



KEY DEVELOPMENTS:

<u>EU Maritime Week Conference in Aberdeenshire</u>	2
<u>Focus On Comenius</u>	5
<u>2nd Term Proposed for Commission President</u>	8
<u>Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Website</u>	9
<u>Sustainable Future for Transport</u>	10

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>European Team Developments</u>	2
	<u>Funding Update</u>	3
	<u>Policy Update</u>	7
	<u>External Groups</u>	11
	<u>Current consultations</u>	12
	<u>Training</u>	13
	<u>Events</u>	14
	<u>Contacts & links</u>	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:

[EU Maritime Week Conference in Aberdeenshire](#)
[EU Covenant of Mayors](#)



[Back to Main Index](#)

EU Maritime Week Conference in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire council were the leading force of a partnership to deliver a conference “The Local Dimension to EU Maritime Policy” as part of the EU Maritime Week 2009. The partnership included The North Sea Commission, East of Scotland European Consortium as well as the European Commission’s office in Scotland.

The event was well attended by delegates from a range of sectors and countries and explored how to implement the European Maritime Policy in a way which reflects the needs of stakeholders and coastal communities. The conference concluded that there is a need to develop a North Sea Strategy, to deliver a practical localised delivery project and also to highlight best practice and new initiatives. Presentations from the conference are available from the [North Sea Commission website](#).

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

EU Covenant of Mayors

On 14 May 2009 Infrastructure Services Committee endorsed Aberdeenshire Council becoming a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors initiative. The European Team along with other officers will now draw up a Sustainable Energy Action Plan to complete the application process. This initiative will allow Aberdeenshire Council to transfer good practice with other regions across Europe as well as provide opportunities to influence future policy developments and funding opportunities. For further information on the initiative, please visit:

www.eumayors.eu

[Back to European Team Developments Index](#)

Funding Update

In this section:

[Open Calls for Proposals](#)
[European Project Themes](#)
[INTERREG Project Ideas](#)
[Focus on Comenius](#)



[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](#). Funds in **bold** have been added since the last newsletter.

FUND	CLOSING DATE	EUROPEAN TEAM SITE
LEADER	28 July 2009	Agriculture & Rural Affairs
Support To Video On Demand And Digital Cinema Distribution	15 July 2009	Audiovisual & Media
Support For The Implementation Of Pilot Projects	15 July 2009	Audiovisual & Media
MEDIA 2007 – Development, Distribution, Promotion and Training	7 August 2009	Audiovisual & Media
MEDIA – Promotion of European Audiovisual Works Outside MEDIA Countries	12 August 2009	Audiovisual & Media
MEDIA 2007 – Development, Distribution, Promotion and Training	19 August 2009	Audiovisual & Media
Preparatory Action In The Field Of Sport	31 August 2009	Culture
Erasmus University Charter	30 Jun 2009	Education, Training and Youth
European Qualifications Framework	14 Aug 2009	Education, Training and Youth

European Cooperation in Education and Training	14 Aug 2009	Education, Training and Youth
ICI Education Cooperation Programme	15 September 2009	Education, Training & Youth
Youth In Action – Creativity & Innovation	30 September 2009	Education, Training & Youth
Economic Recovery Programme In The Field of Energy	15 July 2009	Energy
Satellite Accounts For Cooperatives and Mutuels	4 September 2009	Enterprise
Civil Protection Rapid Response Capability	07 August 2009	Environment
Full Scale Exercises, Civil Protection Mechanism	20 August 2009	Environment
LIFE+	15 September 2009	Environment
ICT Policy Support Programme	23 September 2009	Information Society
Protecting Children Using The Internet	19 November 2009	Information Society
FP7 – People – Industrial-Academia Partnerships and Pathways	27 July 2009	Research
Future and Emerging Technologies Open Scheme	24 May 2011	Research
Marie Curie Reintegration Grants (RG)	31 December 2009	Research
Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development (IEF)	18 August 2009	Research
Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships (IIF)	18 August 2009	Research
Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development (IOF)	18 August 2009	Research

<u>Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)</u>	27 July 2009	<u>Research</u>
<u>DG TREN International Road Transport Officers Training</u>	15 September 2009	<u>Transport</u>

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](#).

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 at the following links:

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

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

Focus on Comenius

The Lifelong Learning Programme is a European funding programme which supports education and training across Europe for all ages with different programmes targeting specific age groups. The Comenius Programme is one of the programmes under the Lifelong Learning umbrella. Comenius focuses on providing opportunities through schools and provides funding to support a range of activities. There are various strands to the Comenius programme, which in the UK is managed by the British Council.

