



ITEM 03
42nd Scientific Committee
Doc. EEA/SC/42/03
10 April 2008

Source: Executive Director / Communications and Corporate Affairs

Subject: Draft minutes of 41st meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 20 February 2008

FOR DECISION

To approve the minutes of the 41st meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee.

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

Iveta Aizbalte from DG Research, Pamela Kennedy from JRC and Ludo Holsbeek, EP nominee attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Juan Martinez-Alier, Tomasz Zylicz, Marc Bonazountas, Ahmet Saatçi from Marmara University, 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

Tuesday, 19 February 2008

The Scientific Committee jointly with EEA experts organised a seminar on energy security, biofuels and renewable energy. Andre Jol (EEA) set the scene by giving an overview of the EEA activities in the area, Manfred Kleemann presented the biofuels' potential and constraints as a versatile energy source. In addition, the following day in the committee meeting, Helmut Haberl gave a presentation on the significance of HANPP for biomass/biofuel development plans and some thoughts on de-linking of energy use and GDP. All presentations have been made available on [CIRCA](#).

Wednesday, 20 February 2008

Item 1. Opening and welcome by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Laszlo Somlyódy

The Chairman welcomed the members to the 41st SC meeting and passed on apologies on behalf of the members, who were unable to be present (see the Attendance list in annex 2). Reflecting on the range of issues presented to the Scientific Committee over the last period, the Chairman said that now there was a plan for the seminar topics to be held in conjunction with the SC meetings in 2008.

Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The committee adopted the 41st SC agenda (final version annexed to the minutes).

Item 3. Approval of minutes of the 40th Scientific Committee 5 October 2007

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 40th meeting held on 5 October 2007 (final version of Doc. EEA/SC/41/03 available on CIRCA).

Item 4. Update by the SC Chairman

The Chairman informed the members that the EEA Publication Plan 2008 was tabled at the meeting. The Scientific Committee members who wish to be involved in any of the EEA reports to be produced during 2008 can contact the relevant EEA staff members. He also reported that the second term of service on the committee for Theo Vermiere, Pierre Laconte and Helmut Haberl would be 4 years, which in Chairman's opinion should be retained as practice for the future.

Item 5. Update by the EEA management

On behalf of the Executive Director and EEA management, Jeff Huntington (Head of Environmental Assessment Programme) updated the committee on the major developments in EEA over the period since the last SC meeting:

- The launch of the Belgrade report at the Ministerial Conference in October 2007 was successful. The Agency was asked to consider producing the next pan-European report for the 2010 Conference in Astana.
- SEIS development was in progress with its implementation plan being part of the AMP activities. The Commission has adopted a Communication on SEIS that should bring more political support to the initiative
- Big visibility for the EEA work on climate change mitigation and impact areas
- In the biodiversity area, EEA was involved in Eureka 2012 project on ecosystem services assessment and Potsdam initiative on cost of inaction
- In the water area, the development of WISE was going ahead as part of the agreed 'Group of Four' activities
- A fruitful meeting between Peter Carl and J. McGlade was held in early January, which resulted in setting of broader agenda for the Agency from 2009 onwards with an increased support (by €2.4 mio) with focus on the following 4 areas: climate change adaptation; ecosystem assessment; sustainable consumption and production, and disaster prevention and management. This has also been reflected in the draft Strategy paper.

In the following discussion, the SC members supported the planned increase of the EEA budget from 2009, which would also entail recruitment of 10 new staff members. Thereafter, the members spoke in favour of expanding the EEA visibility worldwide and being more pro-active outside Europe. In response, J. Huntington said that while the Agency was cooperating with various international players, its core budget and activities were focused on the member countries.

Item 6. Conclusions from the SC seminar held on 19 February and possible committee's recommendations / opinion

Following the SC Seminar held the previous day and earlier discussions among the members, the Chairman invited the committee to make a statement on the biofuels topic. Thus the committee agreed to form a small sub-committee to produce a recommendation within the following weeks.

Recommendation: The sub-committee led by Manfred Kleemann and involving P. Laconte, P. Wadhams and H. Haberl shall produce a recommendation on biofuels within 2-3 weeks after the meeting and finalise it after short consultation.

