



**Agriculture ■ Rural Development ■ Environment**

➤ N°.4 ■ May/June 2012 ■ Newsletter of the NAT Section ■ [www.eesc.europa.eu/nat](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/nat)

**ADOPTED OPINIONS  
MAY 2012**

Opinions that were adopted on the  
11 May NAT Section meeting

■ **Priority substances in the field of water policy**

List of priority substances (PS) in the field of water policy, i.e. the chemicals identified among those presenting a significant risk to or via the aquatic environment.

➤ <http://bit.ly/NV0rle>

■ **Movement of pet animals**

Animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals.

➤ <http://bit.ly/LbIViC>

■ **The 2011 monitoring report on the EU's sustainable development strategy: the EESC evaluation**

This year's Eurostat monitoring report provides an opportunity to examine the ten topics which embody the key challenges of the European sustainable development strategy.

➤ <http://bit.ly/NHeGML>

■ **Protection and welfare of animals**

About the communication of the Commission to set out guidelines for advancing the EU's animal welfare policy (EUPAW), in continuation of the 2006-2010 Action Plan.

➤ <http://bit.ly/MaYCAR>

■ **Portable batteries and accumulators**

Placing on the market of portable batteries and accumulators containing cadmium intended for use in cordless power Tools.

➤ <http://bit.ly/MRNcrq>

■ **Measures against countries allowing non-sustainable fishing**

Measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks.

➤ <http://bit.ly/LbmloZ>

**YOUR EUROPE YOUR SAY 2012**  
Youth opinion on Sustainable Development



On 26-28 April 2012, student and teachers from all over Europe **simulated a plenary session debate of the Committee**, at our Brussels headquarters.

This year they had the opportunity to discuss and amend the opinion NAT/542 on the **EESC position on the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**. Final text approved by students is enshrined in the youth version of the opinion.

■ **Youth version of the opinion NAT/542**

➤ <http://bit.ly/LS90if>

■ **Your Europe, Your Say (official website)**

➤ <http://bit.ly/nCcmwe>

**PLENARY SESSION**

Find the summary of the opinions adopted during the last plenary session:

➤ <http://bit.ly/Hlwm0C>

**INTERVIEWS**

Check out our previous interviews on the life programme, food distribution:

➤ <http://bit.ly/GZXK4s>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2 MAY 2012

### CONFERENCE

Think Green! The Opportunities of Sustainable Development and of the Green Economy

➤ <http://bit.ly/HWKmP1>

3 MAY 2012

### SDO MEETING

Interactive session on Global sustainable development scenarios (with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development)

3-5 MAY 2012

### CONFERENCE (JURMALA- KAUNAS)

Latvian/Lithuanian Conference on implications of CAP inequality

➤ <http://bit.ly/Jw2F8t>

11 MAY 2012

### PUBLIC HEARING

Role of women in agriculture and rural areas

➤ <http://bit.ly/KXBSE3>

12 MAY 2012

### EESC OPEN DOORS DAY

Special focus: Green Europe & Rio+20

➤ <http://europa.eu/festivalofeurope/>

6 JUNE 2012

### PUBLIC HEARING

Social Farming

➤ <http://bit.ly/JZBLuW>

19-20 JUNE 2012

### RIO CONFERENCE

EESC side events

➤ <http://bit.ly/N0gcle>

26 JUNE 2012

### MEETING OF THE NAT SECTION

5 JULY 2012

### PUBLIC SDO MEETING

Bringing Rio Home - Rio+20 Debriefing Session

➤ <http://bit.ly/NjfQfp>

## PAST EVENTS

24 APR 2012

### CONFERENCE

Cooperatives practices in food chain (in partnership with COGECA and EUROCOOP)

➤ <http://bit.ly/GX7dFc>

The NAT Section on the EESC-website

➤ <http://eesc.europa.eu/nat>

## DOCUMENTS & INFOS

▪ **Sustainable development and green economy: taking the initiative at local level**

➤ <http://bit.ly/LEWDLa>

▪ **European Court of Auditors**, Opinion No 1/2012 on certain proposals for regulations relating to the common agricultural policy for the period 2014-2020

➤ <http://bit.ly/LbapPq>

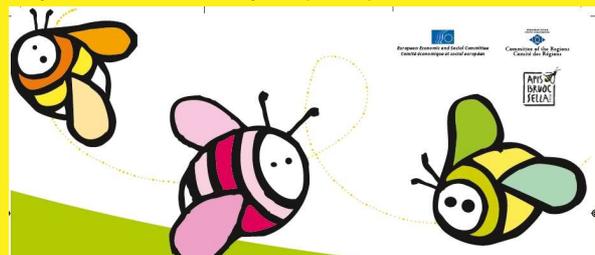
## WELCOME TO THE BEES

In May 2012, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee the Regions placed two beehives on the roof of their shared building, thus becoming the first EU institution in Brussels to join the growing urban beekeeping movement.

The project of the Committees will support urban biodiversity while raising awareness about the global importance of pollinators for our environment and food security.

**Bees pollinate over 80% of the Earth's flowering plants, including almost all fruit and vegetables. In the last few decades, bees have been declining across the globe at unprecedented rates.** Paradoxically, urban bees seem to be doing better than bees in the countryside today. They are healthier and even produce more honey, gathering pollen and nectar from flowering plants in city parks, gardens and balconies.

The EESC/CoR beehives were officially inaugurated on 31 May in the presence of representatives from the EU institutions, the Belgian federal government, various organisations and journalists. In his address on the occasion, EESC President Nilsson called for enhanced efforts to understand and address the root causes of pollinator decline. The EESC Secretary General Martin Westlake harvested the first comb of honey which was tasted by the participants in the event.



## EESC OPINION ON CAP

EESC determined to defend the European agricultural model.

At its April plenary session, the EESC endorsed an opinion on the "CAP towards 2020". The EESC, which counts farmers among its members, calls for sufficient financial resources, a bridging of the gap between Member States, more flexibility between pillars and a strengthening of the position of producer organisations and cooperatives.

➤ <http://bit.ly/IVhAtt>

To contact us by e-mail

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