



KEY DEVELOPMENTS:

<a href="#">MEP Video Conference</a>	2
<a href="#">Focus on EU Sport Programme</a>	6
<a href="#">Agriculture – Asulox Ban Update</a>	10
<a href="#">Proposed State Aid Exemption for Local Authorities</a>	11
<a href="#">June 2011 Events</a>	13

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

	<a href="#">European Team Developments</a>	2
	<a href="#">Funding Update</a>	3
	<a href="#">Policy Update</a>	7
	<a href="#">External Groups</a>	10
	<a href="#">Current consultations</a>	11
	<a href="#">Training</a>	13
	<a href="#">Events</a>	14
	<a href="#">Contacts &amp; links</a>	15

This newsletter is designed to update readers on developments in European funding and policies, and to report on the work being carried out by the Council's European Team in Aberdeenshire and Europe. The European Team is based in the Economic Development Service of Transportation and Infrastructure.

## European Team Developments

**In this section:**

[Pamela Cruickshank – Employee Achievements  
MEP Video Conference](#)



[Back to Main Index](#)

## Pamela Cruickshank – Employee Achievements

Congratulations to Pamela Cruickshank, Project Support Officer, who won the silver award for Learner of the Year in the Aberdeenshire Council Employee Achievement Awards. This was recognition for Pamela's efforts to undertake the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) qualification in addition to a host of other work and personal commitments.

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

## MEP Video Conference

On 30 March 2011 a video conference was organised for Elected Members on the European Member Officer Working Group to hold discussions with Struan Stevenson MEP and Ian Hudghton MEP. Transport, agriculture and fisheries issues were all discussed, and MEPs were able to provide updates on recent developments at EU level, as well as offering their support to some of the EU funded projects being delivered at a local level. MEPs received a copy of Aberdeenshire Council's Future EU Funding Lobbying Document in advance of the meetings, and were positive about its contents and suggested that it be further distributed. The intention is to continue with these meetings to maintain and develop relations with our MEPs.

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

## Funding Update

### In this section:

[Open Calls for Proposals](#)  
[European Project Themes](#)  
[INTERREG Project Ideas](#)  
[RTPI Success](#)  
[Focus on EU Sport Programme](#)



[Back to Main Index](#)

## Open Calls for Proposals

The table below outlines the current calls and their respective programmes. A link is provided to the fund as well as to the relevant European Team page on Arcadia. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact [the European Team](#).

FUND	CLOSING DATE	EUROPEAN TEAM SITE
<a href="#">Intelligent Energy Europe</a>	12 May 2011	<a href="#">Energy</a>
<a href="#">Future and Emerging Technologies Open Scheme</a>	24 May 2011	<a href="#">Research</a>
<a href="#">MEDIA 2007 - Promotion/Access to Markets</a>	01 June 2011	<a href="#">Audiovisual &amp; Media</a>
<a href="#">Youth In Action</a>	01 June 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">Europe for Citizens Programme - Town twinning</a>	01 June 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">Europe for Citizens Programme - Citizens Projects</a>	01 June 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">Europe for Citizens Programme - Support Measures</a>	01 June 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">ICT Policy Support Programme</a>	01 June 2011	<a href="#">Information Technology</a>
<a href="#">MEDIA 2007 — Development, distribution, promotion and training i2i Audiovisual</a>	06 June 2011	<a href="#">Audiovisual &amp; Media</a>
<a href="#">MEDIA 2007 –</a>	10 June 2011	<a href="#">Audiovisual &amp; Media</a>

<a href="#">Promotion/Access to markets</a>		
<a href="#">Media 2007 — Development, distribution, promotion and training - Support for television broadcasting of European audiovisual works</a>	20 June 2011	<a href="#">Audiovisual &amp; Media</a>
<a href="#">MEDIA 2007 — Support for the Transnational Distribution of European Films — the 'Selective' scheme 2011</a>	01 July 2011	<a href="#">Audiovisual &amp; Media</a>
<a href="#">Life +</a>	15 July 2011	<a href="#">Environment</a>
<a href="#">Preparatory Action in the Field of Sport</a>	29 July 2011	Sport
<a href="#">LEADER - Round 13</a>	02 August 2011	<a href="#">LEADER</a>
<a href="#">Youth In Action</a>	01 September 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">Europe for Citizens Programme - Town twinning</a>	01 September 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">Europe for Citizens Programme - Twinned Town Networking</a>	01 September 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">FP7 Career Integration Grants</a>	06 September 2011	<a href="#">Research</a>
<a href="#">Comenius In-Service Training</a>	16 September 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">Grundtvig In-Service Training</a>	16 September 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">INTERREG IVB North Sea Region</a>	03 October 2011	<a href="#">INTERREG</a>
<a href="#">Transversal Programme - Study Visits</a>	14 October 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>
<a href="#">LEADER - Round 14</a>	25 October 2011	<a href="#">LEADER</a>
<a href="#">Youth In Action</a>	01 November 2011	<a href="#">Education, Training &amp; Youth</a>

