

**EU REVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK: UPDATE ON KEY AREAS FOR ENGAGEMENT**

**ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**January to June**

We have continued to work in Europe to secure Scotland's place as a leader in international energy and climate change policy. This included organisation of a major conference and seminar for **Sustainable Energy Week in February 2009**. During European Sustainable Energy Week, we hosted a series of workshops which the Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Jim Mather, chaired in Brussels. These aimed to consider the role that the North Sea and Atlantic regions can play in the development of low carbon and renewable energy infrastructures.

The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** and the Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan, aim to deliver at least 42% emissions cuts by 2020 and 80% cuts by 2050.

The Scottish Government and the Climate Group jointly hosted a seminar in Brussels on 24 June "**Connecting to the Power of the Regions**". This explored the role of States and regions in mitigating the impacts of climate change and adapting to it. The seminar attracted speakers from the US, Germany and Spain

On 25 June, the Scottish Government's Environment Director attended the **EU Environment Council** in Luxembourg at which the EU Environment Ministers discussed their approach to the international Climate Change negotiations which will take place in Copenhagen.

We have been working to establish the **Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC)** in Aberdeen. SEGEC was officially launched on 17 August and aims to act as a catalyst for the deployment of green energy and research, encouraging and supporting industry to put research into practise so that Scotland, and Europe, can fully benefit from these advances. On 12 June, SEGEC's Executive Chairman visited Brussels to speak at a conference organised by the European Policy Centre on **Innovation and Creativity as Drivers for Sustainable Development**.

A key objective for the Scottish Government is the creation of a North Sea Grid, to allow the export of renewable energy to continental Europe. Building on links with the Commission, the Scottish Government was invited to become part of the European Grid Working Group in early 2009 and attended the most recent meeting of the group on 30 June 2009.

On 30 June, a senior Scottish Government official visited Brussels for talks with the European Commission on energy efficiency covering, in particular, forthcoming revision of the **EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan** and the **Energy Performance in Buildings Directive**.

Scotland seeks to play a leading role in the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology and in this connection Scottish Government officials participated in the European Commission's **Sustainable Fossil Fuels Working Group** (the Berlin Forum) meeting in Brussels on 24 March 2009.

The Scottish Government has also been represented by officials at meetings of the **North Sea Basin Task Force**, one of which took place in Svalbard in Norway earlier this year. We are working on CCS projects. Securing European funding under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) could be key to this.



## ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT JANUARY – JUNE 2009

In mid July three Scottish energy projects were submitted for consideration under the 3.98 million Euro **Economic Recovery Package** covering offshore wind technology, north sea grid and CCS. Scottish Government officials attended an information day on the package on 3 June.

The Scottish Government led the submission of an application for funding for a project under **Intelligent Energy for Europe** June 2009. The project will address barriers to the deployment of onshore and offshore wind generation by developing good practice in reconciling objectives on renewable energy with wider environmental objectives and actively involving communities in planning and implementation.

### Looking Ahead

- The Scottish Government will continue to work with applicants to help secure funding for the above mentioned projects from the EU Energy Programme for Recovery.
- The Scottish Government will work closely with staff from the Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC).
- The Scottish Government will seek early and ongoing opportunities to engage with the revised EU Commission directorates and incoming Commissioners.
- Scottish Government officials will attend the forthcoming meetings of the Sustainable Fossil Fuels Working Group (Berlin Forum) on 15 September 2009, and the 2009 annual Berlin Forum Plenary Session 12-13 October in Berlin. The Scottish Government and SEGEC hope to become full members of the Berlin Forum at its plenary meeting.
- Attend the forthcoming meeting of the North Sea Grid Working Group at the end of September 2009.
- Scottish Government officials will attend the annual plenary session of the Zero Emissions Platform in Brussels on 20 October. SEGEC also be seeking membership of the Platform, which is the key industry forum for technological development of CSC, which feeds into the policy discussions in the Berlin Forum. This role will ensure that Scotland's companies are properly represented in the development of CCS under the EU strategic Energy Technology Plan.
- The Scottish Government will monitor negotiations on the Emissions Trading Scheme New Entrants Reserve – ensuring funding is fairly allocated to CCS and renewables projects and ensuring Member State/devolved administration role in influencing project selection.
- Copenhagen Conference Dec 2009 – the Scottish Government will ensure that Scotland's voice and energy story is fed into the UK's position in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations and also the intra-EU negotiations.
- The Scottish Government will plan its own energy related event in Brussels to mark EU Sustainable Energy Week in early 2010.

