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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

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[EU Maritime Week Event](#)
[ESEP Rural Development Funding Meeting](#)
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EU Maritime Week Event

The EU Maritime Week event being held in Boddam is now open for registration. The event will take place on 18/19 May and will address the local dimension to EU Maritime Policy. A number of high-level speakers have been secured from the European Commission, Parliament and international organisations such as OSPAR, KIMO, the European Sea Ports Organisation, the Baltic Sea Commission and the European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions. These will be complemented by speakers giving regional perspectives such as Richard Lochhead MSP and Professor Kojimoto from the University of Hirosaki. To view the agenda and to register, please visit: <http://aberdeenshiremaritimeweek.eventbrite.com/>.

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ESEP Rural Development Funding Meeting

Representatives from Aberdeenshire Council and local groups met with representatives from ESEP Ltd. on 15 April to discuss the opportunities for tourism-related projects in the ERDF programme. Following a constructive discussion where a number of project ideas were identified, an internal Council meeting will take place to explore these further. This will take place on 11 May and Council Officers who wish to attend should please [contact the European Team](#).

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European Elections

European elections will take place right across the continent on June 4, to elect representatives for more than 375 million citizens in 27 member states of the European Union for the next 5 years. For further information on the elections and how to vote, please see:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/elections/europeanelections.asp>

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Funding Update

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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.

Calls up to 28 April 2009

FUND	CLOSING DATE	EUROPEAN TEAM SITE
MEDIA 2007 – development, distribution, promoting and training	29 May 2009	Audiovisual and Media
Youth In Action – 3.2, Youth in the world	1 June 2009	Education, Training and Youth
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	29 May 2009	Education, Training and Youth
Intelligent Energy Europe	25 June 2009	Energy
CIP Eco-Innovation	10 Sep 2009	Environment
Civil Protection – Financial Instrument	18 May 2009	Environment
Community Action in Field of Health	20 May 2009	Health
Artemis Joint Undertaking	05 April 2009	Information Society

ENIAC	06 May 2009	Research
FP7 People; Intra-European Fellowships, International Incoming Fellowships, International Outgoing Fellowships	18 August 2009	Research
FP7 People; Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways	27 July 2009	Research
TEN-T	15 May 2009	Transport
Knowledge and Innovation Communities	27 August	N/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](#).

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

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SRDP Review

The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is currently undergoing a review. This will allow the opportunity to take into consideration the economic downturn. However, it also allows for the on-line only application system to be closely looked at. Many applicants have voiced concerns over the complexity of the system, and the review will allow for this to be revisited.

The 5th Regional Proposal Assessment Committee (RPAC) due to be held in June has been postponed. A new date has not yet been set, but as a large proportion of available funding has already been committed, it is possible that no further rounds will be held until the end of 2010.

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

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Comenius

Aberdeenshire Council is looking to increase awareness of the Comenius programme as an opportunity, mainly for Education, Learning and Leisure, to work on projects with schools from across Europe. Comenius aims to develop the knowledge and awareness among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European cultures and languages.

European Officers are planning to host a seminar later this year with a speaker from the programme to discuss the funding available and the types of activity which may be funded. Comenius calls for applications are expected in February 2010, therefore now is the time to start developing potential ideas.

Further information on Comenius can be found on the [European Funding](#) pages of arcadia, or by contacting the European Team.

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Focus on – Intelligent Energy Europe II Programme

The objective of the [Intelligent Energy Europe II](#) programme is to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing funding to support:

- Fostering energy efficiency and rational use of energy resources.
- Promoting new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification.
- Promoting energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.

The projects funded under IEE II are generally designed to trigger market mechanisms or to promote action in line with the programmes objectives.

The Intelligent Energy Programme II is structured into 4 areas:

1. SAVE – Energy efficiency and rational use of energy
2. ALTENER – New and renewable energy resources
3. STEER – Energy in transport
4. Integrated Initiatives

SAVE

There are two priority areas highlighted for the 2009 call:

1. Energy-efficient buildings €12.5m
2. Energy-efficient products €4.5m

ALTENER

There are six priority areas highlighted for the 2009 call.

