

21 July 2017

In this issue:

- CEEP Meeting with Commissioner Vella & Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
- CEEP Energy Task Force: Full set of CEEP amendments to Clean Energy Package
- CEEP Transport Task Force: Draft minutes of last meeting on 5 July 2017
- Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

CEEP Meeting with Commissioner Vella & Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform**Communication sent to CEEP Members (20/7/2017):**

I would like to inform you about the two following issues:

CEEP Meeting with Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for the Environment

This Tuesday, CEEP President Katherina Reiche and CEEP General Secretary Valeria Ronzitti had a bilateral meeting with Karmenu Vella, the European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Building up on the official CEEP positions and the ongoing activities in the CEEP Sustainability Board and Task Forces, the meeting was the opportunity to discuss current Commission initiatives and ways CEEP can provide them with additional input. Main issues of the meeting were the Commissioner's initiatives on green jobs and smart cities ('Green Week 2018'), the Circular Economy Strategy as well as the EU water legislation.

Regarding the issue of green jobs which was also at the heart of this year's 'Green Week' (please see the [joint social partners statement](#)), CEEP renewed its **support to the Commissioner's ambition to foster green employment**, highlighting that green, sustainable jobs are already today a very tangible reality for CEEP members throughout all public services, from energy and transport to water and waste management. The Commissioner welcomed this support and highlighted that the "green sector" of the economy was the most resilient during the economic crisis and therefore needs to be further boosted. He encouraged CEEP to also get involved in his activities regarding smart cities, in particular in view of the Green Week 2018 that will be dedicated to this issue. In addition, he encouraged all CEEP members to consider applying (meaning with the cities in which they provide public services in a sustainable way) for the [European Green Capital Award](#). The Call for Applications for the 2020 European Green Capital Award is currently open and entries must be submitted by Wednesday 18 October 2017 on the [dedicated website](#). More information on the application and recent success stories can be found [here](#).

An important part of the meeting focused on the **Circular Economy Strategy**. Commissioner Vella underlined that he aims to keep its ambition high, both with regard to the **implementation of the Action Plan and the ongoing trilogue negotiations on the waste legislation review**. Regarding the latter, he stated that during

the two recent political trilogue meetings, the Commission did not accept to reduce the level of ambition as regards recycling targets as well as the reduction of landfilling. This position, however, can only be kept if those Member States that currently lag behind receive the necessary support. Besides funding, this should include peer-to-peer approaches. He invited CEEP to discuss with his services how we could contribute to this, including in the context of the [Environmental Implementation Review](#)(EIR), first launched this year in February. The EIR is a two-yearly cycle of analysis, dialogue and collaboration on the ground with country reports for each Member State. It also includes the [TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER](#) who offers concrete assistance for peer exchanges. The Commissioner equally addressed the issue of waste-to-energy that CEEP is working on (amongst others in a recently published [joint statement on waste-to-energy](#) with other stakeholders). He emphasized his objective to both phase out landfilling and to reduce waste incineration to waste which cannot be recycled. At the same time, he recognised the place of waste-to-energy solutions in the waste hierarchy. When it comes to the implementation of the Circular Economy Strategy on the ground, the Commissioner stressed the crucial role played by CEEP members, deciding if the Commission's initiatives can become a tangible reality or not. In this context, he also mentioned the potential of green public procurement.

Furthermore, the exchange of views also allowed to discuss the **current European water policies**. Commissioner Vella welcomed CEEP's continued input to both the Commission's work on legislation and to the activities of various Commission Expert Groups (EIP on Water, DWD and UWWTD Expert Groups as well as CIS-process). He particularly thanked CEEP for its input to the ongoing review of the European Drinking Water Directive and ensured that it is being taken into account, now as the Commission services are deciding on the right policy options. Moreover, he agreed that the polluter-pays and the precautionary principles need to be further enforced, amongst others regarding pollution from agriculture. In a joint effort with the European Commissioner for Agriculture, he aims for a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that puts an end to subsidies for polluting "bad practices". Regarding pharmaceuticals in the environment, he also sees the need for action and pleads for a proportionate approach in the interest of citizen's health at all levels.

