



47<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee  
Doc. EEA/SC/47/03  
10 February 2010

**Final minutes of 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee  
Copenhagen, 7 October 2009**

Approved by the Vice - Chairman of the Scientific Committee on 10 February 2010

*SIGNED*

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Dr Yves Desaubies  
Vice - Chairman EEA Scientific Committee

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

Ludo Holsbeek (EP nominee), Peter Pärt (JRC) and Ahmet Mete Saatçi (Marmara University) attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from M. Bonazountas, J. Paavola and T.Zylicz.

**B. AGENDA – see annexes under item E**

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

**C. PROCEEDINGS**

**Tuesday, 6 October 2009**

The Scientific Committee had invited Dr Alex Bowen (Principal Research Fellow, Grantham Research Institute) of the London School of Economics and Political Science to give a lecture on '*Environmental policy and the economic downturn*' to the Scientific Committee and EEA staff. In his presentation, Dr A Bowen underlined the need for stronger environmental policies, the impact of green 'New Deal' proposals, and the economic slowdown effect and measures on environmental policies. The presentation given is available on the SC group on [CIRCA](#).

**Wednesday, 7 October 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 and extending apologies from the members that were unable to attend (see the Attendance list in annex 2).

**Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The committee adopted the 46<sup>th</sup> SC agenda (final version in Annex I) without any changes.

### **Item 3. Approval of minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee held on 26 May 2009**

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26 May 2009 (final version available on [CIRCA](#)).

### **Item 4. Update by the Scientific Committee Chairman**

The SC Chairman informed the members about the main decisions of the EEA Management Board held on 17 June and the recommendations of the ETC Steering Committee review that were endorsed by the Bureau the day before. While he noted that these recommendations were still to be approved by the MB in November and reflecting on his participation in the Steering Committee, the Chairman called for strengthening the cooperation among the ETCs, for clarifying data accessibility and protection, as well as increasing the scientific visibility of the ETCs by including peer review publications in scientific journals in future.

Linking to the SC lecture held the night before, the Chairman reminded the members that the MB Seminar on 24 November would discuss green economy, environmental accounts and beyond GDP measures. The members interested were invited to notify the Agency of their willingness to attend this seminar.

### **Item 5. Update by EEA on major scientific developments**

Further to the written report (Doc. EEA/SC/46/05), containing the EEA progress report for the first half of 2009, the Executive Director informed the members about major developments in the thematic areas covered by the work programme, cooperation with the 'Group of Four' partners, Agency's contribution to the production of the next pan-European report for the Ministerial conference in Astana in 2011, as well as the EEA plans for communication activities during the two weeks of COP15.

The members welcomed the Director's report and inquired about the possible involvement of the committee in the events during COP15, and it was agreed that the Agency would circulate its communication plan to the SC members once finalised. They were invited to send to EEA movies produced on climate change topic for wider dissemination.

With regard to a question on quality control of data sets used by EEA, the Executive Director notified the committee that the Agency had strengthened data operation capacities for all thematic areas but was still relying on the dialogue and the quality assurance of the data flows done by the countries. She said that part of the ETCs role considered for the new consortia was to do more integrated work, linked to joining data sets, data tagging and traceability.

In conclusion, the Executive Director informed the members that following the MB decision on the new ETCs (to become operational as of 1 January 2011) expected to be taken on 25 November 2009, the SC members would be asked to volunteer for the ETC evaluation committees provided that there are no conflict of interest for their involvement in the process. This would be followed up at the next SC meeting in February 2010.

### **Item 6. Outcome of the SC discussion on Green Economy and possible next steps**

Following the lecture given by Alex Bowen on "Environmental Policy and the Economic Downturn", the members were presented with reactions of the

economic experts on the committee - Jouni Paavola and Tomasz Zylicz, which they had submitted by e-mail. Their reactions were followed by interventions from

- Jean-Louis Weber on EEA's involvement in green accounting
- David Gee on Some Common Causes and Responses to the Three Crises: Financial, Energy, Ecosystems

The discussion addressed such issues as sustainability and greening of consumption, incl. energy consumption, of private households, renewables vs. fossil fuels, variability of stimulus packages introduced, funds spent on creation of jobs and ways to address environmental considerations. Some of the issues addressed during the SC discussion were to be incorporated in the MB Seminar to be held on 24 November 2009.

