

COMMISSIONER HÜBNER PRESENTS REFLECTION PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, presented a reflections paper on the future of cohesion policy, this April in the Czech Republic. The paper sets out the background and rationale for cohesion policy, and the Commissioner's vision for the future. It supports a stronger focus on common core priorities and the territorial dimension, suggesting that delivery mechanisms should focus more on results. Increased cooperation between cohesion policy, sectoral policies and more targeted use of resources are also flagged up as important. Ideas for increased efficiency of the policy include: a reduction in the fragmentation of the funds; full exploitation of financial engineering mechanisms and microcredit options; evidence based policy making; a strategic framework for major projects; and greater scope for innovation, policy risk and experimentation.

COVENANT OF MAYORS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM



Over 500 towns and cities, including 19 from the UK, have now signed up to the Covenant of Mayors initiative committing to go beyond the reduction in CO2 emissions in EU energy policy. The Covenant of Mayors aims to create a permanent network of local authorities to lead the fight against climate change. On signing the covenant a municipality must commit to producing a sustainable energy action plan and biannual implementation reports thereafter, to promote and involve

citizens in energy saving activities, to share good practice and promote the work of the covenant. The covenant also aims to set up a network of supporting structures made up of public administrations able to provide strategic guidance, financial and technical support to smaller municipalities who do not have sufficient resources to draft and implement their own action plans.

LIFE+ 2009 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The European Commission is calling for proposals under the LIFE+ programme. It has 3 main themes: Nature and Biodiversity; Environment Policy and Governance; and Information and Communication. The objective of the first strand is to conserve, restore and monitor natural habitats, systems and biodiversity. The second strand is sub-divided into the themes of climate change, water, air, urban environment, waste, innovation and strategic approaches. The third strand aims to disseminate information, raise awareness of environmental issues and to support accompanying measures. The Commission is organising a UK workshop for potential applicants in London on 26 June, aimed at helping people to decide whether to apply and highlighting solutions to common problems in applications. Throughout July there will be workshops with the UK contact point for applicants in different UK locations. The deadline for submissions to the national competent authorities is **15 September 2009**.



WEBSITE TO MONITOR MEPS



With the European Elections just around the corner, the public might be interested in knowing just what their elected representatives in the European Parliament actually did during the past term. The website VoteWatch.eu monitors just that, providing information

on the voting records, attendance levels, reports and speeches of current Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) over the 2004-9 term. The website enables users to compare MEPs' records across political groups, countries and policy areas, whilst also focusing on the results of individual votes or individual MEP's profiles. For example, looking up the regional development vote on 'Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy for housing' on 2 April this year, reveals that all Northwest MEPs present, voted in support of it.

OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - PRICE SENSITIVITY OF EUROPEAN ROAD FREIGHT TRANSPORT

The project aims to improve understanding of the price sensitivity of road freight transport in Europe. Maximum budget is €40,000 and should be completed by 30 September 2009. **Deadline: 9 June 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – INTELLIGENT ENERGY PROGRAMME

Main themes for the 2009 Programme are: energy efficiency; new and renewable energy resources; energy in transport; and integrated initiatives. Further priority areas include: networking for local action, sustainable energy communities, energy efficient buildings, decentralised renewable energy systems and energy efficient transport. **Deadline: 25 June 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – ERASMUS UNIVERSITY CHARTER

The Erasmus programme supports studying, working, teaching and training abroad; academic networks and multilateral projects; university cooperation; and student placements. Higher education institutions wishing to participate require an Erasmus University Charter, setting out the principles for all Erasmus actions. **Deadline: 30 June 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – MEDIA 2007 PROGRAMME

Two calls under the Commission's Media 2007 programme. The first supporting video on demand and digital camera distribution, aimed at supporting the creation and exploitation of European works catalogues to be distributed digitally. Total budget is €8 million and projects should be completed within 18mths. The second for pilot projects supporting the EU audiovisual sector, emphasising the introduction and utilisation of information and communication technologies, with a budget of €2m. **Deadline for both calls: 15 July 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

Call for financial assistance for projects in the field of energy, as part of the European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR). Examples include: energy infrastructure projects such as energy interconnections and offshore wind energy. Total budget is €3.98bn. **Deadline: 15 July 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – PREPARATORY ACTION IN THE FIELD OF SPORT

This call will support transnational projects from public bodies or civil society in: Promoting health-enhancing physical activity; education and training in sport; European fundamental values by encouraging sport for persons with disabilities; gender equality in sport. Total budget is €4m. **Deadline: 31 August 2009**

LIFELONG LEARNING – EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK/ EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2 calls under the lifelong learning programme. The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) aims to develop and promote the learning outcomes approach for all qualifications, support links between national frameworks and the EQF, and promote trust between countries and sectors. The Cooperation in Education and Training call aims to raise awareness of lifelong learning strategies and of European cooperation in education and to support transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of national and regional lifelong learning strategies. **Deadline for both calls: 14 August 2009**

ECO INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Aims to address organisations with innovative environmental products, services, management practice or processes which have a proven track record, yet is not fully marketed due to residual risks. Applications from SMEs are particularly welcome. Types of projects include: projects in the area of materials recycling; sustainable buildings (innovative building processes and products); food & drink industrial processes (waste reduction, recycling & recovery); green business; and smart purchasing. **Deadline: 10 September 2009**

EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

The purpose of the fund is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the CoE's fundamental values of human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity. Previous projects have received between €8,000 and €20,000 funding. **Deadline: 01 October 2009**

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