



44th Scientific Committee
Doc. EEA/SC/44/03
18 February 2009

Final minutes of 43rd meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 7-8 October 2008

Approved by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee on 18 February 2009

(Signed)

Dr Detlef Sprinz
Chairman EEA Scientific Committee

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

Leen HORDIJK (JRC Director), Ahmet Saatçi (Marmara University) and Ludo Holsbeek (EP nominee) attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Juan Martinez-Alier.

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, 7 October 2008

The SC seminar during the October meeting encompassed two elements:

- Presentation on the Environmental assessment and the planning process by Prof. Teresa Andresen, and
- GMES Marine Core Service: from marine meteorology to ecosystem health presented by Prof. Nadia Pinardi.

Both presentations have been made available on [CIRCA](#) for future reference.

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

Item 1. Opening and welcome by the SC Chairman, Prof. L. Somlyódy

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the members present, and particularly the new Director of the JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Leen Hordijk, attending the meeting as an observer (see the Attendance list in annex 2).

Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The committee adopted the 43rd SC agenda (final version in Annex I) with the following modifications:

- Election of a new Chair- and Vice-Chairmen was moved up as item 5
- Update on the preparations for World Water Forum 2009 would be provided under AOB (item 12).

Item 3. Approval of minutes of 42nd Scientific Committee 6-7 May 2008

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 42nd meeting held on 7 May 2008 (final version available on [CIRCA](#)).

Item 4. Update by the Executive Director on scientific developments in EEA since the May SC meeting

Further to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, the Executive Director touched upon some major developments in a number of areas in the period since the May SC meeting. With regards to the recent publications, she referred to the EEA report on climate change impact, scenarios, as well as the upcoming in early 2009 Signals publications that would be presenting stories on big environmental issues. The Executive Director also informed the committee that the Late Lessons vol.2 addressing environment and health case studies would be coming out in 2009.

In addition, the committee also took note of the fact that the final report on the effectiveness evaluation project had been presented by the consultants. The Chairman underlined that while the work of the Scientific Committee has been viewed positively, there was potential for bigger interaction and contribution to the EEA scientific outputs.

Item 5. Election of a new SC Chairperson and a second Vice-Chairperson

The Chairman informed the committee of the nominations received to the SC Chair- and Vice-Chairperson posts, as well as of the rules of procedure for the election process. Following a few rounds of firstly – informal, then – formal voting, the members unanimously elected Dr Detlef Sprinz as the new SC Chair along with Dr Yves Desaubies and Dr Pierre Laconte as the SC Vice-Chairmen.

Item 6. Update on the evaluation process of the 2008 call for appointing experts to the EEA Scientific Committee

The Chairman of the committee informed the members about the selection process followed under the 2008 call for experts, as described in Doc. EEA/SC/43/05. The second evaluation committee has put forward a short-list of experts to fill the nine vacancies. This would be presented for MB decision on 26 November and the committee would be notified of the outcome thereafter.

Item 7. Outcome of the consultation process on the next EEA Strategy, Multi-annual Work Programme 2009-2013 and AMP 2009. Towards Scientific Committee's opinion on these documents

The Executive Director informed the committee that no substantial changes have been introduced in the draft Strategy and AMP2009 documents following the summer consultation, in which the SC had been involved. She briefly presented the main priorities, the cooperation with the Group of Four and anticipated staffing for the next period and also touched upon the upcoming internal reorganisation to that effect. Networking activities were in the core of the Strategy, foreseeing also a lot more work with the research communities and networks.

In the discussion that followed, the SC members welcomed the draft EEA Strategy and AMP2009 and made some additional comments, such as need to strengthen the reference to soils and forests, to address sustainable mobility in the transport section, to approach environment and health area in a broader context of air quality, chemicals and new technologies, to reinforce the EEA cooperation with international organisations, to measure the impact of Europe on the environmental problems faced in other parts of the world, etc.