International Education is a topic which is of greater importance now than ever before, particularly with the Curriculum Framework looking for greater opportunities to increase contact with citizens across Europe. An International Education Working Group has been established within Aberdeenshire Council to formulate a strategy for developing international education in a strategic manner.

School Partnerships

These can take the form of bilateral or multilateral partnerships.

Bilateral partnerships offer students aged over twelve years the opportunity to become actively involved in a joint project with a European partner institution and include a reciprocal exchange for students.

Multilateral partnerships involve at least three schools or colleges from at least three European countries. Partnerships can focus on themes broadly linked to the pupils' curriculum and interests, and on questions of school management, teaching techniques and methodologies

A handbook for schools has been produced and provides detailed information on the Comenius Programme. This can be accessed at:

http://www.britishcouncil.org/comenius-comenius_handbook-2.pdf

Comenius In-Service Training

Comenius In-Service Training provides staff involved in school education with the opportunity to undertake professional development activity in another European country. There are various means of undertaking in-service training: professional development courses; job shadowing; and the 2 week primary teachers project. In-service training is designed to enhance staff awareness of other cultures and ensure that the exchange of best practice in teaching can be exchanged easily.

Comenius Assistants

Comenius Assistants are intending and trainee teachers who are placed in schools and colleges across Europe. They can help to enhance the European and cultural dimension across the curriculum, as well as offer classes in their native language. Schools in Aberdeenshire may host a Comenius assistant. Assistants are not full time employees, they are only intended to work between 12 and 16 hours per week, and their costs are generally covered by their own national agency.

Comenius Regio Partnerships

Comenius Regio is a new strand which was launched in 2008. Regio Partnerships will promote joint cooperation activities between local and regional education authorities. The partnerships will give educational authorities, in cooperation with schools and other actors in education, the opportunity to work together on topics of mutual interest.

They will help the participating regions to develop and exchange best practice, to develop sustainable cooperation across borders, to strengthen the European dimension in school education and to offer European learning experiences to teachers and pupils and administrators. The main purpose of Regio is not to involve pupils or students directly but to promote the development of structured cooperation between the partner regions.

Participation

Comenius calls for proposals are annual, and the next call is expected in February 2010. Extensive preparation is required prior to submitting an application, therefore any interested parties are asked to contact the European Team as soon as possible to discuss the programme in further detail.

An internal International Education Working group has been established to develop policy and strategy for taking forward international education alongside the new curriculum for excellence framework. This should lead to a coordinated approach to making the best use of these funds in providing greater opportunities through our education system.

[Back to Funding Update Index](#)

Policy Update

In this section:

[Agriculture](#)

[Education, Training and Youth](#)

[Employment and Social Affairs](#)

[Energy](#)

[Enterprise](#)

[Environment](#)

[Fisheries and Maritime Affairs](#)

[Health](#)

[Information Society](#)

[Institutional Affairs](#)

[Research and Innovation](#)

[Transport](#)

[Back to Main Index](#)

Agriculture

Food and Drink Marketing

Proposals to enhance the effectiveness of food and drink marketing schemes have been put forward by the European Commission. In a Communication published on 28 May, the Commission highlighted the need for improved communication between farmers and consumers. Specific suggestions included:

- Extending labelling that identifies the place where agricultural product was farmed;
- Examining the feasibility of laying down specific optional reserved terms for 'product of mountain farming' and 'traditional product'.
- Creating a unique register for all geographical indications (for wines, spirits and agricultural products and foodstuffs) while preserving the specificities of each system.
- Improving the single market for products under labelling schemes, particularly for organic products.
- Improving international protection of geographical indications and contributing to the development of international standards for marketing standards and organic product.
- Developing 'good practice' guidelines for private certification schemes to reduce potential for consumer confusion and to reduce red-tape for farmers.

For further information, please [click here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Education, Training and Youth

Member States Agree to Intensify Cooperation in Education & Training

The European Commission have praised Member States for a joint agreement which will further boost the efforts of joint cooperation in Education across Europe. The adopted strategic framework for cooperation will allow member states to work together on reforming their education and training systems. Within the framework are short term priorities for 2009-2011 as well as long term challenges for the next ten years. For further information, please [click here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Employment and Social Affairs

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The European Commission have launched an information campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of the EHIC. The EHIC is free of charge. It makes it easier for people from the European Union's 27 Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland to access health care services should they fall ill or get injured during a temporary visit abroad. Since its successful introduction in 2004, 173 million people have already been issued with a European Health Insurance Card. Further details can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en>

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Energy

BUILD UP Initiative

The European Commission has recently launched the BUILD UP web portal. This portal is intended to be used as a tool for sharing information on reducing energy use of buildings. Best practice from across Europe will be exchanged over the website and there will be updates on the legislative framework. Essentially the BUILD UP initiative is designed to be used as a tool to improve building performance in the EU.