### MARINE ENVIRONMENT

#### January to June

Scottish Government EU Engagement has focussed heavily on the Commission's **Green Paper on Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Reform**. Officials were present at a Hearing in the European Parliament on Reform on 10 February and the Reform Paper was presented to the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 23 April. There was a fuller debate on the Green paper at the Agriculture and



Fisheries Council on 25 May. Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, attended both Councils and also discussed reform with the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, Joe Borg, at a meeting on 28 April.

On 16 June the Director of Marine Scotland participated in a podium discussion on CFP Reform in Brussels. Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Joe Borg participated in the same event organised by the European Policy Centre.

Commission activity continued on its **Integrated Maritime Policy** with Scottish officials attending a workshop in Brussels on 26 February on **Marine Spatial Planning** – a concept currently being trialled in Scotland. On 18 May, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, spoke at the EU Maritime Day conference in Boddam, Aberdeenshire.

The Deputy Director for Marine Planning and Policy in Marine Scotland attended a meeting with DG MARE Director on 14 July where there were discussions on marine knowledge, marine planning and surveillance.

In April 2009, the Commission published a Communication, designed to give fresh impetus to its **Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture**, an initiative which compliments the work of the Scottish Government. On 23 June, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, attended the Agriculture and Fisheries Council at which Council conclusions on the communication were adopted.

Scottish Government officials have also been active on the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)** attending EU Working Group meetings on 14 and 15 May in Brussels. The Director of Marine Scotland attended the MSFD Marine Directors meeting in Brno, Czech Republic on 29 May.

On 24 July, a senior Marine Scotland official visited Brussels for talks with the Commission on **CFP Reform, The European Fisheries Fund and the end of year Fisheries negotiations**.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Ministers and officials will maintain engagement on Common Fisheries Policy Reform. A Scottish Government event focussing on output from the Scottish Inquiry into the Future of Fisheries Management is planned for late autumn in Brussels.
- The CFP Reform consultation attempts to ascertain how achievement of the objectives set out in the EU Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture can be assured through an expansion of the CFP in the area of aquaculture. Marine Scotland officials met with Scottish aquaculture producer bodies on 31 July to discuss their developing views on the reform paper.
- Ministers and officials will be active at EU Agriculture and Fisheries Councils (October, November and December) and Working Groups as we move towards the end of year negotiations on fishing opportunities for 2010.
- There will be further meetings of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Working Groups which Scottish Government officials may attend. The Scottish Government is discussing with DEFRA joint working on the socio-economic side of the MSFD and possible work with Sweden.



## **RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY**

### **January to June**

The University of Edinburgh's School of Informatics is building a pan-European consortium to bid for one of the two prestigious **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)** that will be established under the new **European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT)**. Scottish Enterprise has been providing practical support and Scottish Government officials have been closely monitoring developments and offering assistance where appropriate. The deadline for applications is 27 August 2009.

The Scottish Government has been positioning itself to participate in both formal and informal discussions on the structure, themes and priorities of the **8th Framework Programme for research funding (FP8)** in order to ensure that the Scottish research sector can benefit to the greatest possible extent. Officials have made contact with current and future Presidencies of the EU and key officials within the Commission. In addition, Scotland Europa has led on the creation of a working group on the future shape of FP8 within the European Regions for Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) which will lead to a position paper intended to inform the drafting of the legislation to create FP8.

Scotland's higher education sector and the research that goes on within it is supported by participation in the Bologna Process, an initiative of 46 countries to create a European Higher Education Area. Keith Brown, Minister for Schools and Skills attended the Ministerial conference on the Bologna Process on 28th April in Leuven.

