



ITEM 03
41st Scientific Committee
Doc. EEA/SC/41/03
17 January 2008

Source: Executive Director / Communications and Corporate Affairs

Subject: Draft minutes of 40th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 05 October 2007

FOR DECISION

To approve the minutes of the 40th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee. The comments provided by the members on the first draft of the minutes have been included in the present draft.

A. PARTICIPANTS – see the list in annexes under item E

Iveta Aizbalte from DG Research, Ahmet Saatçi from Marmara University, Pamela Kennedy from JRC and Ludo Holsbeek, EP nominee to the MB attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Juan Martinez-Alier and Christian Heidorn from Eurostat.

B. AGENDA – see annexes under item E

The tabled documents were acknowledged under the respective agenda items throughout the meeting (listed in annex 1 under item E).

C. PROCEEDINGS

Friday, 5 October 2007, EEA

Item 1. Discussions with EEA scientific staff on the AMP 2008

The SC members met with EEA experts to discuss in depth the proposed work programme for 2008 and the Agency's work in the thematic areas covered by the individual SC members. The follow-up of these meetings was taken during the discussion on the AMP for 2008 and the committee's opinion thereupon.

Item 2. Welcome by the Scientific Committee Chairman, Prof. L.Somlyody

The Chairman welcomed the members to the SC meeting and passed on apologies on behalf of the members, who were unable to be present (see the Attendance list in annex 2). He informed the committee that two SC members – David Briggs and Daniel Cossa had decided to step down from the committee. He thanked their contribution to SC work.

Item 3. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted with one additional item on the ETC process to be taken after the Executive Director's update (final version annexed to the minutes).

Item 4. Approval of minutes of the 39th Scientific Committee, 16 May 2007

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 39th meeting held on 16 May (final version of Doc. EEA/SC/39/03 available on CIRCA).

Item 5. SC opinion on the Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2008

The Executive Director launched the discussion by presenting some start-up projects for 2008 that could possibly be undertaken depending on the budget discussions on the proposed €2 million uplift in the budget for next year. The potential start-ups would target the following areas: establishing the framework for a global citizen observatory for climate change and biodiversity in conjunction with UNEP and other partners; supporting the proposed Potsdam initiative on biodiversity; looking at early warning signals of desertification through a droughts observatory; strengthening the work on Horizon 2020 and on the Arctic region; as well as tackling underpinning analytical frameworks in global assessments.

In the following discussion, the SC members supported the above proposals and raised a number of issues that had been incorporated in the opinion on the work programme 2008. They recognised the fact that many of the comments made during the consultation phase had been taken on board and that the AMP2008 would complete the current EEA Strategy. The members underlined the importance of taking forward the cooperation within the 'Group of Four' with a clear division of responsibilities for the different thematic areas.

Among the other key points emphasised were: the greater involvement of the scientific community and utilisation of results from research activities in EEA work, better reflection of the work on soils, methodology development needs in respect to the proposed Potsdam initiative, further support to the European Neighbourhood Policy objectives, and continuation of the foresight analysis and policy evaluations.

Recommendation: To draft a SC opinion on the AMP2008 based on the discussions at the meeting and to finalise it within the coming weeks as an input to the Management Board for its November meeting.

Item 6. Wrap-up of the May discussion on the SC role

Following earlier discussions on the SC role, the Chairman informed the members that the draft paper had been presented to the Bureau and the Management Board. In view of the upcoming transformation of the committee next year, the agreed SC role should be taken forward by those members remaining on the committee beyond 2008.

Reflecting on the remarks that the Agency should strengthen its research capacities, the Executive Director reiterated that EEA was commissioning specific research in various ways, amongst which was the collaboration with ETCs and other partner organisations working with EEA, representation on the advisory boards of a number of framework programmes and the provision to support visiting scientists. The SC members agreed with the Executive Director that the research component foreseen is most likely to build on basic research developments to further their application in the Agency's applied work, including closer relationship with ongoing research and data collections efforts.

With regard to the upcoming major change of the number of SC experts in 2008, the Chairman proposed to look into possibilities for ensuring a smooth transition with no more than 1/3 replacement of members on the committee in future.

Recommendation: To propose to the Management Board renewal of terms of office for three SC members, coming to the end of their first term in November 2007.

Item 7. Update by the Executive Director, Prof. J. McGlade

In addition to the written update with work programme progress report and following on the earlier discussion on the AMP2008, the Executive Director informed the SC members on the following issues:

- New staff recruited over the past 6 months and the topic areas covered. The new call for national experts (ENDs) was currently ongoing;
- Events and publications produced in the period May-September 2007, with special focus on the Belgrade report that would be launched in the next days;
- Preparations for the next multi-annual Strategy and MB Seminar in November.

With regard to Agency's involvement in global assessments such as the GEO4 report, the SC members said it was crucial that EEA pursues a "bottom-up approach" and safeguards the European dimension. Moreover, the Executive Director said that the Agency was aiming to have more content related responses to work by other organisations, which could give more visibility to EEA products. As regards the Late Lessons – volume 2, the committee was informed about the intention to split its production in two volumes, focusing on health cases, on one hand, and environmental and ecological studies, on another.

