



UNEP



medwaves e-newsletter

July - August 2008

A monthly e-newsletter by UNEP/MAP

IN THIS ISSUE:

UNEP NEWS

UNEP: Green energy to enrich Beijing Olympic experience

The UN environment programme, UNEP, said that solar energy, wind farms and recycled water are among the green features that helped power experience of about 7 million spectators to the opening of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Leading Automaker Toyota Motor Europe Joins UNEP's Climate Neutral Network

Toyota Motor Europe has become the first car manufacturer to join the Climate Neutral Network (CN Net), the bold initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Stamps To Promote Sustainable Lifestyles

The French postal service "La Poste" and UNEP have partnered to publish a booklet of letter stamps inspired by the project UNEP/UNESCO youthXchange.

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN LAUNCHED IN PARIS

A high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government organised in Paris on 13th July had the main objective of launching the French initiative for the setting up of the Union for the Mediterranean.

New study highlights present and future maritime traffic flows in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean Sea is amongst the world's busiest waterways accounting for 15 per cent of global shipping activity by number of calls and 10 per cent by vessel deadweight tonnes (DWT).

Expo Zaragoza 2008

International Expo on Water and Sustainable development

Signing of an agreement between the Principality of Monaco and Plan Bleu

Patrick Van Klaveren, Permanent Representative to Scientific, Environmental and Humanitarian International Bodies, Principality of Monaco, and Henri-Luc Thibault, Director of Plan Bleu, signed on 2nd July, 2008, an agreement running over several years (2008-2011).

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

European EPA sets out green policy vision

The heads of Europe's environment agencies have urged a revolution in the EU's approach to environment policy.

EU could get climate commissioner

The European commission is likely to create a new post of climate change commissioner when its mandate is renewed next year.

EU green crime law set for publication

The final wording of a new EU law criminalising the most serious offences against the environment has been published by the Council of Ministers.

Spanish businesses lose EU Natura sites case

A European Commission decision to include several southern Spanish sites in the EU's Natura wildlife protection network does not directly affect the businesses located within them and should not be overturned, the European court of justice has said.

Spain launches fight against desertification

A national action programme to combat desertification entered force in Spain, one of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

UNEP NEWS

UNEP: Green energy to enrich Beijing Olympic experience

Leading Automaker Toyota Motor Europe Joins UNEP's Climate Neutral Network

Stamps To Promote Sustainable Lifestyles

UNEP: GREEN ENERGY TO ENRICH BEIJING OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE



The UN environment programme, UNEP, said that solar energy, wind farms and recycled water are among the green features that helped power experience of about 7 million spectators to the opening of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

"Anybody who knows what the situation was

like 10 years ago in Beijing will clearly acknowledge that an enormous amount has been done," UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said in a statement.

He said the legacy of this Olympic Games will be in part that it has left in place an infrastructure for public transport and cleaner vehicles that will benefit not only the Olympic Games but also the population of Beijing and other parts of China.

"So in that sense, air pollution was an incentive to do something that was long overdue in China's own interest," said Steiner, who attended the opening ceremony of the Games.

The variety of clean energy and energy saving solutions employed by venue designers in Beijing provided a positive showcase and an inspiration for future Games organizers, according to a report entitled "Beijing 2008 Olympic Games -- An Environmental Review."

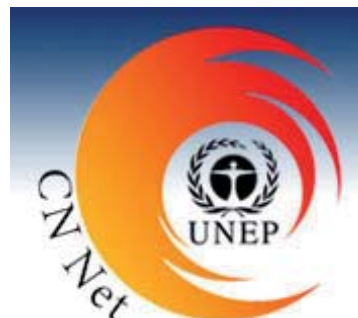
The UN agency said the solar power is being used to light lawns, courtyards and streets at several venues including the Olympic Village.

The National Stadium, where events such as athletics and football were held, is being lit by a 130 KW photovoltaic system, UNEP said.

"At the 400,000 square meters Olympic Village, reclaimed water from the Qinghe sewage treatment plant is being used for heating and cooling systems, around 60 percent in electrical savings is anticipated".

LEADING AUTOMAKER TOYOTA MOTOR EUROPE JOINS UNEP'S CLIMATE NEUTRAL NETWORK

Toyota Motor Europe has become the first car manufacturer to join the Climate Neutral Network (CN Net), the bold initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



their emissions or even neutralize them.

Toyota Motor Europe is the European headquarters of the world's largest auto manufacturer Toyota Motor Corporation, an acknowledged leader in environmental technologies which has sold more than 1.5 million hybrid cars worldwide.

