzitti

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CEEP Public Services Board: Call for input on SME Definition Evaluation

Dear members of the CEEP Public Services Board (29/11/2017):

Following the Public Services Board's recent work on the EU SME Definition, I would like to inform you that Thierry Durnerin, Chair of the CEEP Public Services Board, and myself had this morning an interview with VVA, the consultancy that is currently preparing the evaluation study on the SME Definition on behalf of the European Commission.

The interview went quite well and we presented and discussed the points agreed on in the Public Services Board. At the same time, it allowed to identify some points on which we would like to call upon you for additional input:

- Do you have examples for European and national legislation that specifies support conditions/ exceptions for SMEs, but that does not refer to the [EU SME Definition](#) (and thus does not exclude local public services enterprises)? European examples would be [Directive 2014/65/EU](#) and [Directive 2013/34/EU](#).
- With regard to a potential deletion of Art. 3 (4) of the Annex of the SME Definition, one idea could be to introduce a new threshold that measures the size of the public authority that owns a public SME (following the logics that bigger public authorities would have more means to support companies depending on them). May I ask you what is your general idea about such a threshold, how it could be formulated, and which criteria should be used?
- Related to the latter, may I also ask you if you have any statistical data on the size of the public authorities that own public SMEs that are currently excluded from the Definition?

As the consultant is currently working with the European Commission to finalise the questionnaire for the public consultation (to be published still before the end of this year or at the beginning of the new one), may I ask you if it is feasible for you to send me your (first) feedback by next Tuesday, 5 December, around lunch time?

Thank you in advance. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you wish to discuss this further.

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Special end of the year – Social Partners hearing on Labour Authority and Social Security number – 11 December

Dear Chair, Vice-Chairs, members of CEEP's Social Affairs Board (29/11/2017):

The European Commission decided to organise a late december hearing on **11 December** in Brussels on two initiatives announced by President Juncker in his [2017 State of the Union address](#). Legislative proposals for both initiatives are announced in the European Commission's Work Programme for 2018 and are planned to be tabled by spring 2018.

The hearing will be dedicated to the European future Labour Market Authority and on the European Social Security Number (ESSN).

The European Labour Authority intends to ensure that EU rules on labour mobility are enforced in a fair, simple and effective way. Concretely, building on existing structures, the Authority would support national administrations, businesses, and mobile workers by strengthening cooperation at EU level on matters such as cross-border mobility and social security coordination. It would also improve access to information for public authorities and mobile workers and enhance transparency regarding their rights and obligations.

The European Social Security Number (ESSN) aims at simplifying and modernising citizens' interaction with administrations in a range of policy areas. An EU Social Security Number would facilitate the identification of persons across borders for the purposes of social security coordination and allow the quick and accurate verification of their social security insurance status. It would facilitate administrative procedures for citizens by optimising the use of digital tools.

Please find below:

[The official invitation](#)

[The draft agenda](#)

[A consultation note on the Labour Authority](#)

[A consultation note on the ESSN](#)

CEEP is entitled to **3 reimbursed seats** for its membership for this hearing. We are conscious that the delays are difficult particularly for such an end of the year meeting. However these two issues constitute key elements of the Commission's work-programme for 2018 in the social affairs field and should therefore be followed closely by the Social Affairs Board and the Social Protection taskforce in the case of the EESN.

Should you be interested to participate please contact me as soon as possible and no later than tuesday 5 December.

I look forward to hearing from you,

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Update on issues under discussion in the CEEP Environment Task Force

Dear members of the CEEP Environment Task Force (28/11/2017):

With regard to several issues that are related to ongoing discussion in the CEEP Environment Task Force, I would like to forward you the following information:

- **Trilogue negotiations on waste legislation:**

The Council, Parliament and Commission discussed until early this morning legislative proposals on waste, packaging and packaging waste and landfill, including recycling targets and derogations, making progress toward a compromise deal that would encompass the whole waste package.

Among the trickiest points discussed were which costs producers should bear under Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, where they are made responsible for the end-of-life treatment of their products, the legal basis for the amendment to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive and calculation rules for what counts toward a proposed cap on landfill.

A new round of negotiations is scheduled for Sunday, 17 December 2017, a spokesperson for the Estonian presidency said, indicating the parties still aim to close the file by the end of the year.

- **7th Environmental Action Programme:**

Please find hereafter the [Commission's Roadmap on the Evaluation of the 7th Environmental Action Programme](#). A 12 week public consultation will take place in the first quarter of 2018.

- **Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform:**

Please find hereafter the new Commission/EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) [website of the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#) that is supposed to bring together stakeholders active in the broad field of the circular economy in Europe. As a "network of networks", it is called to go beyond sectorial activities and highlight cross-sector opportunities and challenges, providing a meeting place for stakeholders to share their solutions and team up to address specific challenges, while bridging existing initiatives, and advocating the circular economy at national, regional and local level, and supporting its implementation.