## European Project Themes

Potential European projects should fit into one or more of the five European themes adopted at Infrastructure Services Committee on 22 June 2006:

- Innovation
- Self-sufficient and Inclusive Communities
- Sustainable Transport
- Recreational tourism
- Sustainable Energy

If you are considering applying for European funding, please contact [the European Team](#).

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

## INTERREG Project Ideas

The INTERREG programmes have produced information books outlining project ideas that different organisations are working on. Some of these projects are looking for partners. The ideas books can provide links to potential projects that Aberdeenshire Council may have an interest in or help to spark off ideas for other new projects. These idea books for the three INTERREG funds that Aberdeenshire Council is eligible for are available on-line through the following links:

[INTERREG IVB North Sea Region projects idea book](#)  
[INTERREG IVB North West Europe projects idea book](#)  
[INTERREG IVC projects idea book](#)

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

## RTPI Offer of Grant Accepted

Aberdeenshire Council has formally accepted the offer of ERDF grant totalling £191,879 to deliver the Real Time Passenger Information Project, which will make 'real time' public transport information accessible to the public through a variety of electronic tools as well as infrastructure on the ground. The project is being led by the Transport service and will commence from 01 June 2011.

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

## Focus on EU Sport Programme

The EU Sport Programme was created following stakeholder consultation through the 2007 White Paper on Sport. Since 2009 there has been an annual call for proposals. The 2011 call has been launched and documents are available at; [http://ec.europa.eu/sport/preparatory\\_actions/doc1009\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/preparatory_actions/doc1009_en.htm)

The programme will support transnational projects (at least 5 member states represented) put forward by public bodies or not-for-profit organisations which identify and test sustainable networks and good practices in the following two fields;

- 1) *Prevention of and fight against violence and intolerance in sport.* The programme will support actions which enable networking and exchange of good practices between the sport sector, educational institutions, supporters' organisations, NGOs active in this field and local authorities to promote respect of fundamental European values in sport.
- 2) *Promoting innovative approaches to strengthen the organisation of sport in Europe.* The programme will support projects which aim to develop the EU dimension in sport through innovative organisational approaches. Actions will support transnational networking and exchange of good practice while testing approaches to promote good governance in sport organisations reinforcing the capacity building of sport stakeholders.

The programme offers an intervention rate of 80% of eligible costs. Staff costs are eligible however they can only accumulate to 50% of the total project costs. Other eligible costs include; travel and subsistence, equipment, consumables and supplies, subcontracting and there is also a flat rate 7% of total eligible costs which can be claimed for administration costs.

The deadline for submitting applications is 29 July 2011, with successful projects to begin between 1 December 2011 and 31 March 2012. Projects must finish no later than 30 June 2013.

If this programme is of interest to you please contact the [European Team](#).

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

## Policy Update

### In this section:

[Agriculture](#)

[Competition](#)

[Education, Training and Youth](#)

[Employment and Social Affairs](#)

[Environment](#)

[Maritime & Fisheries](#)

[Transport](#)



[Back to Main Index](#)

## Agriculture

### Asulox

A proposal to ban the use of Asulox was withdrawn by the European Commission following objections from six Member States including the UK. It is anticipated that the issue will arise again, but this reprieve will enable a fuller impact assessment to be undertaken and alternative substances to be identified to control bracken growth in the UK.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## Competition

### Local Authorities to Win Exemption from EU State Aid Rules

Early indications are that the European Commission plans to lower the threshold (de minimis) on public procurement rules in order to relieve local authorities from having to file public tenders for small-scale public services. State Aid rules were introduced to prevent unfair distortion of competition.

The Commission is expected to issue a Communication on State Aid Reform in November, with the new relaxed rules likely to come into force from December 2011.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## Education, Training and Youth

### EU Quality Assurance in Vocational Education & Training - EQAVET

A [new website](#) has been launched which provides guidance on how to develop a quality assurance system in vocational education and training. The website demonstrates examples from other member states, and based on their experiences it has provided a four stage development plan which enables vocational education and training providers to building and monitor a system which ensures the quality of the education and training being provided.