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and Michael Russell, Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution both attended the Education, Youth and Culture Council in Brussels on the 27th and 28th May 2009. Mr Russell led the UK delegation during the discussions on culture, intervening on behalf of the UK on agenda items relating to support for the creative industries.

The **Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Anne Glover**, visited Brussels in July to meet senior officials in the Commission to raise the profile of the Scottish research sector and to discuss a number of policy issues, including mechanisms to support research cooperation, management of intellectual property, and the provision of scientific advice to European policy-making.

The Scottish Government has been monitoring closely the various initiatives that are developing to support the creation of a **European Research Area (ERA)** with a view to ensuring that they take account of the interests and experience of the Scottish research sector and to ensure that Scottish institutions are well informed of developing policy and practice in advance of implementation.

Aside from engagement on general research policy, the Scottish Government has undertaken a number of other activities in relation to issues such as energy and the environment where Scotland's strength in research and development has been an invaluable tool. These include the establishment of the Scottish European Green Energy Centre in Aberdeen, described in more detail in the accompanying note on Energy and Climate Change.

### **Looking Ahead**

- The First Minister will host an event at Edinburgh Castle on 29 September to celebrate Scotland's science and innovation, past, present and future. The audience will include high-profile participants from the European institutions, international companies and major universities and research organisations.
- Plans are being developed to host an event in Scotland House on research and innovation as the flagship policy event during Scotland Week in December. The Scottish Government is holding discussions with a number of possible partners.



- The Creativity World Forum in Stuttgart from 30 November to 3 December will include a Scottish presence to showcase Scottish creativity and innovation.
- The Scottish Government will continue to offer support to the University of Edinburgh's bid to lead one of the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities.
- The Scottish Government will continue to work with Scotland Europa and other partners to ensure Scottish views are incorporated into formal and informal discussions on the 8th Framework Programme for research.
- The Scottish Government will seek to develop the capacity of Scottish organisations to respond to European developments in research and innovation policy by working closely with stakeholders in sharing information and supporting engagement.

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (JHA)**

### **January to June**

During the Czech Presidency, the Scottish Ministers attended all 3 JHA Councils as follows: 26-27 February, the Solicitor General for Scotland; 6 April, the Minister for Community Safety; and 4-5 June, Kenny MacAskill, Cabinet Secretary for Justice. Mr MacAskill also plans to attend the JHA Council in Brussels on 22 September and, during his visit, will host a stakeholder event concerning Scotland's contribution to the European legal tradition including the importance of the JHA agenda domestically and in cross-border co-operation. Likewise, the Scottish Government anticipate having Ministerial representation at the JHA Councils in October and November.

EU Justice and Home Affairs issues in general and the EU's next **JHA multi-annual plan (the Stockholm Programme)** in particular are of direct and major relevance to Scotland. The programme is expected to be finalised and adopted by the end of this year. The Scottish Government has therefore kept in close touch with developments relating to the Programme. Our views on the shape and content of the Programme were set out in the Cabinet Secretary for Justice's recent letter to the Commissioner responsible for DG Justice, Freedom and Security.

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice also visited Stockholm in June and met the Swedish Justice Minister for discussion of a number of issues including the Stockholm Programme. Scottish Government officials have also taken a substantial and significant part in developing the UK's input to the Programme, and have undertaken a wide range of other activities such as discussions with representatives of EU institutions and other Member States and consultation with Scottish stakeholders. Most recently, the Scottish Government's Director General of Justice and Communities visited Brussels on 7-8 July for a number of meetings with key interests, such as senior EU officials and a senior representative of the Swedish Presidency.

### **Looking Ahead**

- The Scottish Government is continuing to engage with the UK Government on contingency planning for the possible entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty later this year, which will have a major impact on Justice and Home Affairs, for example, through the extension of co-decision with the European Parliament.
- The Scottish Government will continue to play a full and constructive part in development of the Stockholm Programme to ensure that Scotland's interests are taken into account.



