

UBC ANTENNA NEWS

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DECISION ON COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME ADOPTED

The Council adopted the 12th of October a decision establishing a competitiveness and innovation framework programme (CIP) for the years 2007 to 2013 accepting all amendments voted by the European Parliament at first reading, under the Council-Parliament codecision procedure. The CIP is designed to contribute to the enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacity in the EU and advancement of the knowledge society and sustainable development based on economic growth, in line with the EU strategy for growth and jobs. It will be complementary to the Community framework programme for research and technological development for 2007-2013. The programme is aimed at: fostering the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); promoting all forms of innovation including eco-innovation; accelerating the development of a sustainable, competitive, innovative and inclusive information society; promoting energy efficiency and new and renewable energy sources in all sectors including transport. The programme will have a budget of nearly 4 milliards euro. 60% of this budget will be spend on enterprises and innovation and 40% on energy and information society.

More information on:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/06/284&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

MARITIME POLICY: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT & THE ERIKA III PACKAGE

The 10 October the European Parliament presented draft reports on the draft directive establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and the proposal for a regulation on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents . The reports do not propose any significant changes to the texts initially tabled by the European Commission in November 2005 in the context of the Erika III package on maritime safety.

The proposal on the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector introduces a new mandatory technical investigation mechanism with a view to drawing lessons from accidents in order to avoid any repetition. The proposal on the liability of carriers of passengers aims to transpose into Community law the Athens Convention of 2002, which provides for compensation in the event of injury, death or loss of baggage on the part of maritime transport passengers.

The reports on these proposals - and the five others that make up the Erika III package - should be adopted by the EP's Transport Committee in February 2007. They will then be submitted to the Council of Ministers in the context of first reading under the co-decision procedure.

SEMINAR: LARGE SCALE INTEGRATION OF WIND ENERGY

Den 7th to 8th of November, 2006, a policy conference on wind energy is held in Brussels. Topics to be discussed include: Policy and business issues relevant to the development of an interconnected grid for Europe, Technical, regulatory and market challenges to integrate more wind power into the European electricity grid, Infrastructure investments and financing System studies, R&D priorities and best practices, Transnational on- and off-shore grids.

More information about the programme and registration on:

<http://www.ewea.org/index.php?id=233>

SEMINAR: TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN EUROPEAN MARITIME ECONOMY

Towards Excellence in European Maritime Economy

On November 22, 2006 the City of Turku and the Regional Council of Southwest Finland, in cooperation with universities in Turku and Åbo, are organizing a seminar, Towards Excellence in European Maritime Economy, in Brussels. Topic to be discussed is Maritime clusters as a key element in promoting the European Union's competitiveness and future maritime policy with special emphasis on research and development, innovation, environment and maritime logistics.

Please, find attached invitation and programme