Item 7. Draft EEA Strategy 2009-13 following the MB Seminar conclusions

The SC members took note of the first draft of the EEA Strategy that was developed on the basis of the inputs from the MB Seminar held in November 2007. Reflecting on the SC opinion developed in advance of the MB Seminar, J.Huntington said that most of the issues addressed by the committee there were covered in the presented draft. Thereafter, the SC Chairman invited the members to provide their detailed comments on the objectives, themes and any other aspects of the draft Strategy. In the discussion that followed, the SC members took up a number of issues, related to the structure and content of the document: EEA role on the environmental arena, European vs. global context, objectives and scope of EEA work in the next 5 years, level of ambition, balance between thematic and cross-cutting issues, as well as a range of suggestions and comments to the Agency's overall work (see full list in Annex 3).

Referring to the upcoming Bureau meeting on 5 March as the next step in the process, the SC Chairman invited the members to submit their detailed comments shortly and these to form the basis for the second opinion of the committee to be developed in addition to the first one prepared for the MB Seminar in late 2007.

Recommendation: To submit the two SC recommendations on the draft EEA Strategy to the Bureau on 5 March and consecutively to the Management Board on 2 April as an input to the development of the next draft of the Strategy.

Item 8. Process and criteria for selection of new SC members under the 2008 call for experts. Proposed areas of expertise

The Chairman informed the committee that in order to have a complete picture of the scientific expertise remaining on the committee beyond 2008 and decide which areas need strengthening in SC capacities, the members had been asked to indicate their secondary, tertiary and further areas of expertise. In addition they were invited to indicate which expertise they consider essential to have represented on the committee bearing in mind the new EEA Strategy. The proposal resulted in identifying a number of areas that should be considered for staggered recruitment of new SC members, spread over 2008 and 2009. With regard to this proposal, J.Huntington responded that the current call was aiming at filling the nine vacancies to be available at end 2008 and the decision on the process was to be taken by the Management Board.

The SC members agreed to put forward for MB consideration 14 areas to be considered for the new call for experts. They encouraged the geographical and gender balance of the applicants to be strongly considered in the evaluation.

Recommendation: EEA to consider the possibility for a staggered recruitment process of new SC experts or in future to ensure not more than 1/3 turnover of the SC members at the same time.

Item 9. SC opinion on 2007-2008 recruitment of scientific staff in EEA. Discussion of 2009 staffing in line with the Strategy priorities

The Scientific Committee approved the proposed opinion on recruitment of EEA scientific staff with the addition of a reference to retain the EEA expertise in the area of chemicals. With regard to the expected uplift in the EEA budget as of

2009 and the 10 new posts associated with that, the Agency would be looking to align the overall organisation to the next Strategy.

Item 10. State of the Environment Report 2010 (SOER2010) – outline and further process

The Scientific Committee took note of the planned consultation on the content and structure of the SOER2010 in the coming months. While the Agency felt that the A-B-C-D structure was good and could be followed for the next SOE report, the Management Board guidance on this matter would be sought at its meeting on 18 June. Therefore, it was very timely for the Scientific Committee to discuss this issue in more depth in May.

Recommendation: To organise a SC Seminar/discussion on the SOER2010 format and structure in conjunction with the next SC meeting in May 2008.

Item 11. Further developments in the Bridging the Gap Conference 2008 and research foresight project

Anita Pirc-Velkavrh (EEA) updated the committee about the latest preparations for the 'Bridging the Gap' Conference that would address three headline issues: need for urgent action, communication aspect and putting environment in the heart of decision-making. In addition there would be a number of cross-cutting issues that would be addressed in 'café' discussions. The SC members discussed the setting proposed and agreed that research foresight could not be addressed in such a frame. Based on the SC Seminar on biofuels, they suggested to rather providing input to the energy and environment session, which yet is led by JRC. The Chairman asked the Agency to look into possibilities of holding the next SC meeting in May back-to-back with BtG in Slovenia in order to allow the SC members to contribute to various sessions.

Recommendation: (1) Based on the SC opinion on biofuels, the SC members agreed that M.Kleemann and H.Haberl would produce posters for BtG Conference. (2) EEA would check the possibility of holding a back-to-back meeting in Slovenia and notify the committee members in the coming weeks.

Item 12. Preparation of the next SC seminar (6-7 May 2008)

The Scientific Committee members agreed that in case the SC meeting remained on the initially agreed dates of 6-7 May and not moved to Slovenia, the seminar would be on environmental assessments and SOER 2010.

Item 13. Any other business

J. Huntington encouraged the SC members to take part in the workshop on risk assessment and evaluating scientific evidence, organised on 29-30 May jointly by EEA and DG SANCO. In addition he invited the members interested in the ETC process to collect a copy of the published Terms of Reference for the European Topic Centres on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Consumption and Production 2009-2013.