Item 8. Update on the ETC process

The SC members involved in the review committees of topics covered by the thematic areas of biological diversity and resource and waste management gave feedback to the committee on the conclusions. They identified a trend towards moving away from pure data to methodologies and addressing emerging issues, as well as towards more policy effectiveness work.

With regard to the meeting with the ETC Managers held the day before, the SC Chairman reflected that it had been very useful. He reiterated the differences in ETCs' functioning and said it would be of added value in future to have separate meetings, seminars, etc with the ETC leaders to discuss in-depth each topic. He also raised the point that the ETCs could try to generate more interest in their work and look into possibilities to make accessible datasets and databases to scientific communities.

Recommendation: To consider organising back-to-back to the SC meetings one-day seminars on the ETCs thematic areas.

Item 9. SC input into the development of the EEA strategy 2009-13

The Executive Director informed the committee that internal discussions focusing on different elements of the next Strategy were held over the summer. Thematic areas of crosscutting nature were being considered for further discussions.

The Chairman said that the committee decided to contribute to the Strategy development already at this stage and that a draft SC opinion was under discussion. The SC members agreed to present it in advance of the MB Seminar which would focus on the next EEA Strategy. The committee stressed specifically one point to do with the strengthening the research component in Agency's work.

The Executive Director said that SC input will be fed into the preparation of the MB Seminar in November and that the SC members will be invited to participate.

Recommendation: (1) SC to produce a draft opinion on the priorities of next EEA Strategy by end October; (2) SC members to consider to which theme of the MB Seminar they would like to contribute and possibly to facilitate the discussions.

Item 10. Follow-up from the Research foresight workshop on 14-15 May. SC input to the Bridging the Gap Conference 2008

Ingvar Andersson (EEA) informed the committee that the consultants report from the May workshop together with the documentation collected had been made available on CIRCA. The value of making assessments and scenario-driven research was highlighted. A proposal for a joint venture between EEA Scientific Committee and FP7 Environment/climate advisory group was also presented. The Executive Director informed the members that on 24 October DG Research was organising a conference addressing the European research on economic incentives and social behaviour, with a special focus on the demand and social sides of the energy and climate change debate. She invited interested SC members to take part in the conference and explore links to FP7 activities.

David Stanners (EEA) updated the committee on the state-of-play on the preparations for the 'Bridging the Gap' Conference. The working title was 'Responding to environmental change', which would focus on exploring the gap in the policies implementation and governance. The proposal was to make it a participatory conference involving various partners and aiming to develop dialogue and problem solving. Five themes were currently under discussion for the programme with series of common questions to be addressed under each individual theme. The formal papers would be produced by Slovenian partners in the coming month and published on the web.

D. Stanners (EEA) put forward two proposals to the SC members:

- To feed into the conference the findings of the research foresight activity. This could be done through the mentioned joint venture between the EEA Scientific Committee and FP7 Environment/climate advisory group, thereby filling the gap between policy-driven (FP7) and science-driven (ERC): with assessment driven research.
- Foresight could be a side-event and the SC members could bring messages into the conference through participation in the various themes.

The SC members discussed the set-up and possible outcome of the conference and agreed to form a small sub-committee (composed of P. Laconte, F. Lobnik and A. Berger) to follow the BtG developments and contribute with ideas. At the same time they stressed that preparation seemed to be beyond schedule.

Item 11. Round table on proposed topics, seminars and lectures for SC meetings in 2008

The Chairman reminded the committee that many good proposals have been put on the table in previous meetings. In advance of the next meeting, he asked for an overview of the topics proposed in order to decide on the seminar plan for 2008.

Recommendation: Theo Vermeire together with the SC Secretariat to prepare an overview of the topic put forward at previous SC meetings.

Item 12. Any other business

H. Haberl informed the committee about possible interaction with Michael Mirtl, Chair LTER-Europe; to that end, a memo on the state of art of Long-term Ecosystem Research (LTER-process) in Europe was tabled, and those SC members interested were invited to contact M.Mirtl.

The Executive Director announced that the Agency would be open to the public during the Copenhagen 'Culture night' on 12 October. The topic would be climate change with a special exhibition of images from the Arctic.

The Scientific Committee also took note of the recent EEA comments on fire fights and mobile phones magnetic frequencies. *Inter alia*, the latter would underline the importance of continuing work on the precautionary principle.

The meeting closed at 16:45.