As the company behind Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid car, Toyota says it is more committed than ever to developing advanced and innovative technologies towards sustainable mobility.

Mr. Willy Tomboy, Environmental Officer at Toyota Motor Europe, said: "Toyota Motor Europe (TME) is excited to join forces with the Climate Neutral Network, as part of a shared mandate to tackle the issue of climate change. We have long believed that environmental sustainability represents one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. The network offers a rare opportunity to leverage resources and share knowledge with like-minded organizations to affect positive change in communities the world-over."

Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, said: "We are delighted to welcome Toyota Motor Europe into the Climate Neutral Network, an initiative which is gaining more and more momentum. The participation of a major company like Toyota is a sign that private companies are increasingly playing their part on the road to a low carbon society."

Toyota is currently developing a broad array of

The CN Net is a vast web-based network aiming to federate the growing wave of nations, local authorities, private companies and organizations which are pledging to significantly reduce

improvements in fuel efficiency and conducting research into low-CO2 alternative energy sources. Toyota Motor Europe has already cut average energy consumption per-vehicle in the production process by 44 per cent since 2001. The company's Five-Year Environmental Action Plan calls for further cuts in energy consumption and CO2 emissions, and all of its logistics partners now have to report their CO2 emissions in accordance with Toyota's Green Purchasing Guidelines.

STAMPS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The French postal service "La Poste" and UNEP have partnered to publish a booklet of letter stamps inspired by the project UNEP/UNESCO youthXchange.

This Carnet has the dimension and shape of a business card and contains 10 stamps, each of which carries a message related to sustainable consumption.

The stamps present 10 objects or aspects of our daily lives from different angles so as to make us think about our lifestyles through synthesis, humour, and beautiful images (the sun/heater or the bicycle/transport of the future, etc.). The answers and indications on what to do are in the back cover of the carnet, which is designed to be a reusable reminder fitting in the wallet.

The stamp is targeted at a large public and represents for the two organizations a tool for a large scale awareness campaign in France on sustainable lifestyles: 7 million Carnets will be sold through the postal offices across the country for a total of 70 million individual stamps. The life of a stamp is multiple: from its purchase by the customers to the receiver's discovery, the journey of a stamp witnessed by several people.

The Carnet is a way for La Poste to highlight its values and commitment towards sustainable development (La Poste is signatory to the Global Compact) and to benefit from UNEP expertise. For UNEP, this collaboration has been an occasion to benefit from an excellent outreach mechanisms to the public.



MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Union for the Mediterranean launched in paris

New study highlights present and future maritime traffic flows in the Mediterranean

Expo Zaragoza 2008 : International Expo on Water and Sustainable development

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN LAUNCHED IN PARIS

A high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government organised in Paris on 13th July had the main objective of launching the French initiative for the setting up of the Union for the Mediterranean, based on the existing Barcelona Process, in order to enhance multilateral relations, increase co-ownership of the process, set governance on the principle of equal footing and translate it into concrete projects with higher visibility.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon had a



prominent role during the meeting, which was attended by Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Affairs Ministers from 43 countries, including EU member States and all countries bordering the Mediterranean.

Organisations present were the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, League of the Arab States, African union, Arab Maghreb Union, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, World Bank, Alliance of Civilisations and UNEP/MAP.

The summit was a unique opportunity for UNEP/MAP to increase its visibility at the highest level possible of European and Mediterranean politics.

Of special importance to UNEP/MAP is the approval of the project on de-pollution of the Mediterranean, as one of six projects approved by the summit. The project

will build on the Horizon 2020 initiative in which UNEP/MAP is directly involved together with the European Investment Bank. The project will address the issue of coastal and marine protected areas, with specific focus on the water and waste sector.

Other projects approved at the Paris Summit concern maritime and land highways; civil protection; alternative energies (Mediterranean Solar Plan); higher education and research (Euro-Mediterranean University); and the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for November 2008, when Foreign Affairs Ministers will have to decide, among other topics, on the modalities and terms of participation in the projects. They will also address details on the mandate of the new institutional structure, the functioning of the co-presidency as well as the composition, seat and funding of the Secretariat that will be decided on the basis of consensus and that should be operational by the end of 2008.

