



45th Scientific Committee
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26 May 2009

Final minutes of 44th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 17-18 February 2009

Approved by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee on 26 May 2009

(Signed)

Dr Detlef Sprinz
Chairman EEA Scientific Committee

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

Peter Pärt (JRC), Ahmet Saatçi (Marmara University) and Ludo Holsbeek (EP nominee) attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Helmut Haberl.

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, 17 February 2009

Since this was the first meeting for the nine new SC members on the committee, an intro day was organised to give them the possibility to learn more about EEA activities, SC role and tasks. The meeting was attended by the majority of the continuing SC members and gave all members the possibility to meet with various colleagues and network with their 'topic' colleagues from across the Agency.

Wednesday, 18 February 2009

Item 1. Opening and welcome by the SC Chairman, Dr. Detlef Sprinz

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the members and observers present (see the Attendance list in annex 2). He briefly recapped the introduction day for the new SC members held on 17 February.

Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The committee adopted the 44th SC agenda (final version in Annex I) without any changes.

Item 3. Approval of minutes of the 43rd Scientific Committee, 7-8 October 2008

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 43rd meeting held on 8 October 2008 (final version available on [CIRCA](#)).

Item 4. Update by the Scientific Committee Chairman

The Chairman informed the committee members about the main decisions taken at the last Management Board meeting on 26 November 2008, which covered the adoption of the MAWP2009-13 and AMP2009, SOER2010 process, extension of various ETCs and the designation of the nine new SC members. The Board had acknowledged the SC input as very instrumental to the development of the new EEA Strategy and AMP2009. In response to a question on the future ETC process, the Executive Director informed the committee that this would be part of the May SC agenda.

Item 5. Update by EEA on major scientific developments since the last SC meeting

Further to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, containing EEA progress report for the last quarter of 2008, the Executive Director touched upon the following issues:

- EEA is organising a Global observing and monitoring conference on 13-15 May aiming to contribute to the GMES process, advocate for improvements in the environmental in-situ observation, and bring to the table GEOSS and various UN programmes and conventions, connecting European perspective to the global level.
- Preparations for the Swedish Presidency are underway – the concept of the methane market to run in parallel to GHG basket will be looked at. The Agency will be supporting the co-benefits discussions around health.
- The Executive Director has recently attended a meeting on the Global green deal and will continue to follow the further discussions.
- Referring to the upcoming Copenhagen scientific conference on climate change in March, the Executive Director said that in preparation for the COP15 in December, the Agency will use every opportunity and media channel to increase the public outreach and engage people's commitment.
- With regard to the discharge process of the EEA for 2007, the Executive Director informed the SC that the only amendment proposed by the European Parliament's ENVI Committee welcomed the EEA's carbon offsetting scheme.

The SC members welcomed the Agency's initiative to promote the climate change topic and some members suggested sharing with the EEA films that can be transmitted across EEA networks and show to the public during UNFCCC COP15. On a different note, the SC Chairman suggested addressing the green economy and the green new deal at one of the successive SC meetings.

Item 6. Session on Environment and Health

Under the Environment and Health (E&H) session, the following presentations were made (all of them available on [CIRCA](#)):

- Assessments and reporting on E&H in EEA by Dorota Jarosinska (EEA)
- Health and the environment towards an integrated Health and Environment European monitoring system by Pierluigi Cocco (SC)
- Environmental Health Indicators by Theo Vermeire (SC)

- JRC–EEA collaboration on Environment and Health – by Peter Part (JRC)
- E&H research under FP7 – by Tomáš Turecki (EC DG Research)
- Evaluating evidence towards transparency and consistency. Cooperation with other SC committees in Agencies and Commission services – by David Gee (EEA)

In the discussion, the SC members addressed various aspects of the E&H data and touched upon a number of issues, such as:

- Important to consider the spatial dimension of the E&H information and use of spatial geo-referenced information on air quality and land cover when collecting health data;
- Concentrate on the positive influence of the healthy environment rather than speaking about the harmful effects of the environment;
- Need to create a more coherent basis to utilise the outcomes of the research projects and more actively the disseminate their results;
- Optimise the quality and breadth of the European research in the area, e.g. by linking the ecosystems health to human health.

In conclusion, the committee agreed that Pierre Laconte would be the SC contact point for this topic and would continue following the developments in the area, including any implications to the Agency's activities.

Item 7. State of Environment report (SoER) 2010 and SC involvement in the further process

In introducing the item, Theo Vermeire shortly presented the background document addressing the SC role in the process of preparation of SoER2010 and more specifically touching upon methodology, priority areas and quality control.