<http://www.eqavet.eu/qa/gns/home.aspx>

### UK Parliamentary Report Backs Future EU Funding For education, Culture & Sport

On 27 April 2011 a debate in the House of Lords highlighted the importance to the UK of EU programmes within the Lifelong Learning Programme which support mobility in a number of fields. The UK has noted that it recognises the added value of these programmes to the UK, and hopes that future funding will continue to be made available beyond 2013.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## Employment and Social Affairs

### Youth @ Work – Linking Young People and SMEs

The European Commission has recently launched a new initiative called Youth @ Work. The initiative will see the European Commission support national agencies in all Member States to create links between local SMEs and youths. The ambition is to create demand from SMEs for young people, and to promote working in SMEs to young people. This initiative is one of the first direct actions following the Flagship Initiative “Youth on the Move”.

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## Environment

### New Strategy to Halt Biodiversity Loss in Ten Years

On 3 May 2011 the European Commission published a new strategy which aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. The strategy has the following six main targets;

- Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity
- Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure,

- More sustainable agriculture and forestry,
- Better management of fish stocks,
- Tighter controls on invasive alien species,
- A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.

The full strategy can be viewed at;

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## Maritime & Fisheries

### EU Maritime Day

European Maritime Day is marked on 20 May every year. This year a conference was held in Gdansk, Poland to mark the day. The theme of the conference was “putting people first” and there was a clear focus on discussing the opportunities and challenges currently facing maritime regions and sectors across Europe, including the potential to create jobs in the maritime sector and attract more youths into the sector. More details about the Conference can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/conference/programme\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/conference/programme_en.htm)

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## Transport

### Transport EU White Paper

This White Paper takes a very strategic and long-term view on the future of transport in the EU. Key goals with the paper are set with an implementation date of 2050 and include;

- a reduction in emissions of 60%,
- no more conventionally fuelled cars in cities,
- 40% use of low carbon fuels in aviation,
- Minimum 40% reduction in shipping emissions,
- A 50% shift of medium distance intercity passenger and freight journeys from road to rail and waterborne transport.

The full White Paper can be view at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2011\\_white\\_paper\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2011_white_paper_en.htm)

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

## External Groups

**In this section:**

[Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions \(CPMR\)](#)  
[North Sea Commission \(NSC\)](#)  
[East of Scotland European Consortium \(ESEC\)](#)



[Back to Main Index](#)

### Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

#### CPMR Speaks At European Maritime Day



The CPMR made a number of addresses during the annual European Maritime Days event, held in Gdansk this year. One of the key messages conveyed by the CPMR was the need to ensure that careers in the maritime industry can be supported through improved education, training and working conditions.

[www.cpmr.org](http://www.cpmr.org)

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

### North Sea Commission (NSC)

#### North Sea Commission General Assembly



The Annual North Sea Conference will take place from 21-23 June 2011 in Bruges, Belgium. The Conference will have a focus on future EU cohesion Policy and the development of macro-regional strategies. Councillor Anne Robertson, Belinda Miller and Martin Brebner will be representing Aberdeenshire Council at the Conference.

[northseacommission.org](http://northseacommission.org)

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

### East of Scotland European Consortium

#### Legal Status

ESEC continues to move towards changing the legal status of the organisation to a limited Company. A draft Articles of Association have been drawn up and Members will be asked to review these in the near future.



[www.esec.org.uk](http://www.esec.org.uk)

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

## Current Consultations

THEME	TITLE	CLOSING DATE
Enterprise	<a href="#">Public Consultation on the registration of cars previously registered in another member state</a>	26 May 2011
Employment and Social Affairs	<a href="#">Public Consultation on a possible successor instrument to the EU programme for employment and social solidarity</a>	27 May 2011
Enterprise	<a href="#">Public consultation on a possible Innovation Partnership on raw materials</a>	27 May 2011
Competition	<a href="#">Consultation on best practices for cooperation among EU national competition authorities</a>	27 May 2011
Transport	<a href="#">Consultation on the Strategic Transport Technology Plan (STTP)</a>	28 May 2011
Public health	<a href="#">Smart Regulation of Medicated Feed</a>	30 May 2011
Environment	<a href="#">Hearing on Integrated Coastal Zone Management</a>	30 May 2011
Taxation	<a href="#">Green paper on the future of VAT</a>	31 May 2011
Enterprise	<a href="#">Study on options to fully harmonise EU legislation on fertilising materials including technical feasibility, environmental, social, economic impacts</a>	31 May 2011
Public health	<a href="#">Stakeholder consultation on health security in the European Union</a>	31 May 2011
Youth	<a href="#">Towards the Youth on the Move card; What is needed to increase the mobility and participation of young people in Europe?</a>	04 June 2011
Home Affairs	<a href="#">Public Consultation on the Global Approach to Migration</a>	06 June 2011
Competition	<a href="#">Review of the community guidelines on financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports</a>	07 June 2011
Climate Action	<a href="#">The EU ETS Monitoring and reporting Regulation and EU ETS Accreditation &amp; verification Regulation</a>	10 June 2011
Public Health	<a href="#">Public consultation on an amendment to the "penalties regulation" (no. 658/2007) concerning infringements committed by marketing authorisation holders of medicinal products</a>	10 June 2011
Enterprise	<a href="#">Public consultation on the revision of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive 89/686/EEC</a>	14 June 2011
Enterprise	<a href="#">Public Consultation on the revision of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive 89/686/EEC</a>	14 June 2011