- **EU Pesticide legislation:**

Last week's Water Task Force meeting discussed that CEEP could answer to the ongoing [Commission consultation on the EU Pesticide legislation](#) that is running until 31 December 2017. Please find hereafter more information on the [initiative's context](#). In order to assess and draft a possible CEEP response, please feel warmly invited to **send me your proposals for responses (to one, several or all of the questions) by Monday, 4 December 2017 CoB at the latest.**

- **Commission TAIEX Environmental Implementation Review Peer 2 Peer:**

As already discussed during the last Environment Task Force meeting, I would like to draw your attention to the so-called [TAIEX Environmental Implementation Review Peer 2 Peer](#). It is a new Commission initiative that aims at helping the exchange of expertise between national, regional and local public authorities in charge of implementing EU environmental law and policy within the EU Member States. TAIEX stands for "Technical Assistance and Information Exchange" Instrument, a peer-to-peer exchange tool of the Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. Established more than twenty years ago, TAIEX has supported public administrations in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood countries in the approximation, application and enforcement of the EU acquis. TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER wants to build on this tool and applies it to environmental laws and policies in the context of the Environmental Implementation Review (EIR). It does so by helping public officials involved in such activities to exchange knowledge, good practice and practical solutions for concrete problems, thus improving their administrative capacity and ensuring better results for the implementation of EU policies on the environment.

According to DG Environment, public services' enterprises that support public authorities in implementing the EU environmental legislation may also be entitled to ask for financial support for exchange activities with enterprises and/or authorities in other Member States.

Should you wish to receive more information on this or one of the above mentioned issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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CEEP Water Task Force: Follow-up to last week's meeting

Dear members of the CEEP Water Task Force (27/11/2017):

First of all, I would like to thank all among you who have contributed to the fruitful Water Task Force meeting last week Tuesday.

Maurizio Gorla, General Rapporteur of the Task Force, very quickly and kindly prepared the [draft minutes of the meeting](#).

For your information, this Friday's CEEP Newsflash will also include a video summary of the meeting by Michele Falcone, Chair of the Task Force.

In addition to the draft minutes, I would like to send you the following information and calls for input:

1. Following [CEEP's first feedback to the Commission's Evaluation Roadmap for the Water Framework Directive](#), the Task Force decided to collect further input from all interested members by mid-January. Therefore, please feel warmly invited to **send me your additional points that you would like to raise in relation to a possible WFD review by Friday, 19 January at the latest**.

2. As suggested by Jos van den Akker, CEEP could answer to the ongoing [Commission consultation on the EU Pesticide legislation](#) that is running until 31 December 2017. Please find hereafter more information on the [initiative's context](#). In order to assess and draft a possible CEEP response, please **send me your proposals for responses (to one, several or all of the questions) by Monday, 4 December 2017 CoB at the latest**.

3. The [public consultation on pharmaceuticals in the environment](#) was launched by the European Commission. In addition to this public consultation, a [targeted stakeholder consultation](#) is equally available, using the following password: EnvPharmaStakeholder2017

The Commission deadline for the public consultation is set on 21 February 2018; the one for the targeted consultation is one month earlier, on 21 January 2018. Therefore, I would like to invite you to **send me your input for the CEEP responses to both consultations by Monday, 8 January 2018 CoB**. Based on the input received by then, we will draft our CEEP responses.

Please find hereafter information on the [event on pharmaceuticals in the environment](#) that the European Parliament Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development" will organise this Wednesday, 29 November.

4. As equally discussed during the Task Force meeting, I would like to forward you the [Commission's Roadmap on the Evaluation of the 7th Environmental Action Programme](#). A 12 week public consultation will take place in the first quarter of 2018.

5. Moreover, please find hereafter the new Commission/EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) [website of the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#) that is supposed to bring together stakeholders active in the broad field of the circular economy in Europe. As a "network of networks", it is called to go beyond sectorial activities and highlight cross-sector opportunities and challenges, providing a meeting place for stakeholders to share their solutions and team up to address specific challenges, while bridging existing initiatives, and advocating the circular economy at national, regional and local level, and supporting its implementation.

6. On behalf of Christiane Barth, representative of VKU in the Task Force, I would like to forward you the following information on the **last meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) for the WFD Common Implementation Strategy on 8-9 November 2017**:

Please find hereafter the [draft minutes of this SCG meeting](#).