The Chairman reminded the members to sign their annual declaration of interest and return it to SC Secretariat. Besides the SC members shared information about upcoming scientific conferences and workshops.

The meeting closed at 16:30.

ACTION LIST – 41st Scientific Committee, 20 February 2008

Item	Action	Status 10 April 2008
4	To upload the final version of 40 th SC minutes on CIRCA and the web	Done
6	SC sub-committee led by Manfred Kleemann to produce a draft SC opinion on biofuels within 2-3 weeks after the meeting and finalise it after short consultation with the committee members	Done and published on CIRCA and EEA website, together with a highlight
7	To submit to the Management Board the SC recommendations on the draft EEA Strategy in advance of the next meeting	Done – included in the background papers for the 50 th MB meeting on 2 April
8	To put forward to the Management Board the 14 proposed areas for the 2008 call for SC experts	Done for the 50 th MB meeting on 2 April – MB agreed to publish all 14 areas with a view of selecting 9 experts
9	To keep the SC informed about the potential budget uplift from 2009 onwards and recruitment of 10 additional EEA staff members	To follow up as needed
10	To organise a SC Seminar on SOER2010 format and structure in conjunction with the next SC meeting in May 2008	In progress – lecture on environmental assessments and SOER2010 planned on 6 May
11	(1) On the basis of the SC discussions, M.Kleemann and H.Haberl to produce posters for the BtG Conference; (2) EEA to check the possibility of holding the May SC meeting back-to-back with BtG in Slovenia and notify SC members	In progress Meeting kept on the initially planned dates of 6-7 May

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agenda of the 41st meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 41st SC meeting, 20 February 2008
- Annex 3 – Draft Comments of the EEA Scientific Committee on draft EEA Strategy 2009-2013 (based on the discussion under item 7 on Document EEA/SC/41/07)

Annex 1 - Agenda of the 41st meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee

Tuesday, 19 February 2008, 17:30 -19:00 h

SC Seminar on Energy security, biofuels and renewable energy

Setting the scene and EEA activities in the area, *Andre Jol*

“Biomass – Potentials and constraints of a versatile energy source”, *M. Kleemann (SC member)*

“Energy security and links to fossil fuels, renewable energy, agriculture and transport subsidies”, *J-M. Alier (SC member) – last minute apologies*

Discussor – *P. Laconte (SC member)*

Dinner in the EEA canteen

Wednesday, 20 February, 09:30-17:00, EEA Conference Room

- 09:30-10:30 *Meetings of SC members with EEA experts in the respective thematic areas*
- 10:30 1. Opening and welcome by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Laszlo Somlyody
- 10:40 2. Adoption of the draft agenda – *for decision*
- 10:45 3. Approval of minutes of the 40th Scientific Committee of 5 October 2007 – *for decision*
- 10:50 4. Update by the SC Chairman
- 11:10 5. Update on behalf of the Executive Director
- Latest scientific developments in EEA work
 - ETC process 2008 on biodiversity and SCP bids
 - Update on Effectiveness evaluation work
- 11:45 6. Conclusions from the SC seminar held on 19 February and possible committee’s recommendations / opinion
Intervention from Helmut Haberl (SC member) on the significance of HANPP for biomass/biofuel development plans, and examples of national energy use data as compared with GDP growth figures
- 12:30 7. Draft EEA Strategy 2009-13 following the MB Seminar conclusions and further steps – *for SC input and comments*
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 8. Process and criteria for selection of new SC members under the 2008 call for experts. Proposed areas of expertise
- 14:30 9. SC opinion on 2007-2008 recruitment of scientific staff in EEA (for decision). Discussion of 2009 staffing in line with the Strategy priorities
- 14:50 10. State of the Environment Report 2010. Presentation of the SOER 2010 outline and further process
- 15:20 11. Further developments in the Bridging the Gap (BtG) Conference 2008 and research foresight project
- 15:40 12. Preparation of the next SC seminar (6-7 May 2008)
- 16:00 13. Any other business

Tabled documents:

- Item 4. EEA Publication plan 2008
- Item 13. Outline programme for the workshop on Risk Assessment Terminology and Evaluating Scientific Evidence, 28-29 May, EEA