Renewable energy initiatives broken down into:

1. Renewable electricity €5m
2. Renewable heating and cooling €6m
3. Small scale RE in buildings €4.5m
4. Bio-fuels €3.5m

Local and special initiatives broken down into;

5. Education €2m
6. Sustainable energy communities €7m

STEER

STEER supports initiatives relating to energy aspects of transport, including the diversification of fuels and the more efficient use of energy in transport. There are four priority areas highlighted for the 2009 call:

1. Alternative fuels and Energy efficient vehicles €2m
2. Energy Efficient Transport €7.6m (including schemes to encourage citizens to get out of the car and walk/cycle, eco-driving schemes)
3. Capacity Building in existing agencies €1.2m
4. Energy efficient products €4.5m

Intelligent Energy Europe II offers a wide range of funding opportunities. For further details on these opportunities please visit the European Team [funding pages](#) on arcadia. There is a partner/project search facility which lists current project ideas. This facility can be accessed [here](#).

There is expected to be a seminar in Aberdeen in May on the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. This will be organised by Aberdeen City Council and Scotland Europa. Anybody with an interest in attending should [contact the European Team](#) who will then pass on details once there are made available. The [2009 Call for Proposals](#) closes on 25 June.

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Policy Update

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Agriculture

Less Favoured Areas Update

The European Commission has adopted a [Communication](#) paving the way for a new classification of agricultural areas with natural handicaps (Less Favoured Areas). With the help of scientific experts, the Commission has identified 8 soil and climate criteria as a basis for objectively and clearly classifying such areas. However, before presenting a legislative proposal, the Commission needs more data to assess their feasibility. Therefore, Member States are asked to provide simulations using national data to show how the criteria might work. The new classification system is likely to be in place in 2014; meanwhile the current system remains in force.

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Competition

Handbook Provides Guidelines on State Aid Rules for SME's

An EU handbook which gives a concise overview of the State aid possibilities for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) has been updated. It now includes measures covered by the temporary framework for State aid access to finance measures in the current financial and economic crisis and can be accessed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/sme_handbook.pdf

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Economic and Monetary Affairs

Consumer Market Scoreboard

The European Commission have published a [communication](#) which presents the results of the second edition of the Consumer Markets Scoreboard. The main objective of the Scoreboard is to identify which parts of the internal market are not functioning well for consumers, and what action can be taken to make improvements. Further actions to be undertaken in 2009 are identified as:

- A market study on retail electricity market;
- A chapter which will analyse the problems consumers have when shopping online across borders;
- Communication on enforcement which will set out a global strategy to ensure the effective enforcement of the consumer acquis;
- Development of a regular collection of average prices of comparable consumer products and services by Eurostat and national statistics offices;
- Development of voluntary harmonised methodology to classify consumer complaints;
- Work to develop appropriate indications to measure enforcement and empowerment with national stakeholders.

EU Framework for Investment Funds

The European Commission has proposed a Directive on Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFM). The proposed Directive aims to create a comprehensive and effective regulatory and supervisory framework for AIFM in the European Union. AIFM, which include the managers of hedge funds and private equity funds, managed around €2 trillion in assets at the end of 2008. This is the first attempt in any jurisdiction to create a comprehensive framework for the direct regulation and supervision in the alternative fund industry. The proposal now passes to the European Parliament and Council for consideration. For further information, please [click here](#).

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Education, Training and Youth

A New Era of Youth Policies

The European Commission has adopted a new strategy for youth policy for the next decade. The new strategy acknowledges that young people are among the most vulnerable in society and this cross-sectoral strategy identifies actions required both in the short term and long term. The main objectives of the strategy are to create more opportunities for youth in education and employment; improve access and participation of young people in society; and to foster solidarity between youth and society. Further details of the adopted strategy can be accessed through this [external link](#).

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Employment and Social Affairs

EU Maternity Directive to be voted on in May

Members of the European Parliament Women's Rights Committee have adopted a report which will now be voted on by the full European Parliament at plenary in May. The report proposes that maternity leave is extended to at least 20 weeks. This change would not affect the UK, although other Member States may be affected by this change. Of more significance is the proposal to require that 100% of salary be paid for the first six weeks of maternity leave, with at least 85% of salary being paid for the remaining period of leave (at least another 14 weeks).

The UK Statutory Maternity Leave at present ensures that employees, subject to certain conditions, receive 90% of annual gross weekly earnings for the first six weeks. For the remaining 33 weeks employees are entitled to receive the lower of 90% of average gross weekly earnings or £123.06. The UK Statutory Maternity Leave and Aberdeenshire Council's Maternity Policy may require to be revised if the Parliament votes in favour of the proposal, to ensure that the first 6 weeks of maternity leave is paid at 100%. For further information, please [click here](#).