Further to that, the Scientific Committee was asked to consider the following:

1. complexity of the assessments and the advisory role of the SC members willing to engage in this process;
2. expert contributions to the long-term, e.g. 2050, perspective as a more 'exploratory assessment';
3. possibilities to attract through the SC members some PhD students to support the analytical work. More details on this possibility would be presented at the next SC meeting.

In the discussion that followed, the SC members supported the need to discuss in more details the policy evaluation methodologies and touched upon specific policy measures in various thematic areas. The Executive Director informed the members that the EEA would keep them informed on further steps and would revisit the progress at the next SC meeting in May. The members interested to engage more actively in the SOER process were asked to inform the Agency.

Item 8. SC opinion on recruitment of scientific staff in the EEA and Establishment Plan 2009-2011

The Scientific Committee took note of the posts filled and the process of recruitment of EEA scientific staff in 2008, as well as recruitment plans for 2009. The committee acknowledged the fact that SC members shall be represented in selection committees for senior level posts (AD10 and above). Following this, the Scientific Committee adopted its opinion on the recruitment of scientific staff in EEA for 2008-2009.

Item 9. EEA Signals and Publication Plan 2009

In presenting the publication plan for the year the Executive Director said that it had been drawn on the basis of the outputs in the annual work programme and also that production of publications in other languages had to be linked to the translation budget. In addition, the committee took note of web articles and multimedia outputs foreseen aimed to present scientific achievements in a more engaging for the wider public manner.

With regard to the Signals 2009 issue, the members noted the story approach followed. They were invited to put forward stories highlighting 'hot topics' for the next issue to be published in early 2010.

Item 10. Topic for the May 2009 SC Seminar and work plan of future SC activities

The Chairman presented the idea of organising back-to-back with the May meeting a SC seminar on data as foundation for the data developments relevant to SOER2010 and the long-term work of the Agency. The proposed outline for the seminar was tabled and the members were asked to provide their feedback by the end of the month. The members shared some ideas about issues to be addressed during the seminar, such as:

- Utilisation of data by EEA emerging from research projects;
- Land use and atmospheric data;
- Social science data and methods applied;
- GMES, remotely sensed and in-situ data.

The members were also invited to consider the opportunity to hold a joint session with the NFP/Eionet group (NFP/Eionet meeting in May was scheduled to start the day after the SC meeting, e.g. 27 May 2009) and were asked to come back with proposals for topics to be addressed during such session.

It was agreed that any additional and remaining proposals for future SC seminars would be discussed at the SC meeting in May.

Item 11. Any other business

Under this agenda item, the SC members shared information about upcoming scientific conferences and events.

In closing, the SC Chairman reminded the committee members to send to the secretariat their short descriptions to be published on the EEA website.

The meeting closed at 16:10.

ACTION LIST – 44th Scientific Committee, 18 February 2009

| Item | Action | Status 29 April 2009 |
|------|--|--|
| 3 | To upload the final version of 43 rd SC minutes on CIRCA and the web | Done |
| 4 | To discuss the ETC review process 2009-2010 at the May SC meeting | On the 45 th SC agenda |
| 5 | To invite SC members interested to the Global observing and monitoring conference to be held 13-15 May in EEA | Done |
| 5 | To discuss the green new deal initiative at one of the next SC meetings | To be considered at the May meeting |
| 5 | To inform the SC about the EEA activities planned during COP15 | To do at the meeting on 26 May |
| 6 | SC to continue following the developments in the E&H area and any implication to the EEA activities | To do – Pierre Laconte nominated as SC primary contact point |
| 7 | To revisit the SOER developments at the next meeting and look in more details in policy evaluation methodologies | On the 45 th SC agenda |
| 7 | EEA to provide more details on the possibility to attract PhD students to support the SOER analytical work | To do at the meeting on 26 May |
| 8 | EEA to invite SC members to sit in selection committees for senior level scientific posts (AD10 and above) | To do as appropriate |
| 9 | SC members to communicate to EEA potential topics for the next Signals issue | In progress |
| 10 | SC members to give feedback to the Chairman on the outline for the SC Seminar on data planned for 25 May | Done – agenda circulated to the committee |
| 10 | SC to consider possible topics for a joint session with NFP/Eionet group in May and inform the secretariat | To be considered in future |
| 11 | SC members to send to EEA their short profiles to be published on the web | In progress |

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agenda of the 44th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 44th SC meeting, 17-18 February 2009

