

**Management Board recommendations to the European Commission, Parliament
and Council regarding the Technopolis report
on the evaluation of the European Environment Agency (EEA)**

The Management Board of the European Environment Agency,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1210/90 of 7 May 1990 on the establishment of the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation network as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1641/2003,
 - having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 24 April 2007 with observations forming an integral part of the decision on the discharge for the implementation of the budget of the European Environment Agency for the financial year 2005 (C6-0391/2006 – 2006/2158(DEC)),
 - having particular regard to the European Parliament's request expressed in the aforementioned resolution
 - o "that, before 1 January 2010 and every five years thereafter, the Agency commission an independent external evaluation of its achievements on the basis of its founding Regulation and the work programmes decided by the Management Board"
 - o "that the evaluation assess the working practices and the impact of the Agency and take into account the views of the stakeholders, at both Community and national level"
 - o "that the Management Board of the Agency examine the conclusions of the evaluation and draft such recommendations to the Commission and Parliament as may be necessary regarding changes in the Agency, its working practices and programmes"
 - o "that the evaluation and the recommendations to the Commission and Parliament be made public, for example on their websites"
 - o "that the funds needed to carry out the external evaluation shall be allocated through the budget of the corresponding DG",
1. acknowledges that the EEA swiftly commissioned an independent external evaluation by Technopolis of its achievements on the basis of its founding Regulation and the work programmes decided by the Management Board in order to inform the preparation of the EEA multi-annual work programme 2009-2013;
 2. notes that the funds needed to carry out the evaluation were not allocated through the budget of the corresponding DG Environment but rather were redirected from existing EEA funds;

3. acknowledges that the evaluation assessed the working practices and the impact of the Agency, taking into account the views of the stakeholders, at both Community and national level in accordance with its terms of reference;
4. has consulted the EEA senior management on its response to the recommendations of Technopolis;
5. examined, at the Management Board seminar and meeting 25 and 26 November 2008, the final conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation with regard to five clusters of management issues:
 - prioritisation of resources
 - governance
 - strengthening the client perspective
 - internal communication
 - staff development.
6. endorses the opinion of the independent, external evaluators that “*the Agency ... is the most efficient way to deliver the products and services required by the stakeholders*” and agrees that “*it is difficult to see how the role of the Agency, and in particular the provision of impartial and reliable information, could be performed through any of the possible other mechanisms available for European organisations*”;
7. is of the view that the recommendations for improvement made by the independent, external evaluators have been addressed through the preparation of the EEA's multi-annual work programme 2009-13 and through the reorganisation of the European Environment Agency which took effect on 1 January 2009;
8. recommends that the next independent external evaluation of the EEA's achievements shall be carried out, as requested by the European Parliament, by 2013 in time for the next multi-annual work programme, subject to funding allocated through the budget of the corresponding DG;
9. recommends to the European Commission, Parliament and Council to take note of the evaluation and the MB's view on it, especially on the key statement that the EEA is the most efficient way to deliver impartial and reliable information;
10. requests the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency to publish the evaluation and the recommendations of the Management Board to the Commission, Parliament and Council and any possible responses of them on the EEA's website.