- Scottish Government officials have also participated fully in recent negotiations in Council working groups on various legislative proposals and will continue to do so. In relation to criminal law and police cooperation, these have included proposals concerning the prevention and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings; combating human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography as well as the transfer of criminal proceedings. In relation to procedural rights, Scottish Government officials will also take part in negotiations on the “roadmap” identifying future areas of EU activity and on a proposal for minimum rules on the right of suspects to interpretation and translation. Other proposals likely to be on the horizon include the admissibility of evidence in criminal proceedings and the accreditation of forensic laboratories.
- In relation to civil (including family) law, Scottish Government officials have attended recent discussions concerning the review of Regulation 44/2001 on the recognition and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters (“the Brussels I Regulation”). They will also take part in the forthcoming negotiations on the cross-border recognition and enforcement of legal decisions in the area of Succession and Wills and ongoing work to establish a common frame of reference for European contract law. Finally, preparatory work continues for the establishment of an EU e-justice portal by December 2009.



**EU REVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK: FORWARD LOOK TO SWEDISH PRESIDENCY**

**Introduction**

This appendix provides a brief summary of the main areas of interest for Scotland of the Swedish Presidency for the next six months of the year. The Swedish Presidency's work plan will focus principally on climate, the economy and employment, and handling the various institutional changes within the EU. Engagement at Ministerial and official level took place with Sweden in the first half of the year in the run up to it taken over the Presidency. Engagement will continue through the remainder of the year on the issues that are of importance to Scotland. For more information and access to the full programme of the Swedish Presidency visit [www.se2009.eu](http://www.se2009.eu).

**Key Dates**

1 July 2009	Swedish Presidency begins
14 July 2009	European Parliament new mandate
5-8 October 2009	Committee of the Regions Open Days
5-6 November 2009	European Council Summit
9 November 2009	Fall of Berlin Wall: 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
7-18 December 2009	UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen
17-18 December 2009	European Council Summit

Link to Council meeting dates: [http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings\\_news](http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news)

**The next six months**

**Swedish Presidency, 1 July 2009**

Sweden took over the Presidency from the Czech Republic on 1 July 2009. The main focus of the Swedish Presidency is on Climate Change and ensuring agreement is reached at the UN Climate Change conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. Other priority issues include: employment, growth and competitiveness (the Lisbon Strategy), emphasis on a more "secure" and "open" Europe, seeing the EU as a global actor and encouragement of EU enlargement, the Budget Review and finalising the new Justice and Home Affairs Programme for 2010-2014.

**European Parliament**

Following elections across the 27 Member States from 4-7 June 2009 the new European Parliament started its mandate for the next five years on 14 July 2009 and saw a reduction in the number of MEPs from 785 to 736. There are now six Scottish MEPs and they are:

**Ian Hudghton**, SNP (returning), Committees: Fisheries, Regional Development, Substitute on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

**George Lyon**, Liberal Democrat (new), Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development, Substitute on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

**David Martin**, Labour (returning), Committees: International Trade, Substitute on Human Rights

**Alyn Smith**, SNP (returning), Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development, Substitute on Constitutional Affairs and Culture and Education

**Struan Stevenson**, Conservative (returning), Committees: Vice Chairman on Fisheries, Substitute on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety



**Catherine Stihler**, Labour (returning), Committees: Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Substitute on Economic and Monetary Affairs

In due course, subject to ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, the Parliament will consist of 751 seats, including 73 from the UK.

The first business of the Parliament took place in July at the plenary session in Strasbourg where the new European Parliament President was elected - Jerzy Buzek (EPP, Poland). The Parliament has also allocated 14 Vice presidents, 5 Quaestors and assigned MEPs to committees. The Parliament is in recess through August with the next plenary session starting mid September. In the autumn, the Parliament will approve the new European Commission President and college of Commissioners. We will continue to work closely with Scottish MEPs and look for opportunities to engage more fully with the new MEPs in their capacity as Committee members dealing with issues of relevance to Scotland. This will include Ministerial meetings, Scotland in Europe and the Elected Members European Network (EMILE).

## **The Lisbon Treaty**

Last year saw ratifying the Lisbon Treaty as a key objective for both the Slovenian and French Presidencies. Following the Irish no-vote in June 2008, this is still a very topical issue. It has now been agreed that there will be a second referendum in Ireland due to take place in Autumn 2009 (possibly 2 October) and subject to a 'yes' vote taking place full Treaty ratification would follow either late in 2009 or early 2010.