NEW STUDY HIGHLIGHTS PRESENT AND FUTURE MARITIME TRAFFIC FLOWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Sea is amongst the world's busiest waterways accounting for 15 per cent of global shipping activity by number of calls and 10 per cent by vessel deadweight tonnes (DWT), says new study. Overall vessel activity within the Mediterranean has been rising steadily over the past 10 years and is projected to increase by a further 18 per cent over the next 10 years. Transits through the Mediterranean are expected to rise by 23 per cent. Increases in vessel activity will be coupled with the deployment of ever larger vessels. Chemical tanker and container vessels will show the highest rates of growth in respect of port callings within the Mediterranean over the next ten years whilst increases in transits will be most pronounced in the product and crude tanker sector.

In line with Specific Objective 9 of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which aims at reducing the risk of collisions by inter alia identifying the main shipping lanes for vessels carrying oil and other hazardous and noxious substances in the Mediterranean Sea, and within the framework of the EU-funded Project

"Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships * SAFEMED (MED 2005/109-573)", REMPEC commissioned Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit (LLOYD'S MIU) to prepare a Study



on the Traffic Flow Analysis in the Mediterranean Sea. The objective of the Study was to identify and analyse major maritime traffic flows and trends within the Mediterranean Sea using LLOYD'S MIU historical movements databases for the last five to ten years, as appropriate.

The Study, which should serve as an important tool for all the Mediterranean coastal States, highlights a number of interesting points that reflect both the present traffic flow pattern in the Mediterranean Sea and the future trends and projections

EXPO ZARAGOZA 2008 : INTERNATIONAL EXPO ON WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 15th July 2008, Plan Bleu and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production participated jointly in a workshop organized by the Pavilion of Citizens' initiatives (el faro) in the framework of the thematic week "Water uses and abuses". For Plan Bleu, Gaëlle



Thivet thus presented the situation of water resources and demands in the Mediterranean, including a prospective view and underlining the necessity to use water more rationally and efficiently, in the different using sectors. The RAC for Cleaner Production presented

MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

Signing of an agreement between the Principality of Monaco and Plan Bleu

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

European EPA sets out green policy vision

EU could get climate commissioner

EU green crime law set for publication

examples of good water savings practices, concerning notably the industrial sector.

SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO AND PLAN BLEU



Patrick Van Klaveren, Permanent Representative to Scientific, Environmental and Humanitarian International Bodies, Principality of Monaco, and Henri-Luc Thibault, Director of Plan Bleu, signed on 2nd July, 2008, an agreement running

over several years (2008-2011). This agreement defines the nature and the terms of the support the Principality of Monaco intends to grant to Plan Bleu over the period 2008-2011. The aid provided by the Principality of Monaco will complement, in particular, the works carried out by Plan Bleu, aiming at performing territorial prospective methods and tools and producing on a regular basis reports dealing with environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

EUROPEAN EPA SETS OUT GREEN POLICY VISION

The heads of Europe's environment agencies have urged a revolution in the EU's approach to environment policy. In a report aimed at the European Commission they say member states should have more flexibility to meet EU-set "environmental outcomes" and that regulation should be targeted more strongly at higher-risk firms.

The report says the EU's better regulation initiative must become more ambitious in the environment policy sector. "We need to move away from an agenda driven solely by administrative burden to one whose primary focus is improving the effectiveness of the delivery of environmental outcomes," according to a report published by EPA.

This would "enhance the reputation of environmental legislation and free up resources to better focus on new and big environmental challenges such as climate change," the agency chiefs believe.

In the long term the EU should "move away from fragmented sector-based regulation" towards a smaller number of horizontal directives setting out environmental outcomes and standards, supported by a directive or code detailing "approaches and mechanisms where a harmonised approach across member states is required". Member states would have flexibility to "tailor approaches to local circumstances".

The new approach should allow regulators to "target effort on higher risk businesses or substances and adopt a more proportionate approach towards lower risk businesses or substances while still protecting environmental outcomes."

The report holds up the water framework directive as a good example of horizontal legislation that comprehensively tackles a "broad sector of environmental policy". A similar initiative could be devised to cover all regulation of industry, it says. In the nearer term, permitting and inspection regimes for the waste framework, integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) and landfill directives should be integrated, there should be a "compendium of environmental standards", and the possibility of a single permit or control process implementing multiple pieces of legislation should be introduced.

EU COULD GET CLIMATE COMMISSIONER

The European commission is likely to create a new post of climate change commissioner when its mandate is renewed next year.

The move would unite climate-related policy roles currently held by several different commissioners. It would also bolster the profile of EU climate policy as the bloc enters negotiations on a post-2012 world climate

policy.