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Energy

Energy Markets Liberalisation

The European Parliament has endorsed an agreement reached by the EU Institutions which aims to liberalise the EU energy market. At present large firms hold a monopoly over the EU energy market, controlling the production and transmission of energy to consumers. It has been argued that this prevents smaller companies from accessing the grid and preventing competition in the market which would provide lower prices for consumers. The measures agreed are designed to open up the market to ensure that smaller energy companies can access the grid, which will support the EU's target of 20% of energy coming from a renewable sources by 2020. Further details can be [accessed here](#).

Directive on Energy-Efficient Products

The European Parliament has adopted a proposal to revise the Ecodesign Directive. Existing legislation already allows the setting of compulsory minimum ecodesign requirements for energy-using products. This is set to be extended to include products which do not consume energy during use but have an indirect impact on energy consumption. If industry fails to act voluntarily, it will now be possible to set such standards for all energy related products including products which have a significant indirect impact on energy consumption during use, such as water-using devices and windows. For further information, please [click here](#).

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Enterprise

SME Week

The first European week dedicated to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) will take place from 6 to 14 May 2009. The aim of the campaign is to promote entrepreneurship across Europe and inform businesses about support available to them at the European, national and local level. [European SME Week](#) will act as a banner for a range of events across the continent. In addition, the [Aberdeenshire Council website](#) has recently been updated to highlight European opportunities for Aberdeenshire businesses. These include dedicated support services from Enterprise Europe network and access to finance.

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Environment

White Paper Climate Change

On 1 April 2009 the European Commission published the long-awaited [White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change](#). This paper outlines the framework which the EC propose to implement by 2013 in order to make adaptations to deal with the effects of Climate Change and lay the foundations to make serious efforts to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020. The paper has wide implications on many key EU policies and a report will be presented to the next European Officer Group to detail these implications.

It is also worth bearing in mind that although the EU has already set targets through the [Climate Change and Energy package](#), these targets may be further increased if international agreement can be reached at the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009. Any changes to the CO2 emissions reductions targets will not affect the framework proposed in the White Paper. More information on this conference can be accessed at: <http://en.cop15.dk/frontpage>

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Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

Green Paper – Common Fisheries Policy

The European Commission has set out its vision for a competitive and sustainable fisheries sector by 2020 through a [Green Paper on reforming the Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP). This will be open for consultation until the end of the year. The Green Paper recognises that the CFP has failed in its objectives to achieve a sustainable fisheries system and explores how best to achieve this by 2020. Over capacity, over-centralisation of the CFP and low profitability are identified as key issues which need to be overcome.

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Information Society

ICT for Energy Efficiency

On 12 March 2009 the European Commission published its [Communication on Mobilising Information and Communication Technologies to Facilitate the Transition to An Energy Efficient, Low Carbon economy](#). This Communication identifies the role of ICT in reducing carbon emissions, and also the need for ICT services to become more energy efficient themselves. Following the communication is a consultation, open until 14 June.

After the summer recess, a recommendation is likely to be adopted by the Commission which will set out tasks, targets and timelines, for industry stakeholders and Member States to accelerate progress towards these ends.

European Parliament Votes for Reduced Mobile Roaming Charges

As of July 2009 using a mobile phone when travelling within the EU will become significantly cheaper. The European Parliament voted to cap the rates which operators can charge citizens. The move means that sending a text message will cost no more than 11 cents, compared to current costs of 28 cents. Making and receiving phone calls will also be reduced each year for the next three years. For further information, please [click here](#).

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Transport

Directive – Public Authorities to use environmentally friendly vehicles

The Council of Ministers have adopted [a new Directive](#) promoting clean and energy efficient vehicles to be used by Local Authorities. The Directive requires that energy and environmental impacts linked to the operation of vehicles over their whole lifetime are taken into account in purchase decisions.

These lifetime impacts of vehicles shall include at least energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and emissions of the regulated pollutants of NO_x (nitrogen oxide), NMHC (non-methane hydrocarbons) and particulate matter. Purchasers may also consider other environmental impacts. Aberdeenshire Council recently purchased a Skoda Superb Greenline as its civic car, a move welcomed by many due to its high fuel economy and low CO₂ emission levels.