CEEP President Katherina Reiche reconfirmed CEEP's interest to cooperate and presented the CEEP positions on the different issues that the Commissioner proposed for discussion. It was agreed to follow-up them up with representatives of the Commission services in charge of the different files in order to continue the contribution of CEEP to the related Commission activities.

Should you be interested in getting further involved in possible CEEP actions on one of the areas suggested by the Commissioner, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Update on possible CEEP application to Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

As already announced at the end of June, the European Commission published a Call for expression of interest for the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform's Coordination Group. Interested organisations are invited to submit their expression of interest through the online [form](#). The Commission deadline for submissions is 31 August 2017. For further information, please find hereafter the document '[Aim and structure of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)' and its annex '[Terms of Reference of the Coordination Group](#)'.

Following our call for proposals for a possible CEEP representative, we have received from members one proposal from Capholding whom I would like to thank very much for this commitment. I also would like to thank those members who suggested a collaboration with other organisations, given the high competition for the little number of places on the Platform. Nevertheless, when starting to consult with possible other stakeholders, we got the information that they would prefer to advance individual applications.

Unfortunately, we have not received any good practices for the [required template for good practices](#). However, this is indispensable for a CEEP application. Therefore, I would be very thankful if you could **kindly send me one good practice for your enterprise/association by the new deadline 16 August 2017 at the latest**. Thank you very much in advance.

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

CEEP Energy Task Force: Full set of CEEP amendments to Clean Energy Package

Communication sent to members of the CEEP Energy Task Force (20/7/2017):

Thanking you for your excellent and constructive input over the past months, I would like to send you an overview of the full set of CEEP amendments to the Clean Energy Package. It was finalised during the Task Force's phone conference on last Monday and is now being sent to Members of the European Parliament (if not already done so, as this is the case for the amendments that had already been finalised in June):

- [CEEP Opinion on Clean Energy Package](#)
- [CEEP Amendments to Governance Proposal](#)
- [CEEP Amendments to Renewable Energy Directive Proposal](#)
- [CEEP Amendments to Energy Efficiency Directive Proposal](#)
- [CEEP Amendments to Energy Performance of Buildings Proposal](#)
- [CEEP Amendments to Electricity Market Design Proposals](#)
- [CEEP Amendment to ACER Regulation Proposal](#)
- [CEEP Amendments to Risk-preparedness Proposals](#)

I look forward to continuing working together with you on these important files as the legislative process is advancing. Should you have any questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Johannes IMMINGER, Senior Policy Officer Sustainability, johannes.imminger@ceep.eu /Tel: + 32 (0)2 229 21 50

CEEP Transport Task Force: Draft minutes of last meeting on 5 July 2017

Communication sent to members of the CEEP Transport Task Force (14/7/2017):

Thanking all participants for their active and constructive involvement in the last CEEP Transport Task Force meeting on 5 July, I would like to forward you hereafter the [draft minutes](#) that Elisa Schenner, General Rapporteur of the Task Force, very kindly and quickly drafted. The draft minutes include the main points of discussion, calls for additional input as well as the main conclusions.

Please also find hereafter the [presentation](#) of Axel Volkery of the Commission's DG MOVE on the review of the Clean Vehicles Directive.

The next Task Force meeting is supposed to take place in October in Brussels. So far, 10 October in the afternoon seems to be the most likely date that you can already save preliminary in your agenda. However, should the invitation to a guest from the institutions require it, other dates might still need to be considered (during the meeting, also 11, 12 and 17 October were noted as additional options). The final meeting date will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Johannes IMMINGER, Senior Policy Officer Sustainability, johannes.imminger@ceep.eu / Dir Tel: + 32 (0)2 229 21 50

Eversheds Sutherland : E-briefings, Updates and Conferences

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

[14th Annual Labour Relations Conference 2017](#)

[GDPR and HR – extra dates added](#)