## **New College of European Commissioners**

According to the Treaty of Nice, it was envisaged that the first Commission to be appointed after the number of Member States reaches 27 would, subject to a unanimous decision of the Council be reduced to less than the number of Member States. However, following the European Council in Brussels in December 2008, the Council has agreed that, subject to ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, a decision will be taken to enable the Commission to continue to include a national from each Member State. The President of the Commission is proposed by the European Council then the candidate must be approved by the European Parliament by a majority vote. It is then up to the new Commissioner President to choose Commissioners which must be accepted by the Council and the Parliament. This process is expected to take place in the autumn of 2009.

## **Budget Approval**

The Commission has presented its proposal for the 2010 budget for the EU (called the "Preliminary Draft Budget"). The Budget needs approval between September and December 2009 by the Council and the European Parliament.

## **Issues of importance for Scotland in 2009**

Over the next six months, the key areas the Scottish Government will focus on in the European Union are:

- Economic Recovery Plan - the Commission issued this plan last year, which was then agreed by the European Council in December.
- Financial Services Reform
- Energy Policy - high on the EU political agenda. Energy efficiency will be a key priority for the Swedish Presidency as will security of supply.



- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – to include the end of year fisheries negotiations and the CFP Reform Green paper (which focuses on the CFP post 2012).
- EU Budget Review – the Commission is expected to publish its response to the consultation on EU Budget Reform in the latter half of the Swedish Presidency.
- Cross-Border Healthcare - first reading approved in March and to be followed up in the new European Parliament term.
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) - the on-going debate will continue though the Presidency, emphasis will be on agriculture and climate change.
- Research – on-going developments of the European Research Area (ERA) and start of discussions on the main themes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP8).
- Territorial Cohesion – consultation on the Green Paper closed at the end of February.
- Lisbon Strategy post 2010 – a strategy will be developed setting out long term measures to encourage economic growth.
- The Stockholm Programme – finalisation of the new Justice and Home Affairs Programme for 2010-2014.

## **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

The Commission published a **European Economic Recovery Plan** in November 2008 which was agreed in December 2008 by the European Council. The Swedish Presidency will continue to take forward the plan which aims to offset the recession by reducing its impact on employment and improve competitiveness and was begun under the French and Czech Presidencies. Measures in the plan include provision to provide support to small and medium size enterprises, including increasing funding available from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and greater flexibility through the use of EU funds and application of the Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to Support Access to Finance in the Current Financial and Economic Crisis.

The Commission's response to the **EU Budget Review** has been delayed and is now expected towards the end of 2009. The delay may make it difficult for the Swedish Presidency to make progress towards any fundamental budget reform, but it is expected that it will seek to open the debate as soon as possible after the Commission has published its report. Discussions on matters such as the future of cohesion policy will continue within the framework of the budget review.

Work will be taken forward on **supervision of financial services**. The de Larosière Group reported in the first quarter of the year and in response to the report the Commission announced that it would bring forward legislative proposals to establish a joint EU body for macro-financial supervision. In addition it is also proposed that three further EU authorities will be established with a particular responsibility of ensuring improved functioning of supervision of cross-border financial groups in Europe. It is the intention of the Swedish Presidency to reach political agreement on these proposals by the end of 2009.

## **COMPETITIVENESS**

The Presidency will take forward the discussion on the future of the **Lisbon Strategy** beyond 2010 for the period up to 2020. Its aim will be to support the debate on the setting of new priorities in the light of the current economic situation and work towards agreement on the long term measures that will encourage the recovery for economic growth in the EU.



Improving **Better Regulation**, reducing administrative burden and providing better access to funding for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) will be an important part of the Presidency's strategy to make day-to-day running easier for companies. In addition the Presidency will seek to encourage SMEs to participate in the public procurement process and make it easier for women to set up and run their own business.