All the presentations made are available on [CIRCA](#) for further reference.

#### **Item 7. Draft Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2010 and SC opinion**

The committee took note of the latest version of the AMP2010, which had been presented to the Bureau the day before, taking on board all the comments received in the consultation. The members congratulated the Agency for the comprehensive and well structured work programme and recommended strengthening a few topics and their interconnections, related to the environmental accounting, urban issues, socio-economic aspects across a number of areas, environment and health and links to the scientific research. It was agreed that the members would forward their comments in writing to the SC Secretariat and the opinion on the AMP2010 would be finalised by the end of October in order to be presented to the Management Board in time for the November meeting.

The adopted SC opinion on AMP2010 is available on [CIRCA](#).

#### **Item 8. Update on SOER 2010 and SC involvement in it**

Theo Vermeire (SC coordinator for the SOER process) briefly summarised the SC involvement in the preparation of SOER 2010 so far:

- For Part A an advisory group was established, comprising 2 SC members;
- SC input shall be needed for the thematic assessments of Part B during a web-based consultation to be launched later in October;
- No direct involvement of the SC in Part C at this stage;
- Comments on the SOER Synthesis documents, related to the outline, literature references and approach followed were expected by end October.

Jan-Erik Petersen (EEA) clarified that the Synthesis document was aimed to follow the style of the main document and the presented draft would be the basis for a longer document to be developed in 2010. The SC assistance was needed at this stage to help shape the document.

In the discussion that followed, the members put forward their suggestions related to the methodology used and the policy relevance of the document; they made recommendations related to: using a parallel with the information provided in SOER2005, including a summary of the key questions addressed by the report with short replies, considering work with scenarios in various thematic areas and long-term perspective, demonstrating the interlinkages between different issues, producing separate executive summaries for politicians and citizens, as well as targeting various recipients through appropriate communication channels.

It was agreed that the Scientific Committee would continue to be regularly consulted and involved in the further development of the report.

**Item 9. Follow-up on the biofuels issue and the SC opinion on biofuels published in March 2008. Proposal of the working group**

Following the attention given to the Scientific Committee's opinion on biofuels of March 2008, the members considered the possibility of revisiting the issue in the coming months. To support their discussion, Jan-Erik Petersen (EEA) made a presentation on the EEA work in the field (available on [CIRCA](#)).

The members noted the usefulness to have some conclusions drawn from a wider systemic perspective, touching upon:

- The indirect result on land use change and land system scenarios
- Transformation to low energy carbon future
- Technology transition and the viable solutions for the future
- Energy conversion of territories and realistic calculation on the amount of energy to be generated by biofuels.

The committee agreed to revisit any possible follow-up from that discussion – related to the EEA work – at the meeting in February, appointing H. Haberl and P. Novak as the main contact points for the issue.

**Item 10. Ecosystems assessment as a topic for the February 2009 SC meeting and proposals for future seminars**

Sybille van den Hove put forward a suggestion to have a longer session on ecosystems assessment at the February SC meeting, which would fall into the context of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, as well as other initiatives with EEA involvement, such as Eureca, TEEB project, follow-up to MEA and preparations for the COP10 in Nagoya. The committee agreed to have a seminar around all this issues on 9 February 2010.

Detlef Sprinz proposed a seminar on long-term policy for May 2010.

**Item 11. Any other business**

Under the last agenda item, the SC members shared various information of common interest about upcoming conferences, events and scientific articles published recently .

In closing, the SC Chairman reminded the members about the SC meeting dates in 2010: 10 February, 5 May and 6 October.