<http://www.buildup.eu/>

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Enterprise

School Entrepreneurship Education

'Your World, Your Business' is a major new initiative aiming to bring social and environmental issues into school level entrepreneurship education. A joint partnership between the European Commission and Junior Achievement – Young Enterprise, it aims to inspire young people to become creative, dynamic and socially-responsible entrepreneurs. For further information on the initiative, please visit its website:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/yourworldyourbusiness/index_en.htm

Blue Card

The Council of the European Union has adopted a Directive which aims to make it easier for highly-skilled foreign citizens to settle and work in the EU, and for SMEs and other businesses to recruit specialist and highly-skilled staff. The new rules, adopted on 25 May, effectively create a fast-track procedure for the issuing of a special residence and work permit called the EU Blue Card. For further information, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3206&lang=en

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Environment

Call for Evidence on the Economic Consequences of Biodiversity Loss

The European Commission have released a call for evidence on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). Evidence must be presented by the 31 August and will be used as part of a global study launched in 2007 via:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/call_evidence.htm

CO2 Emissions Fall

The European Environment Agency has stated that EU greenhouse gas emissions have fallen for the third consecutive year. The emissions inventory compiled for 2007, the latest year for which complete data is available, shows that EU-15 emissions dropped by 1.6% from 2006 while the economy grew by 2.7 %. The reduction takes EU-15 emissions to 5.0% below their levels in the base year (1990 in most cases), putting the EU-15 well on track to meet its Kyoto Protocol target of reducing emissions in the 2008-2012 period to an average of 8% below the base year level. For further details, please [click here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

Baltic Sea Strategy

A strategy for the Baltic Sea region has been put forward by the European Commission. Part of the EU's Maritime Policy, the initiative is the first time that a comprehensive Strategy, covering several Community policies, is targeted on a 'macro-region'. The four cornerstones of the Strategy are to make the Baltic more:

1. Environmentally sustainable (e.g. reducing pollution in the sea);
2. Prosperous (e.g. promoting innovation in small and medium enterprises);
3. Accessible and attractive (e.g. better transport links);
4. Safe and secure (e.g. improving accident response).

The North Sea Commission is exploring a similar strategy for the North Sea region. For further information on the Baltic Sea Strategy, please [click here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Health

Cross-border Healthcare

The European Parliament has approved plans which will give European Citizens the right to seek healthcare abroad more easily and be reimbursed for the costs. MEPs also want patients to be properly informed about their rights when they are treated outside their member state. Whilst there are already court judgements which made this provision it was argued that legislation was required to ensure compliance and clarity on the implications and requirements for Member States. The main objective of the Directive is to ensure that there are no obstacles which restrict patients from receiving treatment in other Member States. The Directive also clarifies the right for patients to be reimbursed after being treated in another Member State. For further information, please [click here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Information Society

Communication on ICT R&D and Innovation

The Commission has proposed a strategy to establish Europe's industrial and technology leadership in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), making Europe more attractive for ICT investment and skills. Importantly, the EU is supporting their policy objectives with financial support. For example the ICT R&D under the FP7 programme will increase from €1.1bn in 2010 to €1.7bn in 2013. The Communication invites member states to endorse the proposed strategy and to encourage national and local authorities to participate in the preparation of future actions which support the development of the strategy proposed. For further details, please [click here](#).

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Institutional Affairs

2nd Term Proposed for Commission President

The European Council will nominate existing Commission President, Mr. José Manuel Barroso for a second term (2009-2014). The decision, unanimously agreed at the Brussels European Council on 18 and 19 June, will now need to be ratified by the European Parliament. Parliament approval of the Commission is not always straightforward – the Parliament threatened to reject the proposed Commission team in 2004 following the Italian nomination's negativity towards gay and women's rights. For further information, please see:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/108622.pdf

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Research and Innovation

Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Website

The EU's Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Technology Platform has set up a new website to communicate its activities. The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking is a unique public private partnership supporting research, technological development and demonstration activities in fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies in Europe. Its aim is to accelerate the market introduction of these technologies, realising their potential as an instrument in achieving a carbon-lean energy system. The website can be accessed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fch/index_en.cfm