The Swedish Presidency will attempt to break the deadlock on the development of a **Community patent**, which is seen as an important requirement to fully realise the Lisbon Strategy goal of a competitive, knowledge-based economy. The proposal for a Community patent has been on the negotiating table since 2004 but has become blocked in the Council on the question of the language regime.

#### **TRANSPORT**

The Presidency will focus its work on transport towards a **sustainable and eco-friendly transport system for the future**. In doing so it will give priority to discussions following on from the Commission Green Paper on the Trans-European Network (TEN-T), green corridors and more efficient use of air space. Proposals to ensure railway networks for competitive freight transport and a European maritime transport area without borders will be considered. It is also hoped that progress may be made on the **Action Plan for Urban Mobility**.

#### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The Presidency will focus on how IT can contribute to the competitiveness of the EU and its work in this area will reflect this. The Presidency will also work towards ensuring that the revised **regulatory framework for electronic communications** in the Telecom Package is approved during the autumn.

#### **COHESION POLICY**

The Presidency intends to continue the debate on the aims, strategies and priorities related to the development of the **Economic and Social Policy** of the EU and in particular the shape of **Cohesion Policy** beyond 2013. This work will be taken forward alongside the consultation on **Territorial Cohesion**, which will continue in the autumn. Focus will continue around closure of the 2000-06 European Structural Funds' programmes and ensuring that take up of funds available for the current programme period of 2007-13 are maximised by Member States.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY**

The **UN Climate Change Conference** scheduled for December in Copenhagen will be the focal point of the Swedish Presidency on Energy and Climate Change Policy. This is where countries of the world will attempt to conclude a deal on reducing global greenhouse gas emissions up to 2020 (agreement of the so called post Kyoto Treaty). Under the 2008 French Presidency Heads of Government signed up to a deal committing the EU to 20% CO2 reductions by 2020. However, this would increase to 30% if a global deal were to be struck. The Swedish Presidency will negotiate on behalf of the EU at the talks and has produced a comprehensive programme of activity in the run up to them which will include brokering agreement on an EU financing package to enable developing countries to set ambitious emissions targets.



The Copenhagen Conference was at the forefront of thinking of those attending the EU Environment Ministers Informal Meeting in Are, Sweden on 24-25 July where the move to an eco-efficient economy was the theme in recognition of the importance that greening the economy can play in stimulating economic growth. Environment and Energy Ministers had a joint session at the Informal to consider the better coordination of policy agendas in the fields of climate change, energy efficiency, competitiveness and innovation. **Climate Change** will also be the central theme of the **Informal Council of Agriculture Ministers** in Sweden 13-15 September.

Regulation of industrial emissions is a key component of the strategy to mitigate the impacts on Climate Change. The Czech Presidency was successful in securing political agreement of the **Industrial Emissions Directive (IPPC)** in June, a complex dossier which will bring together seven individual directives into one overarching one. It will now fall to the Swedish Presidency to take the issue forward towards conclusion of a deal with the European Parliament which has already completed its first reading of the proposals.

The European Commission and a number of other Member States are increasingly making the link between the protection of **biodiversity** and Climate Change. A major UN conference will take place in October 2010 to establish the extent to which countries of the world have been successful in protecting global biodiversity and the EU will produce its own Vision next spring. To prepare the ground, the Swedish Presidency will be active in developing ideas about how biodiversity targets should be set in future. A **Conference on Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010** will be held from 7-9 September in Stromstad Sweden.

On energy policy the Czech Presidency successfully brokered agreement on an EU **Economic Recovery Package** in April which will make some 3.98 Million Euros available to a range of energy projects covering renewables and Carbon Capture and Storage. Scottish bids for funding are being prepared in the areas of offshore wind renewables, offshore transmission grids and carbon capture and storage.

The Swedish Presidency will continue the work of the Czechs in taking forward the Second Strategic Energy Review which focuses on Security of Supply. A major focus however will be on the promotion of Energy Efficiency, key to both supply security and climate issues. In this vane the Presidency will seek Environment Council agreement (most likely at the December Council) on a recast of the **Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, the Energy Labelling Directive** and a **Directive on the Energy Labelling of Tyres**.