*The meeting closed at 16:30.*

### ACTION LIST – 46<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee, 7 October 2009

Item	Action	Status 18 January 2010
3	To upload the final version of 45 <sup>th</sup> SC minutes on CIRCA and the web	Done
4	SC members interested in attending the MB Seminar on 24 November to inform the Agency about it	Done
5	EEA to inform the SC members of its Communication plan during COP15 in Copenhagen	Done in mid November
5	SC to consider experts for the evaluation committees of the new ETCs for the next meeting in February	On the agenda of the 47 <sup>th</sup> SC
7	SC to finalise and agreed on its opinion on AMP2010 by end October	Done as foreseen – AMP2010 approved by MB on 25 November 2009
8	SC to send in their comments on the SOER Synthesis draft by 30 October	Done
8	The SC members to be kept informed about any further SOER developments	Updates provided on regular basis by e-mail
9	To consider a possible follow-up from the discussion on biofuels at the February SC meeting	Update to be provided at the meeting
10	To prepare a seminar on ecosystem assessment for the February 2010 SC meeting	In progress – Sybille in lead for the seminar

#### E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agenda of the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee, 7 October 2009, 9:00-16:30
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 46<sup>th</sup> SC meeting, 7 October 2009

**Annex 1 - Agenda of the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee,  
Tuesday, 7 October 2009, 09:00-16:30, EEA Conference room**

**Tuesday, 2009, 17:00-19:00, EEA**

**SC discussion on Green Economy as preparation for the  
MB seminar in November 2009**

*External guest speaker.* Alex Brown, Grantham Research Institute, UK

**Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 09:00-16:30, EEA Conference room**

- 8:15-9:00      *'Scientific café' – networking opportunity for SC members  
& EEA staff members*
- 9:00-9:05      1. Opening and welcome by the SC Chairman, Dr. Detlef Sprinz
- 9:05-9:10      2. Adoption of the draft agenda – *for decision*
- 9:10-9:15      3. Approval of minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee held on  
26 May 2009 – *for decision*
- 9:15-9:30      4. Update by the Scientific Committee Chairman
- 9:30-10:15     5. Update by EEA on the major developments since May SC:  
• Outcome of the June MB meeting  
• Next steps in the ETC review/tendering process 2009-10  
• International activities and EEA involvement in Astana process
- 10:15-11:00    6. Draft Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2010 and SC opinion
- 11:15-12:30    7. Outcome of the SC discussion on Green Economy (held the  
evening before) and possible next steps
- 12:30-14:00    *Lunch*
- 14:00-15:00    8. Update on SOER 2010 and SC involvement in it
- 15:00-16:00    9. Follow-up on the biofuels issue and the SC opinion on biofuels  
published in March 2008. Proposal of the working group
- 16:00-16:15    10. Ecosystems assessment as a topic for the February 2009 SC  
meeting and proposals for future seminars
- 16:15-16:30    11. Any other business
- 16:30          *Closure of the meeting*

**Tabled documents:**

- Item 6. Draft EEA AMP 2010 (version 6 October 2009) following the consultation process
- Item 8. SOER 2010 Synthesis document

**Annex 2 – Attendance list  
EEA 46<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee meeting, 7 October 2009, Copenhagen**

NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
<b>SC members</b>		
Marc BONAZOUNTAS	National Technical University of Athens	Apologies
Pierluigi COCCO	Departament of Public Health, University of Cagliari	Signed
Yves DESAUBIES (Vice-Chairman)	Mersea Conseil	Signed
Helmut HABERL	Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities	Signed
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	Apologies
Nadia PINARDI	University of Bologna	Signed
Anette REENBERG	University of Copenhagen	
Detlef SPRINZ (Chairman)	PIK-Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research Global Change and Social Systems	Signed
Sybille van den HOVE	Median SCP	Signed

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	Apologies
<b>Guest</b>		
Alex BOWEN	London School of Economics, UK (Guest speaker on 6 October)	Signed
Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat	
Ludo HOLSBEEK	Free University of Brussels	Signed
Leen HORDIJK	JRC	Apologies
Peter PÄRT	JRC	Signed
Ahmet Mete SAATÇI	Marmara University	Signed
<b>EEA Staff</b>		
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
Ronan UHEL	Head of programme - NSV	Signed
Jan-Erik PETERSEN	Head of group - 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