Enterprise	<a href="#">Consultation on the results of the study on the implementation of the Regulation 1435/2003 on the Statute for a European Cooperative society (SCE)</a>	15 June 2011
Justice & Fundamental Rights	<a href="#">Public Consultation on future funding activities in the areas of Justice, fundamental rights and Equality for the period after 2013</a>	15 June 2011
Trade	<a href="#">Public Consultation on the future investment relationship between the EU and China</a>	05 July 2011
Maritime Affairs & Fisheries	<a href="#">Long term management plan for the stock of sole in the Western Channel</a>	08 July 2011
Enterprise	<a href="#">Small Business, Big World – a new partnership to help SMEs seize global opportunities</a>	12 July 2011
Internal Market	<a href="#">The EU corporate Governance framework</a>	22 July 2011
Internal Market	<a href="#">On-line gambling in the Internal Market</a>	31 July 2011
Environment	<a href="#">Consultation on options to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags and improve requirements for biodegradability</a>	09 August 2011
Competition	<a href="#">Revision of the Guidelines on public funding to broadband networks</a>	31 August 2011
Information society	<a href="#">Public Consultation on Cloud Computing</a>	31 August 2011

If you are intending to respond to any of the above consultations please inform the [European Team](#). [Back to Main Index](#)

Training Calendar				
June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
6	7 <a href="#">ERDF &amp; ESF Applications</a>	8 <a href="#">Sources of EU Funding</a>	9	10
13 <a href="#">Leonardo da Vinci</a>	14	15	16	17
20	21 <a href="#">Grundtvig</a>	22	23	24
27	28 <a href="#">ERDF Project Management</a>	29	30	

July				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7 <a href="#">Monitoring &amp; Auditing ERDF</a>	8
11	12 <a href="#">Managing &amp; Recording ERDF</a>	13	14	15
18 <a href="#">Managing ERDF Finances</a>	19 <a href="#">Monitor &amp; Audit ESF</a>	20	21	22
25	26 <a href="#">Managing &amp; Recording ESF</a>	27	28	29
30	31			

[Back to Main Index](#)

## Events Calendar

June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
6 NSC Culture & Tourism	7 NSC Culture & Tourism	8 North Sea Commission - Briefing	9	10
13	14	15 European Member Officer Working Group	16	17
20	21 North Sea Conference	22 North Sea Conference	23 North Sea Conference	24
27	28 NSRAC Executive Committee	29 NSRAC Executive Committee	30	

July				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
30	31			

[Back to Main Index](#)

## Contacts and Links for Further Information

### In This Section:

#### [Aberdeenshire Council European Team](#) [European Institutions & Advisory Bodies](#)



### Aberdeenshire Council European Team

Aberdeenshire Council's European Team is based in the Economic Development Service of Transportation and Infrastructure. For further information on any of the issues addressed in this newsletter or on other European please contact us:

#### **Martin Brebner**

European Services Executive  
01224 665 225

[martin.brebner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:martin.brebner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### **Stuart Bews**

European Officer  
01224 664 754

[stuart.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

#### **Pamela Cruickshank**

Project Support Officer  
01224 664 739

[pamela.cruickshank@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.cruickshank@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Alternatively, information can be obtained from the [Aberdeenshire Council web pages on European Matters](#) or the [European Team pages on Arcadia](#).

### European Institutions & Advisory Bodies

European Commission  
European Parliament  
Council of the European Union  
Committee of the Regions

[www.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)  
[www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)  
[www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)  
[www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)

[Back to Main Index](#)