The SC members agreed to finalise the opinion on these documents through a written procedure by the end of October, so it could be made available to the Management Board in advance of its November meeting.

Recommendation: The members were asked to circulate their detailed comments to the Chairman within a week, after which the SC Secretariat will produce a draft opinion and send it for further comments and additions. Thus the opinion was finalised by 22 October 2008 and forwarded to MB as agreed (see in Annex 3).

Item 8. Follow-up on the SOER2010 discussion after May. Next steps following the NFP/NRC SOER workshop on 29-30 Sept

D. Stanners (EEA) informed the committee on the state-of-art of the SOER2010 process, following the NFP/NRC workshop held at the end of September (presentation available on CIRCA). He indicated that the production of the SOER2010 would be a diverse process with much wider inputs, coordinated through web platforms and portals. With regard to the potential role of the SC, it was suggested that the committee members could be involved in providing advice on the guidelines for writing articles and in peer-reviewing the web materials that would then be taken forward to the printed version of the report.

The Executive Director made the members aware that one of the topics of the MB Seminar in November 2008 would be on the SOER2010 framework, content and countries' contributions. The other part of the seminar would focus on the effectiveness evaluation and on a simulation model of climate change negotiations.

Recommendation: The SC members involved in the SOER2010 discussions would attend the MB Seminar on 25 November and ensure the further committee's involvement in the process.

Item 9. Evaluation of the operation of the Scientific Committee and recommendations for the future by L. Somlyódy

Prof. László Somlyódy, the outgoing SC Chairman, presented his thoughts about the role and operation of the committee in future.

He called for a more pro-active approach and bigger SC involvement in the information - science - policy interface in which the EEA functions, while retaining its scientific excellence and group dynamics. While reflecting on the increasing complexity of issues addressed by the Agency, he suggested medium- to long-term planning of SC activities on the basis of the new EEA Strategy and SoER2010 process.

Recommendation: The proposal by the Chairman shall be considered by the committee and a plan for future SC work agreed upon at the February meeting.

Item 10. Outcome and next steps after the May workshop on risk assessment terminology and various approaches to evaluating scientific evidence, organised jointly with DG Sanco and ECDC

David Gee (EEA) informed the members that the report from the May workshop on “Evaluating and Communicating Scientific Evidence on Environment and Health Issues” would be presented at the next meeting of SC Chairs of Agencies and Community bodies in November 2008. He underlined the need for additional efforts in bringing more transparency and consistency in the terminology applied for evaluating the strength of evidence. Theo Vermeire suggested addressing some unquantifiable uncertainties and assumptions by bringing together experts from various sectors that can look at commonalities from different perspectives. Following the further debate, the committee agreed that uncertainty and precautionary principle would be an interesting topic for future SC seminars.

Item 11. Proposed topics for February 2009 SC Seminar

Reflecting on the earlier proposals and the topics of the recent SC seminars, the members agreed on the need to revisit the list and develop a more detailed plan for next year. With a view of nine new members joining the SC in February, it was suggested to allocate time for short introduction by each one of them.

Recommendation: To discuss the possibility to create SC sub-groups to support EEA work in various areas, such as GMES, environment and health, uncertainty and complexity, etc. and come up with concrete proposals for the meeting in February.

Item 12. Any other business

Under this agenda item, Ahmet Saatçi (Observer on SC) informed the Scientific Committee about the upcoming 5th World Water Forum next March in Istanbul, which would bring together all the major stakeholders and decision-makers in the area across the globe. In addition, the SC members exchanged information about some upcoming scientific conference and events.

In closing, the SC Chairman thanked the members for their contributions and support to the EEA work and his activities as a SC Chair, as well as the EEA SC Secretariat for the cooperation. Special thanks were extended to the outgoing members of the committee, who were encouraged to keep in touch with the Agency and further support its work.

The meeting closed at 16:30.