Annex 1 - Agenda of the 44th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee, 18 February 2009, 09:30-17:00, EEA Conference room

- 8:45-9:30 *'Scientific café' – networking opportunity for SC members & EEA staff members*
- 9:30-9:35 1. Opening and welcome by the SC Chairman, Dr. Detlef Sprinz
- 9:35-9:40 2. Adoption of the draft agenda – *for decision*
- 9:40-9:45 3. Approval of minutes of the 43rd Scientific Committee held on 7-8 October 2008 – *for decision*
- 9:45-10:00 4. Update by the Scientific Committee Chairman
- 10:00-10:30 5. Update by EEA on major scientific developments since the last SC meeting
- 10:30-12:30 6. Session on Environment and Health (E&H)
- Current EEA activities and plans, *Dorota Jarosinska (EEA)*
 - Environment and Health interaction – *presentations by Pierluigi Cocco and Theo Vermeire (SC)*
 - Intervention by *Peter Part, Advisor – Health and Environment Interactions (JRC)*
 - Environment and health activities under the 7th Framework Programme, *Tomas Turecki (EC DG Research)*
- 12:30-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-14:30 6a. Continuation of E&H session
- Evaluating evidence towards transparency and consistency. Cooperation with other SC committees in Agencies and Commission services, *David Gee (EEA)*
 - Discussion – *Facilitator: Pierre Laconte*
- 14:30-15:30 7. Guidance document on the State of Environment report (SoER) 2010. SC involvement in the further process
- 15:30-15:45 8. SC opinion on recruitment of scientific staff in the EEA and Establishment Plan 2009-2011– *for adoption*
- 15:45-16:00 9. EEA Signals and Publication Plan 2009
- 16:00-16:15 10. Topic for the May 2009 SC Seminar and work plan of future SC activities
- 16:15-16:30 11. Any other business
- 16:30-17:00 *Closure of the meeting*

Tabled documents:

- Item 4. Effectiveness evaluation report (made available in the room)
- Item 6. Presentations from the E&H session (made available on [CIRCA](#))

**Annex 2 – Attendance list
EEA 44th Scientific Committee meeting, 17-18 February 2009, Copenhagen**

| NAME | ORGANISATION | SIGNATURE |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| SC members | | |
| Marc BONAZOUNTAS | National Technical University of Athens | Signed |
| Pierluigi COCCO | Department of Public Health, University of Cagliari | Signed |
| Yves DESAUBIES (Vice-Chairman) | Mersea Conseil | Signed |
| Helmut HABERL | Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities | Apologies |
| Mogens HENZE | Technical University of Denmark | Signed |
| Ole HERTEL | University of Århus | Signed |
| Richard K JOHNSON | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences | Signed |
| Ulrike KASTRUP | SBB - Swiss Federal Railways | Signed |
| Pierre LACONTE (Vice-Chairman) | Foundation for the Urban Environment | Signed |
| Eckart LANGE | University of Sheffield | Signed |
| Owen McINTYRE | University College Cork | Signed |
| Peter NOVAK | Energotech d.o.o | Signed |
| Jouni PAAVOLA | University of Leeds | Signed |
| Nadia PINARDI | University of Bologna | Signed |
| Anette REENBERG | University of Copenhagen | Signed |
| Detlef SPRINZ (Chairman) | PIK-Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research Global Change and Social Systems | Signed |
| Sybille van den HOVE | Median SCP | Signed |

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| Theo VERMEIRE | 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 | | |
| Christian HEIDORN | Eurostat | Apologies |
| Ludo HOLSBECK | Free University of Brussels | Signed |
| Leen HORDIJK | JRC | Apologies |
| Peter PART | JRC | Signed |
| Ahmet Mete SAATÇI | Marmara University | Signed |
| Tomas TURECKI | DG Research | Signed |
| EEA Staff | | |
| Jacqueline McGLADE | EEA Executive Director | Signed |
| Gordon McINNES | Deputy Director, Head of programme - GAN | Signed |
| Jock MARTIN | Head of programme - IEA | Signed |
| David GEE | Project manager - IEA | Signed |
| Jan-Erik PETERSEN | Head of group - IEA1 | Signed |
| Dorota JAROSINSKA | Project manager - IEA1 | Signed |
| David STANNERS | Head of group - EDO2 | Signed |
| Galina GEORGIEVA | Head of group, Scientific Committee Secretariat, GAN1 | Signed |
| Elena OSTÁRIZ | Scientific Committee Secretariat, GAN1 | Signed |
| Ronan UHEL | Head of programme - NSV | Signed |