Towards the end of the year the Commission will come forward with a **Revised Action Plan on Energy Efficiency** which Energy Ministers will have the opportunity to discuss at the December Energy Council. The plan will seek to set out how 20% efficiency targets are to be realised. At the Energy informal in Ara on 23-24 July the Energy Ministers will focus on the question of how to move to an **eco efficient** economy with the emphasis on efficient energy systems.



## **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

The Swedish Presidency has identified the protection of the Marine Environment as a key strategic priority. There will be a particular focus on the development of an **EU Strategy for the Protection of the Baltic Sea**, where the degradation of the marine environment is particularly serious. Although not directly relevant to Scotland, the work it generates may have implications for marine management elsewhere including for example in the North Sea.

Fisheries Management issues will also be key. The Czech Presidency facilitated the opening debate between EU Fisheries Ministers on the European Commission's Green Paper on **reform of the Common Fisheries Policy** in April. This paper is the beginning of a process which the Commission hope will deliver a quantum leap change in the way we manage our collective fisheries post 2012.

The Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment has continued to attend the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on a regular basis and will do so again during the Swedish Presidency. The Swedish Presidency will carry on this debate throughout the year until the end of the formal consultation phase in December. Formal proposals will be presented by the Commission in 2011.

The Swedish Presidency will also be looking to seek agreement on a **new fisheries control system** in the autumn and the **allocation of fishing opportunities for 2010**.

## **AGRICULTURE**

The Swedish Presidency will aim to achieve agreement on a new **regulation on food information**. Several animal welfare proposals are also in the pipeline including one on animal transportation (of key interest to Scotland) and another on animals used for scientific purposes. Problems in the dairy sector will be a key theme during the Swedish Presidency.

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (JHA)**

Under the Swedish Presidency the overall vision in the field of JHA is a more secure and open Europe ([www.se2009.eu/polopoly fs/1.5783!menu/standard/file/ju\\_ordfbroschyr\\_eng\\_webb.pdf](http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.5783!menu/standard/file/ju_ordfbroschyr_eng_webb.pdf)). The Swedish Presidency's top priority will be to secure agreement to the "**Stockholm Programme**" which will set out the direction of EU JHA policy for 2010-2014. The Commission issued a Communication on 10 June 2009 which sets the scene for the Council's negotiations over the coming months ([http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/barrot/archive/Programme%20Stockholm-%20EN-%20COM%202009-262.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/barrot/archive/Programme%20Stockholm-%20EN-%20COM%202009-262.pdf)). The Swedish Presidency's objective for the Stockholm Programme is to ensure a better balance between measures to safeguard security and measures to preserve the rights of the individual.

Subject of course to its ratification by remaining Member States, the Presidency will continue preparations for the implementation of the **Lisbon Treaty**. This will have significant implications for Justice and Home Affairs especially in relation to criminal law and policing which will become subject to co-decision with the European Parliament and qualified majority voting in the Council of Ministers.

In relation to **criminal law and police cooperation**, the Council agreed during the Czech Presidency a general approach for a Framework Decision on the **prevention and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings**. Subject to consultation with the European Parliament this should be adopted later this year. The fourth round of mutual evaluations about the **practical application of the European Arrest Warrant** has also been completed, whilst a first reading agreement with the European Parliament has been reached on a Directive **on criminal sanctions for ship-source pollution**.



Negotiations will continue during the Swedish Presidency on two Commission proposals on **combating human trafficking** and the **sexual exploitation of children and child pornography**. The Swedish Presidency has recently issued a proposal to facilitate the **transfer of criminal proceedings** between EU Member States. Moreover, in the area of **procedural rights**, apart from launching a roadmap on future EU measures, negotiations will begin for minimum rules on the right of suspects to **interpretation and translation**.

Following the expected publication of a Commission Green Paper during the autumn, negotiations will begin on a proposal on the **admissibility of evidence in criminal proceedings**. Similarly, negotiations will also begin on a proposal to make the **accreditation of forensic laboratories** obligatory throughout the EU. With regard to **victims of crime**, the Swedish Presidency will be seeking to adopt Council conclusions identifying further measures to enhance assistance to crime victims. It will also oversee the implementation of the new legal framework for **Europol** and development of the new **Schengen Information System (SIS II)** which facilitates, inter alia, police alerts on missing persons. More generally, a new strategy will be proposed for better **exchange of information** between police and prosecution authorities.