[Back to Policy Update Index](#)

Transport

A Sustainable Future for Transport

The European Commission recently presented its vision for an integrated, technology-led and user-friendly sustainable transport system after 2010. The Communication outlines a vision for the future of transport and mobility until 2020 and is expected to initiate debate on concrete policy options to be outlined in a White Paper next year. Comments on the communication may be sent until 30 September 2009. For further information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009_future_of_transport_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)



General Assembly

This years CPMR General Assembly will take place on 30 September-02 October 2009 in Gothenburg. Members will be asked to endorse the recent Political Bureau recommendation to appoint Eleni Marianou as the new Secretary General for the organisation. A Greek national, Ms. Marianou presently heads the Brussels Office for the South West UK Brussels Office. Aberdeenshire Council will be represented at the meeting.

www.cpmr.org

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

North Sea Commission (NSC)



Joint Annual Conference

The 2009 North Sea Commission/North Sea region Joint Annual Conference takes place from June 23-26 in the Netherlands. Aberdeenshire Council will be represented at the Conference and officers will report to the European Officer Group on the outcomes of the conference. Issue 21 of this newsletter will also provide information on the outcomes of the conference.

northseacommission.org

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

East of Scotland European Consortium



Policy Board 5 June 2009

Guest speakers from the British Council discussed the availability of EU funds to support international education in schools at the most recent ESEC Policy Board in Dundee. A comprehensive report from the secretariat discussed Modern Languages in the Primary School (MLPS) in Scotland. The report highlighted flaws in the current system and discussed areas where improvements are needed.

www.esec.org.uk

[Back to External Groups Index](#)

Current Consultations		
THEME	TITLE	CLOSING DATE
Enterprise	Public Consultation on design as driver of user-centred innovation	26 June 2009
Transport	Driver Training and Traffic Safety Education public consultation	22 June 2009
Consumer Affairs	Follow up to the Green Paper on Consumer Redress	03 July 2009
Energy	State Aid To The Coal Industry	15 July 2009
Competition	State Aid To Broadband Networks	22 June 2009
Consumer Affairs	Implementation Of The New Regulation On Maximum Residue Limits	6 July 2009
Internal Market	European Financial Supervision Consultation	15 July 2009
Internal Market	Consultation On Possible Approach Towards The Revision Of The Recreational Craft Directive 94/25/EC	19 July 2009
Internal Market	Review Of The Directive On Deposit Guarantee Scheme	27 July 2009
Employment & Social Affairs	European Year For Active Ageing & Integrational Society	31 July 2009
Procurement	Second consultation on implementing the EU Remedies Directive	21 Aug 2009
Internal Market	End date for Single Euro Payment Area Migration	3 Aug 2009
Environment	Future EU Emissions Trading System Rules	3 Aug 2009
Information Society	Revised Draft Recommendation on Regulated Access to Next Generation Access Networks	24 July 2009
Energy	Evaluation and Revision of the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency [COM (2006) 545]	15 July 2009
Internal Market	Consultation on the Report of the Expert Group on Credit Histories	31 Aug 2009
Internal Market	Consultation on Responsible Lending and Borrowing in the EU	31 Aug 2009

Training Calendar				
July				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		01	02	03
06 EU Summer Academy	07 EU Summer Academy	08 EU Summer Academy	09 EU Summer Academy	10 EU Summer Academy
13 EU Summer Academy II	14 EU Summer Academy II	15 EU Summer Academy II	16 EU Summer Academy II	17 EU Summer Academy II
20	21	22	23 Sources Of Funding	24
27	28	29	30	31
August				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
03	04 ERDF Training	05 EU Procurement & Commissioning	06	07
10	11	12	13 ESF & ERDF Record Keeping	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

[Back to Main Index](#)

Events Calendar				
July				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		01	02 ESEP Seminar	03
06	07 INTERREG NWE Seminar	08	09 Rural Development Day	10 People & The Sea
13	14	15	16 CPMR Economic Crisis	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31
August				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
03	04	05 European Officer Group	06	07
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24 ESEC Officer Group	25	26	27	28
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

Stuart Bews

European Officer
01224 664 754

stuart.bews@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Pamela Cruickshank

Project Support Officer
01224 664 739

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
www.europarl.europa.eu
www.consilium.europa.eu
www.cor.europa.eu

[Back to Main Index](#)