In the meeting, most importantly the following aspects were discussed:

- Article 4.4 of the WFD on the extension of deadlines established under paragraph 1 provided that **natural conditions** do not allow timely improvement in the status of the body of water:
 - A [progress report for the Ad-hoc Strategic Group \(ASG\)](#) on WFD 3rd Cycle and the [third draft of the draft paper](#) addressing 'natural conditions' in relation to WFD exemptions as well as a [draft Annex](#) with the collection of case studies were circulated. The document provides clarification on the concept of 'natural conditions' and focuses on Article 4.4 time extensions on these grounds. The Annex with the case studies was revised in line with the contents of the main document, therefore also focusing on case studies in relation to the application of Article 4.4 time extensions on grounds of 'natural conditions'. During the meeting on 8-9 November, the comments in the discussion

concentrated on **transboundary issues**(including that cost assessment is considered at the scale of the river basin), '**recovery to good status**', clarification that **persistent pollutants** could be in water, biota or sediment, and that **remediation** may be possible, but that **recontamination** might occur.

- Article 4.7 of the WFD on the **conditions** under which member states will not be in **breach** of this Directive:
 - A [progress report for the Ad-hoc Task Group \(ATG\)](#) on Article 4.7 Guidance and the latest [draft for the CIS Guidance Document on Article 4.7](#) were circulated. The **Water Directors** are supposed to **endorse the document** at their meeting on **4-5 December**.
- **Guidance for reporting** under the **Floods Directive** (reporting tool for the second cycle):
 - A [progress report for the Working Group \(WG\) Floods](#) and the final [draft of the reporting guidance document for the Floods Directive](#) were circulated. The principle taken was not to reinvent the reporting process, but to follow the experience from the Floods Directive implementation and the experience of updating the WFD reporting guidance. The next step is a testing phase in 2018, several member states have volunteered to be part of this.
- Next steps on **Water Reuse**:
 - A [progress report for the Ad-hoc Task Group on Water Reuse](#) was circulated. Bettina Doeser (Head of Unit ENV C.1 and SCG Co-Chair) provided a brief update on the current process and informed that the Commission's Impact Assessment of options for a new legislative instrument is ongoing. The ATG discussed some potential elements of a new legal instrument, in particular that it would be enabling in nature, **leaving the decision to whether to undertake water reuse to member states**. Bettina Doeser said that the preferred type of legal instrument is a **regulation**, which would be adopted by the Ordinary Legislative Procedure.
- Progress on the **Surface Water Watch List**:
 - A [progress report for the WG Chemicals](#) was circulated. Stephanie Schaan (COM) reported on the continuing work to review and update the surface water watch list. The aim is to adopt a new Decision in March 2018 to ensure that the monitoring timetable for member states does not need to be changed.
 - In this context, please also find hereafter an updated [Guidance for reporting on the watch list of substances](#) for Union-wide monitoring in the field of water policy that was sent to EU Water Directors today by the European Commission.

For your information, please find hereafter also further circulated documents, among them progress reports for the [ATG Hydromorphology](#), [WG ECOSTAT](#), [WG DIS](#), and [WG Groundwater](#), a [document on the latest state of play](#) in respect of legal and implementation issues regarding Water Directives as well as the [state of play of the assessment of the EU's water policy](#), [Peer-to-peer Initiatives](#), the [agenda for the informal meeting of EU Water and Marine Directors](#) on 4-5 December and a [position paper](#) on WFD-related research needs by EurAqua.

Thank you very much in advance for your input. Should you have any questions on one or several of the above mentioned issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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REMINDER: CEEP Energy Task Force meeting with Member of European Parliament

Dear members of the CEEP Energy Task Force (28/11/2017):

As you might already have noted in your agendas, the **next CEEP Energy Task Force meeting will take place on Monday, 4 December 2017**, from 2.00 to 5.00 pm at CEEP premises in Brussels.

I would like to thank all those among you who have already informed me about their participation. Should you not yet have done so, but wish to participate, **please send me your registration by tomorrow, Wednesday, 29 November 2017**. Please find hereafter again the [official invitation](#) and the [draft agenda](#).

As already announced, we are delighted that **Claudes Turmes, Member of the European Parliament, will participate in our meeting to discuss the ongoing legislative process on the Clean Energy Package**. [Mr Turmes](#) is member of the European Parliament's ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) Committee and substitute member of its ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) Committee. He is involved in both Committees' activities on the Clean Energy Package, in particular as leading Rapporteur on the proposal for a Regulation for the Governance of the Energy Union (the vote will be three days after our Task Force meeting on Thursday, 7 December 2017) and as Shadow Rapporteur on the proposals for a new electricity market design (Regulation and Directive) and for the Renewable Energy Directive review. We hope that you will all be able to participate in this exchange of views with Mr Turmes who is known as a highly interesting interlocutor, as some of you could already experience when he participated in a CEEP Task Force meeting in 2015.