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External Groups

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



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Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

CPMR Political Bureau



The next meeting of the CPMR Political Bureau will take place in Odessa, Ukraine on 12 June 2009. The main item on the agenda will be the selection of a new Secretary General. The Political Bureau will choose and nominate a candidate for this position to the General Assembly, which will take place in Gothenburg from 30 September to 2 October 2009. Other key policies up for discussion will be climate change, the financial crisis and the Common Fisheries Policy. For further information on the Political Bureau agenda, please [click here](#).

www.cpmr.org

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North Sea Commission (NSC)

Executive Committee



The 50th NSC Executive Committee was held in Kristiansand, Norway on 27 March 2009. The meeting focused on preparations for the next [General Assembly](#) (the Netherlands, 23-26 June); a comprehensive response from the Transport Group to the EU consultation on Trans-European Transport Networks; and Maritime Policy (including the proposed Maritime Spatial Planning Pilot Project and Aberdeenshire Maritime Event). Further information on the meeting is available [through this link](#).

northseacommission.org

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East of Scotland European Consortium



EU Funds Discussed in Stirling

The ESEC Officer Group met in Stirling on Monday 27th April. The group discussed the possibility of lobbying the Scottish Government to take a more strategic approach to Comenius and e-twinning, as already done in England. The item will be further discussed once a draft paper has been written. The recently launched Covenant of Mayors initiative was also discussed. ESEC are looking for all members to sign up to the Covenant to demonstrate a strong commitment to CO2 reductions from the East of Scotland. The ongoing complexity of SRDP was discussed and ESEC will look to discover the likely implications from the current review of the SRDP programme. The next Policy Board will take place in Dundee on 5 June 2009.

www.esec.org.uk

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Current Consultations		
THEME	TITLE	CLOSING DATE
Agriculture and Rural Development	Consultation on the Transposition of the Priority Substances Directive 2008/105/E C and the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC	19 Jun 2009
Agriculture and Rural Development	Commission Proposal to Replace Directive 93/119 with a Regulation on the Protection of Animals at the time of Killing	22 May 2009
Agriculture and Rural Development	Control of Potato Cyst Nematodes: Consultation on the Implementation in Scotland of Directive 2007/33/EC	29 May 2009
Agriculture and Rural Development	Transposition of Council Directive 2007/43/EC on the Welfare of Meat Chickens	15 May 2009
Agriculture and Rural Development	The Common Agricultural Policy Health Check in Scotland.	15 Jun 2009
Culture	European Heritage Label	15 May 2009
Environment	Dismantling of Ships Initiative	06 Jun 2009
Environment	Preparing for a Changing Climate: Second Consultation to inform Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework	20 Jul 2009
Information Society	ICT For Low Carbon society	14 Jun 2009
Internal Market	Consultation on a possible statute for a European Foundation	15 May 2009
Internal Market	Harmonisation of Securities Law	11 Jun 2009
Internal Market	Call For Evidence on Market Abuse Directive (Directive 2003/6/EC)	10 Jun 2009
Maritime & Fisheries	Consultation on the Baltic Salmon management plan	01 May 2009
Maritime & Fisheries	EMODNET – building a European marine knowledge infrastructure	2 June 2009
Maritime & Fisheries	Green Paper Consultation on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy	31 Dec 2009
Media	Review of the Commission's 2001 Broadcasting Communication	8 May 2009
Regional Policy	A new strategy for sustainable development – The Lisbon Strategy after 2010	15 May 2009
Transport	Consultation on the EU Green Paper TEN-T	30 Apr 2009

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

Training Calendar				
May				
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4	5 Intro. To ERDF Funding	6	7	8
11	12 EU Funding - Comenius	13	14 ESF/ERDF Sustainability Strategies	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27 INTERREG Project Development	28 INTERREG Project Development	29 INTERREG Project Development

June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
8	9 ESF/ERDF Project monitoring & Auditing	10	11 Good Practice in Project Design & bid writing	12
15	16 State Aid Within Structural Funds	17	18	19
22	23 Managing LEADER Projects	24	25	26
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Events Calendar				
May				
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11 EU SME Week	12	13 Small Business Act for Europe	14 Infra. Services Committee	15
18 Maritime Week Event	19 Maritime Week Event	20	21	22
25	26 Sustainable Development, Challenge for Research	27 Maritime conference	28 Maritime conference	29

June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4 EU Elections	5
8	9	10	11	12 CPMR Political Bureau
15	16	17	18	19
22	23 NSC/NSR Conference	24 NSC/NSR Conference	25 NSC/NSR Conference	26 NSC/NSR Conference
29	30			

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Contacts and Links for Further Information

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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:

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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

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