A new "college" of 27 commissioners will be nominated by EU governments when the current commission's period of office ends next summer. The commissioner chosen as president of the body will have the sole right to decide whether or not to create a climate portfolio.

Current president José Manuel Barroso has made climate a major EU policy priority and is seeking nomination for a second term in the role.

Greek environment commissioner Stavros Dimas is also seeking a second nomination and would be keen to head the new department. He would be unlikely to retain the environment portfolio because commissioners are generally discouraged from doing the same job for a second term.

A new climate change directorate-general (DG) would be created to back up the new commissioner, taking on tasks in trade, enterprise, competition and energy policy that are currently dealt with across various commission departments.

The new commissioner would be thrust into high-profile action at the Copenhagen world climate summit in December 2009.

EU GREEN CRIME LAW SET FOR PUBLICATION

The final wording of a new EU law criminalising the most serious offences against the environment has been published by the Council of Ministers. The law will be rubber-stamped by governments after the summer break and published in the bloc's official journal shortly after. It will have to be written into national law by the 27 EU states within two years.

Of particular importance to the Mediterranean region are the issues of releasing pollution; managing waste or managing dangerous activities or substances in any way that "causes or is likely to cause" death or serious injury to people or substantial damage to environmental quality or biodiversity; shipping waste and damaging



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Spanish businesses lose EU Natura sites case

Spain launches fight against desertification

habitats.

The offences also include handling radioactive materials, killing or trading wildlife, and producing or selling ozone-depleting substances.

The new legislation was settled politically in May after MEPs and governments agreed compromises on key elements. It lists all activities that can be classed as criminal offences across.

Governments must treat as a crime any instance where these activities infringe existing EU environment laws and are committed "intentionally or with at least serious negligence".

Authorities must ensure these offences are punished by "effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties". But earlier proposals for punishments to be harmonised at EU level were shelved after the European court of justice ruled last year that this must be left to governments to decide individually.

Liability to criminal prosecution will be extended both to companies and individuals within them. Prosecution will also be possible where the offence took place because of a lack of supervision or control. It will also be a criminal offence to "incite, aid or abet" criminal conduct.

SPANISH BUSINESSES LOSE EU NATURA SITES CASE



A European Commission decision to include several southern Spanish sites in the EU's Natura wildlife protection network does not directly affect the businesses located within them and should not be overturned, the European court of justice has said.

A group of small businesses located within sites near Almeria and Cadiz in Andalusia challenged the commission's decision to include them as part of the list of protected zones in the Mediterranean biogeographic region. They feared the designation would constrain their activities.

But the court said the decision merely confirmed a Spanish government decision to nominate the sites for Natura inclusion and did not affect the government's

"margin of discretion" under EU nature law to protect the site as it felt best.

Any disruption of business activities were down to the government's implementation of EU law, it said. The businesses were therefore not "directly affected" by the commission decision and their challenge was inadmissible.

The court rejected the commission's argument that the case should have been dismissed on the grounds that its decision on the list of sites was only an interim stage in the process of building the Natura network and that the businesses therefore had no right in EU law to challenge it.

The court said that, despite the fact that the list of Mediterranean sites could be revised, and that it formed only a part of the process of building the Natura network, the commission's decision "definitively fixed" the list and was therefore open to legal challenge.

SPAIN LAUNCHES FIGHT AGAINST DESERTIFICATION



A national action programme to combat desertification entered force in Spain, one of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Over one-third of Spain's surface area faces high or moderate risk of desertification, the environment ministry said. The programme has been under discussion since 2000 and complies with the 1996 UN Convention on Desertification. It identifies reforestation, control of grazing and improved water management as the most effective means of countering desertification.

In July, the Spanish government had also announced the creation of a special commission on climate change to strengthen cross-sector action on global warming. The commission is made up of the government's two vice-presidents and nine ministers. It has identified six strategic lines of action to complement measures package adopted last covering waste emissions, transport, buildings, energy, forestry and clean technologies.

UNEP/MAP Key 2008 Dates

18-19 September

67th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
Madrid, Spain

20-23 October

III International Conference on Marine Turtles
Hammamet Tunisie

22-23 October

Seminar on climate change
Marseille France

24 October

United Nations Day
Athens, Greece

November 2008

Mediterranean Union
Paris, France

8-11 November

56th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
Doha Qatar

1-5 December

9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species
Rome, Italy

21-22 December

20th Session of the Council of Arab Ministers
Cairo, Egypt