



Green law group urges more concrete environmental law enforcement

Brussels, Dec 7th 2012

Following the recent release of the 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP), Justice & Environment (J&E) urges the European Commission to be more active and rely more on the expertise of civil society organizations in the implementation of EU environmental law.

Environmental Commissioner Janez Potočnik participated on Dec 5th at the joint EC and Committee of the Regions Conference on “Driving better implementation in our cities and regions – a key element of the 7th Environmental Action Programme” in Brussels. Mr. Potočnik also met the Green 10 - the coalition of the largest environmental NGOs in Brussels today. **[1]**

These meetings discuss amongst others the March 2012 Commission Communication called “Improving the delivery of benefits from EU environment measures: building confidence through better knowledge and responsiveness”. **[2]** The European Parliament is preparing a resolution on the document. **[3]**

J&E highlights the major shortcomings of the Commission Communication and calls for action of the Commission, the Parliament and the Council, such as:

- adopt a legally binding, framework directive on minimum criteria for environmental inspections
- consider the creation of an EU-level institution for monitoring compliance with EU environmental law
- adopt the long stayed and long needed directive on access to environmental justice
- involve civil society more significantly into guaranteeing environmental law implementation in the Member States

J&E believes that these steps are necessary to achieve meaningful law enforcement and the attainment of targets set in the Environmental Action Programmes of the EU.

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Notes to editors:

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/potocnik/media/agenda_en.htm

[2] [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-12-159_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-12-159_en.htm)

[3] <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2012/2104%28INI%29>

Justice and Environment (J&E) is a European Network of Environmental Law Organizations (www.justiceandenvironment.org). J&E covers 12 countries within and outside the European Union and has 13 members that deal with environmental law solely or as one of their activities. J&E aims for a better legislation and implementation of environmental law on the national and European Union (EU) levels to protect the environment, people and nature. J&E does this by enhancing the enforcement of EU legislation through the use of European law and exchange of information on the national, cross-border and wider European levels.

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