ACTION LIST – 40th Scientific Committee, 05 October 2007

Item	Action	Status 28 November 2007
4	To upload the final version of 39 th SC minutes on CIRCA and the web	Done
5	To finalise the SC opinion on AMP 2008 and to include it in the mailing for MB with the work programme	Done - SC opinion finalised through written procedure on 22 October
6	To look into possibilities to have a smooth transition of SC memberships with replacement of no more than 2/3 of the members in future	On the agenda of the 41 st SC meeting in February 2008
8	To consider organising topic seminars with the ETC Managers	To follow up for through the SC Seminars in 2008
9	To produce a working opinion on the next Strategy priorities in advance of the MB Seminar on 20 November	Working opinion produced by the SC – to be forwarded to MB in advance of the Seminar
9	SC members to consider participation and facilitation of discussions in the different themes at the MB Seminar	Ongoing
10	SC sub-committee (represented by P. Laconte, F. Lobnik and A. Berger) to follow the preparations of the BtG and contribute with ideas	Ongoing
11	To prepare an overview of the topic put forward at previous SC meetings in order to decide on seminars' plan 2008	Ongoing

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agenda of the 40th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 40th SC meeting, 5 October 2007

**Annex 1 - Agenda of the 40th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
04-05 October 2007**

Doc. EEA/SC/40/03rev2

Thursday 4 October, 14:30-17:30, Kongens Nytorv 28, room 28.2.2

Meeting between the SC members, ETC managers and EEA ETCs managers

1. General presentation of the five ETCs: working practices, partners in the consortia, data collection and QA, research activities, reporting to EEA and ETCs support to the delivery of EEA work programme
2. Possible interaction with the SC members
3. Q&A session

19:00 Dinner – SC members and ETC managers (EEA canteen)

Friday, 05 October 2007, 09:00-17:00, EEA Conference Room

- 09:00 1. Discussions with EEA scientific staff on the AMP 2008 work programme and the Agency's work in different thematic areas, covered by the respective SC members
- 10:30 2. Welcome by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee
- 10:35 3. Adoption of the draft agenda
- 10:40 4. Approval of minutes of the 39th Scientific Committee 16 May 2007
- 10:50 5. SC opinion on the Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2008
- 12:00 *Lunch*
- 13:30 6. Wrap-up of the May discussion on the SC role
- 13:45 7. Update by the Executive Director, Prof.J.McGlade
- Latest scientific developments in EEA work
 - Feedback from the MB discussions of 20 June, incl. role of the SC and selection of new SC members under 2008 call
 - ETC review process 2007-2008
 - Effectiveness evaluation work
- 14:15 8. Update on the ETC process
- 14:25 9. SC input into the development of the EEA strategy 2009-13– towards an opinion of the committee
- 15:15 10. Report of the consultants and follow-up from the workshop on 'Research foresight for Environment and Sustainability' held on 14-15 May. SC input to the Bridging the Gap Conference 2008
- 16:00 11. Round table on proposed topics, seminars and lectures for SC meetings in 2008
- 16:30 12. Any other business
- 17:00 *Close of meeting*

Tabled documents:

- Item 10: Foresight Study - Overview of the literature analysis
- Item 12: Note on State of the art of LTER-process in Europe

**Annex 2 – Attendance list
EEA 40th Scientific Committee meeting, 05 October 2007, Copenhagen**

NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
SC members		
Teresa ANDRESEN	Departamento de Botânica Faculdade de Ciências- Universidade do Porto	Signed
André BERGER	Institut d'astronomie et de Géophysique G Lemaître, Université Catholique de Louvain	Signed
Marc BONAZOUNTAS	Epsilon International SA	Signed
Pierluigi COCCO	Department of Public Health, University of Cagliari	Signed
Yves DESAUBIES	IFREMER	Signed
Helmut HABERL	Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities	Signed
Ulrike KASTRUP	SBB – Swiss Federal Railways	Signed
Manfred KLEEMANN	Research Centre Jülich	Signed
Pierre LACONTE	Foundation for the Urban Environment	Signed
Franc LOBNIK	Biotechnical Faculty, Center for Soil and Environmental Sciences	Signed
Juan MARTINEZ-ALIER	Department of Economics and Economic History, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	Apologies
Nadia PINARDI	University of Bologna	Signed
Július OSZLÁNYI	Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences	Signed
László SOMLYÓDY	Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering	Signed
Detlef SPRINZ	PIK-Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Global Change and Social Systems	Signed

Theo VERMÉIRE	National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM)	Signed
Peter WADHAMS	Centre for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge	Signed
Tomasz ZYLICZ	Economics Department, Warsaw University	Signed
Guest		
Iveta AIZBALTE	DG RESEARCH	Signed
Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat	Apologies
Ludo HOLSBEEK	Free University of Brussels, EP nominee	Signed
Pamela KENNEDY	JRC	Signed
Ahmet Mete SAATÇI	Marmara University	Signed
EEA Staff		
Jacqueline McGLADE	Executive Director	Signed
Jock MARTIN	Head of Programme - Biodiversity, spatial analysis & scenarios (BSS)	Signed
David STANNERS	Head of Programme - Strategic knowledge and innovation (SKI)	Signed
Ingvar ANDERSSON	Project manager - Research links and cooperation	Signed
Anita PIRC VELKAVRH	Project manager - Environmental scenarios analysis	Signed
Petra FAGERHOLM	Management support, EDO	Signed
Galina GEORGIEVA	Scientific Committee secretariat, CCA1	Signed