ACTION LIST – 43rd Scientific Committee, 8 October 2008

Item	Action	Status 29 January 2009
3	To upload the final version of 42 nd SC minutes on CIRCA and the web	Done
6	To inform the SC on the nine new members following the MB decision on 26 November	Done following the MB decision on 26 November 2008
7	To finalise the SC opinion of the EEA Strategy 2009-2013 and AMP2009 in advance of the November MB meeting	Done on 22 October and included in the mailing for the 52 nd MB meeting
7	To circulate to the SC the final versions of the EEA Strategy and AMP2009 once adopted by the Management Board	Available on the EEA web-site
8	To invite SC members interested in the SOER2010 discussions to the MB Seminar on 25 November	Done – 5 SC members attended the SOER2010 seminar
9	To agree on a SC work plan / topics for consideration by the committee at the February meeting	In process and on the agenda of the 44 th SC meeting
11	To organise a welcome session for the newly elected SC members on 17 February	Preparations ongoing

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agenda of the 43rd meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 43rd SC meeting, 7-8 October 2008
- Annex 3 – Opinion of the Scientific Committee on the EEA Multi-annual Work Programme 2009-2013 and Annual Management Plan 2009 (dated 22 October 2008)

Annex 1 - Agenda of the 43rd meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee

Tuesday, 7 October 2008, 17:30-21:30, EEA Conference room

SC seminar

Environmental assessment and the planning process - *by Teresa Andresen*

GMES Marine Core Service: from marine meteorology to ecosystem health -
by Nadia Pinardi

Dinner with the SC members

Wednesday, 8 October 2008, 09:30-17:00, EEA Conference room

1. Opening and welcome by the SC Chairman, Prof. L. Somlyódy
2. Adoption of the draft agenda – *for decision*
3. Approval of minutes of the 42nd Scientific Committee held on 6-7 May 2008 –
for decision
4. Update by the Executive Director on scientific developments in EEA
since the May SC meeting
5. Election of a new SC Chairperson and a second Vice-Chairperson
6. Update on the evaluation process of the 2008 call for appointing experts
to the EEA Scientific Committee

Lunch

7. Outcome of the consultation process on the next EEA Strategy, Multi-annual
Work Programme 2009-2013 and AMP 2009. Towards Scientific
Committee's opinion on these documents
8. Follow-up on the SOER2010 discussion after the SC recommendation in
May. Next steps following the NFP/NRC SOER workshop on 29-30 Sept
9. Evaluation of the operation of the Scientific Committee and recommendations
for the future by L. Somlyódy
10. Outcome and next steps after the May workshop on risk assessment
terminology and various approaches to evaluating scientific evidence,
organised jointly with DG SANCO and ECDC (presented by David Gee)
11. Proposed topics for February 2009 SC Seminar
12. Any other business

Tabled documents:

- Item 4. Latest developments in AMP strategic area 10 – addition to
ED update
Effectiveness evaluation report (made available in the room)
- Item 5. CVs of the candidates for the Chair- and Vice-Chair(s) posts

Annex 2 – Attendance list
EEA 43rd Scientific Committee meeting, 7-8 October 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	Signed
Pierluigi COCCO	Department of Public Health, University of Cagliari	Apologies
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		
Leen HORDIJK	JRC Director	Signed
Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat	Apologies
Ludo HOLSBECK	Free University of Brussels, EP nominee	Signed
Ahmet Mete SAATÇI	Marmara University	Signed
EEA Staff		
Jacqueline McGLADE	EEA Executive Director	Signed
David STANNERS	Head of Programme – Strategic Knowledge and Innovation (SKI)	Signed
Jeff HUNTINGTON	Head of Programme – Environmental Assessment (EAS)	Signed
Jock MARTIN	Head of Programme – Biodiversity, spatial analysis and scenarios (BSS)	Signed
David GEE	Head of Group – Science, policy and innovation (SKI Programme)	Signed
Galina GEORGIEVA	Scientific Committee secretariat, CCA1	Signed

Annex 3

OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EEA MULTI-ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2009-2013 AND THE ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009

In accordance with Article 8, paragraphs 4-5 of the EEA Regulation^{*}, the Scientific Committee is giving its opinion on the Multi-annual Work Programme (MAWP) 2009-2013 and the Annual Management Plan 2009 before the Executive Director submits it to the Management Board for approval.