In addition to the meeting document sent to you last week, I would like to forward you the following information:

The **European Parliament's ITRE Committee voted today in favor of increasing the EU's renewable energy target** to 35 percent by 2030. The Committee adopted its position on the Commission's proposals to update the Renewable Energy Directive with a vote of 43 in favor, 14 against and seven abstentions. The proposals had the backing of the EPP, the S&D and the ALDE group. MEPs also voted in favour of reintroducing a 12 percent renewable energy target for the transport sector, something the Commission's proposed discontinued after 2020. The 35 percent target would only be binding for the whole of the EU, but not at the national level. The EU's current goal for 2030 is 27 percent. The new target would also allow countries to fall short of meeting their national pledges by a maximum of 10 percent if they struggle "due to exceptional and duly justified circumstances." However, the report, led by Spanish S&D MEP José Blanco López, also includes mechanisms to ensure countries don't lag behind. The file will now move to the plenary in January, when the whole Parliament will adopt its position. Three-way trilogue talks with Council and the Commission are set to start soon in an effort to close one of the key files of the Clean Energy Package.

The **ITRE Committee today also voted to increase the EU's energy efficiency target** to 40 percent by 2030 and to make it binding at the national level. The Committee adopted its overall position on the Commission's proposals in a tight vote of 33 in favor, 30 against and two abstentions (the preceding vote on the amendment to increase the target to 40 percent received 32 votes in favor, 31 against and one abstention). Besides increasing the headline target, MEPs also voted to strengthen a sub-target as outlined in Article 7 which calls on companies to make yearly energy savings equivalent to 1.5 percent of annual sales to consumers. The measures had support from the Socialists and Democrats, the liberal ALDE group, the Greens and other left-leaning parties. The Committee's position is significantly stronger than the Council's, which agreed in June to boost the energy efficiency target from 27 to 30 percent but did not clarify whether the target should be binding or indicative. A separate set of proposals that would have kept the efficiency goal at 30 percent as well as significantly decreasing the 1.5 percent sub-target did not pass. It was supported by the European People's Party and the European Conservatives and Reformists. The file also still needs to go through a plenary vote in January to determine the Parliament's final position.

Furthermore, last Friday, the Commission published its **Third Report on the State of the Energy Union**. The Report looks at how far EU countries have come in ensuring energy security, completing the internal energy market, boosting their links and reducing carbon emissions. It outlines countries' progress over the last year toward meeting their targets for adding renewables, reducing their emissions and using EU money to meet their energy goals. It also calls on the Council and the European Parliament to "redouble their efforts to reach swift agreement" on outstanding legislative proposals that can help the energy union become reality. Moreover, it says that "the energy union project has reached a critical juncture" and asks Member States to step up their work on drafting their national energy and climate plans for 2030. "Most member states have started to prepare their national plans, but they all need to make substantial efforts to finalize the draft plans by early 2018," it stated. These are needed to reassure investors that concrete policies are in the pipeline for the next decade. They're also key for monitoring EU countries' efforts to reduce fossil fuel subsidies, the report said.

Please find hereafter the documents published by the European Commission:

- [Third report on the State of the Energy Union](#) and [Annex 1: Updated Energy Union roadmap](#); [Annex 2: Policy observations](#); [Annex 3: State of play of preparations on national energy and climate plans](#); [Annex 4: Progress in Accelerating Clean Energy Innovation](#);
- [Energy Efficiency Progress Report](#)
- [Report on the functioning of the European carbon market](#)
- [Report on the Covenant of Mayors](#)
- [Trends and projections report of the European Environment Agency](#)
- [Study on Residential Energy Prosumers](#)
- [Individual factsheets for all 28 Member States](#)

The Commission also published its [third list of Projects of Common Interest \(PCIs\)](#) that includes 173 new energy infrastructure projects that are eligible for faster permitting, EU funding and other forms of support to help link the EU's markets.

110 projects are related to electricity and smart-grids which were included for the first time. Four projects are supposed to create a network for catching and storing, or re-using carbon dioxide emissions. In a further effort to boost links between national markets, the Commission also released a [Communication](#) aimed at helping countries make sure that at least 15 percent of the electricity they produce at home can be sent across borders by 2030, known as the interconnection target. In general, projects of common interest must have a "significant impact" on at least two EU states, help improve integration between national energy networks, offer new alternatives to energy consumers, improve the security of supply and help the bloc meet its goals for cleaner energy and lower emissions. They have access to up to €5.35 billion in funding under the Connecting Europe Facility funding program, earmarked for energy, transport and digital infrastructure up to 2020.

Moreover, please find hereafter the [Commission Regulation establishing a guideline on electricity balancing](#) that was published on 23 November 2017.

Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Social Europe e-newsletter : 28 November 2017

Latest Social Europe e-newsletter attached: [Social Europe e-newsletter 28 November 2017](#)

Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

See below links to information received from our partners **Eversheds Sutherland**:

[Minimum-wages](#)

[Rising-ET-claims-Acas](#)

[UK HR E-briefing – European court gives greenlight to self-employed salesman to pursue up to 13 years' holiday back pay](#)