**Annex 2 – Attendance list
EEA 41st Scientific Committee meeting, 20 February 2008, 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	Apologies
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	Apologies
Guest		
Iveta AIZBALTE	DG RESEARCH	Signed
Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat	Apologies
Ludo HOLSBECK	Free University of Brussels, EP nominee	Signed
Pamela KENNEDY	JRC	Signed
Ahmet Mete SAATÇI	Marmara University	Apologies
EEA Staff		
Jeff HUNTINGTON	Head of Programme - Biodiversity, spatial analysis & scenarios (BSS)	Signed
Gordon McINNES	Head of Programme - Strategic knowledge and innovation (SKI)	Signed
Anita PIRC-VELKAVRH	Project manager - Environmental scenarios analysis	Signed
Galina GEORGIEVA	Scientific Committee secretariat, CCA1	Signed

Annex 3

Draft Comments of the EEA Scientific Committee on Document EEA/SC/41/07 (EEA Strategy 2009-2013, 29 February 2008 draft)

The Scientific Committee (SC) discussed quite in detail the Strategy document at its February meeting. The SC was pleased to see that a significant portion of its January 2008 recommendations (called as Recommendations 1, approved 20 February, Annex 3) was accounted for. The Committee decided to prepare a second set of recommendations in the course of coming weeks (Recommendations 2). Here as a starting point comments of the meeting are summarized.

General Observations

The 15 categories foreseen might be beneficially merged into substantially fewer categories to avoid fragmentation without compromising the underlying work to be undertaken.

In line with our earlier general recommendation 2 (see Recommendation 1), the Scientific Committee proposes the EEA to more closely link its activities with EU research, such as FP7, both at the stage of formulating calls as well as in utilizing research outputs for its own activities.

The Scientific Committee suggests to reflect on whether the proposed strategy should also mention Eionet in its title or whether Eionet is seen as an integral part of the activities of the agency; the latter would not necessitate its explicit mentioning in the title.

Soils presently only play a role under agriculture, yet soils should be captured more broadly, also with respect to the European Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection. We suggest that the EEA participate in the work on a global soil map.

Chemicals should play a role not only under the rubric of environment and human health, but also in the spheres of climate change, freshwater, and others.

Ad Vision and Objectives

Objective 1 may be not just be geared to securing the objectives of EU environmental legislation but also, more broadly, to its policies in line with thematic recommendation 1.

In line with thematic recommendation 4 (Recommendations 2), we suggest Objective 3 to more strongly reflect the impact of rapidly developing countries such as Brazil, China and India on Europe as well as of European environmental strategies in the global context.

Crosscutting issues

The Scientific Committee recommends to build up sufficient capacity and expertise to undertake the policy evaluations foreseen in the draft strategy for 2009-2013.

Ad 1: Air Pollution

Ad 2: Biodiversity

In line with its first general recommendation, the Scientific Committee recommends to investigate the possibilities of the long-term maintenance of biodiversity performance.

Ad 3: Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation

It would be advisable to more clearly delineate the climate impacts implied in the present text.

Ad 4. Climate Change Mitigation

In line with its first general recommendation, the Scientific Committee recommends to explore further the discussion of a long-term transition to a low-carbon (low greenhouse gas) economy (e.g. Environmental Kuznets Curve).

Ad 5: Freshwater**Ad 6: Marine****Ad 7: Sustainable Consumption and Production****Ad 8: Agriculture****Ad 9: Energy****Ad 10. Transport****Ad 11: Decision Making Under Risk, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ignorance**

The Scientific Committee appreciates the inclusion of robust and adaptive decision-making in the general objectives and recommends to follow this up more concretely under the rubrics of approach and deliverables. In addition, experimental evidence should be included in such work. Furthermore, attention should be placed on the emerging exclusion of more and more environmental risks from insurance policies.

Ad 12: Economics

The possibilities of modern financial instruments to manage macro risks should be explored to augment the current set of economic instruments.

Ad 13: Environment & Human Health**Ad 14: Spatial Planning (incl. disaster prevention and management)**

It would be appreciated if the role of disaster mapping be described more clearly.

Ad 15: Strategic Futures

As part of the approach and deliverables, the Scientific Committee recommends to undertake comparative assessments and reviews of the main environmental policies (e.g. dashboards) that can be subsequently included in its main reports (such as SOER2010).

In line with objective 3, it is recommended to explore more clearly the opportunities for European environmental leadership in the global context. In line with our earlier thematic recommendation 4, we suggest to more strongly focus on the impact of rapidly developing countries such as Brazil, China and India on Europe.