In relation to **civil (including family) law**, during the Czech Presidency the Council agreed on procedures for the negotiation and conclusion of **bilateral agreements** between Member States and third countries concerning conflicts of law issues both in matrimonial cases and contractual/non-contractual cases. In addition, the Council adopted guidelines on a **common frame of reference for European contract law** and work will continue to take this project forward. The Council is also considering the Commission's recent report reviewing the operation of Regulation 44/2001 on the recognition and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters ("**the Brussels I Regulation**") in advance of a future Commission proposal to amend this. Negotiations will also begin on a forthcoming Commission proposal on the cross-border recognition and enforcement of legal decisions in the area of **Succession and Wills**.

On **e-justice**, work continued under the Czech Presidency to implement the recent Action Plan and to establish an e-justice portal by December 2009 which will provide a range of information on EU JHA matters. This will remain the Swedish Presidency's key priority. The Council has also recently adopted a manual to promote the greater use of **video-conferencing** in cross-border cases.

The **fight against terrorism** with an emphasis on radicalisation and recruitment and other serious crime is a priority issue for the Swedish Presidency. There will also be an initiative to strengthen the **European Crime Prevention Network** and to develop an action plan for measures against **chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear threats and risks**.

Turning to **asylum and migration** issues, the Swedish Presidency will continue work to develop a **common asylum system**, a **common resettlement scheme** and the introduction of a **Visa Information System**.

Finally, as regards **External Relations**, the focus will be on developing a strategy for strengthening co-operation with third countries, concerning among other things, migration, human trafficking and the fight against organised crime.



## **EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE**

On education policy, the Swedish Presidency will concentrate on addressing the **professional development of teachers**, holding an informal Council of Education Ministers on the topic. Work will also continue on the **integration of migrants** through the education system.

Increasing the participation of young people will be a theme that cuts across several policy areas during the Swedish Presidency, including discussions on a **framework on new common goals and priorities for youth policy cooperation** in the EU from 2010. Stimulating **creativity among young people** will be the main priority of action in the fields of culture and media.

## **RESEARCH**

The continued development of the **European Research Area (ERA)** is seen by the Commission and the Swedish Presidency as an important contributor to the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs. The Swedish Presidency will propose improved governance mechanisms for overseeing the development of the ERA, while implementation of specific initiatives such as joint programming and European research infrastructures will continue.

The Presidency will place an emphasis on the importance of the knowledge triangle (business, education and research) in stimulating the development of sustainable competitiveness and will submit a contribution to a **European Innovation Plan**.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY**

The Swedish Presidency will place a particular emphasis on strengthening gender equality and improving protection against discrimination, aiming for decisions before the end of the year on the **directive on equal treatment of self-employed women and men** and measures to improve **health and safety in the workplace for workers who are pregnant, have recently given birth or are breastfeeding**. A decision may also be reached on the **directive on the equal treatment** of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

## **HEALTH**

The Swedish Presidency will continue negotiations on a number of public health dossiers which they inherit from the Czech Presidency. The most significant of these include the **directive on patient mobility**, the **pharmaceuticals package**, and a decision on the **development of new antibiotics** in the context of increasing antibiotic resistance. The Presidency will continue work on strengthening cooperation on **eHealth** and introduce coordination and cooperation initiatives to promote **more healthy and dignified ageing**.

There will be a renewed focus on the implementation of the **EU alcohol strategy** for the prevention of alcohol-related harm, with the Commission due to present its first progress report on the implementation of the strategy at national and European level.

The Presidency will also continue to monitor the EU's response to the **influenza A (H1N1) pandemic**. A conference of experts on communicable diseases is planned to discuss possible future measures, building on the Extraordinary Meeting of Health Ministers held by the Czech Presidency in Luxembourg on 30 April which was attended by the Minister for Public Health and Sport.