The Scientific Committee's opinion is given on the basis of the draft MAWP 2009-13 circulated in advance of the October SC meeting, following a wide consultation process with the Agency's key partners and integration of the comments received. Information about these developments was presented to the committee on a regular basis.

At its 43rd SC meeting on 8 October 2008, the Scientific Committee discussed the draft MAWP2009-13 and its implications for the AMP 2009 and agreed on the main points of the opinion presented hereafter.

Following the careful planning process of the Multi-Annual Working Programme 2009-2013 over the past two years, the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency

Welcomes the MAWP's vision establishing EEA 'as Europe's leading body for the provision of timely, relevant and accessible environmental data, information, knowledge and assessments' in the period 2009-2013

Welcomes the MAWP 2009-2013 as an overall good, ambitious, well-written and well-balanced document. The MAWP provides a strategic overview while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to new challenges

Notes the positive developments in the potential budget uplift for AMP 2009 and the anticipated 10 new scientific posts to support the EEA work in key environmental themes. Sufficient resources are a prerequisite for high quality and timely products

Agrees that the development and production of the next five-year "The European Environment – State and Outlook report (SOER) 2010" will be a major milestone of the MAWP

^{*} Council Regulation (EEC) No.1210/90 of 7 May 1990, amended by Council Regulations (EC) No.933/1999 of 29 April 1999 and No.1641/2003 of 22 July 2003

Suggests – as in its opinion on the MAWP 1999-2003 – to rectify the lack of social science data as part of its overall data development strategy

Reiterates that the impact of Europe on the environment of other parts of the world should not be neglected. More specifically, recognises the value of referring to the life-cycle impacts of Europe's consumption and production on other parts of the world and emissions' savings on imported items to Europe

Recognises the need to continue carrying out policy evaluations and policy effectiveness studies and to develop high quality methodological foundations for this work. The addition of a new cross-cutting issue should be considered

The Scientific Committee encourages strengthening of the science-policy interface in executing the agency's work.

Supports that research activities are embedded in the document across different thematic areas and underlines the need to harness more strongly and systematically the academic results from scientific research under EU framework and national research programmes

Recognises the reference to the EU need for environmental information and considers the link to the potential 7th Environmental Action Programme as very important

Reiterates the need to support Environment and Health in a broader context, including air quality as well as chemicals and new technologies.

Supports addressing sustainable mobility in the transport section and points to the potentially negative impact of the development of transport networks on local biodiversity and the increased risk of forest fires due to changes in land use

Supports the further SC involvement in the work on foresight analysis, outlooks and forward looking studies and suggests that the EEA focuses more strongly on the challenges to the long-term European environment

Supports the outlined Agency's cooperation and partnerships with international organisations, especially with regard to the European Neighbourhood Policy, Eureka 2012 and Horizon 2020

Encourages the Agency together with the other 'Group of Four' partners (DG Environment, Eurostat and JRC) to continue promoting the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) concept and recognises the leading role for EEA in this endeavour

Advises to strengthen mentioning of the cooperation with WHO, DG SANCO, OECD, and other Agencies' and Community Bodies' Scientific Committees

Emphasises the importance of the collaboration with JRC on soils and forests and the planned joint development of soil function mapping

Advises in the Communication Section to add the value of improved communication of uncertainties and to expand multilingual communication as necessary to reach some categories of general audiences (e.g. lay persons and students)

The Scientific Committee appreciates the ambitious MAWP 2009-2013 and AMP 2009, and the well-designed preparation process followed.

Copenhagen, 22 October 2008

(Signed)

Prof. László Somlyódy
Chairman of the EEA Scientific Committee