



**Final minutes of 45th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 25-26 May 2009**

Approved by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee on 7 October 2009

SIGNED

Dr Detlef Sprinz
Chairman EEA Scientific Committee

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

Ludo Holsbeek (EP nominee) and Cagatay Dikmen (NFP Turkey) attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Nadia Pinardi and Anette Reenberg.

B. AGENDA – see annexes under item E

The tabled documents were acknowledged under the respective agenda items throughout the meeting (listed in annex 1b under item E). The agenda of the data seminar held on 25 May 2009 is also annexed to the minutes (annex 1a).

C. PROCEEDINGS

Monday, 25 May 2009

The Scientific Committee held a half-day seminar on data handling with the objective to review the data-related work of the EEA, to get updates on changes in progress, and to provide recommendations on future opportunities. The seminar was closely connected to the EEA-Global environmental observation and monitoring conference that had taken place on 13-15 May 2009 in EEA, as well as the latest developments on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and EEA activities. In addition to the EEA experts and SC members, two external speakers were invited to the seminar: Michael Mirtl (Umweltbundesamt, Austria) and Lars Baker (Statistics Sweden). Presentations from the data seminar were made available on [CIRCA](#).

Tuesday, 26 May 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).

Following the SC opinion on biofuels published in March 2008 and given the fact that the members most actively involved in it were no longer on the committee,

the Chairman suggested forming a new working group to revisit the topic and reflect on the developments during the past year. To that end, Pierre Laconte, Mogens Henze, Helmut Haberl volunteered to contribute to this working group, and Ludo Holsbeek offered to share information in addition to that of EEA. It was agreed that the recent developments in the debate on biofuels would be presented at the SC meeting on 7 October 2009.

Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The committee adopted the 45th SC agenda (final version in Annex I) without any changes.

Item 3. Approval of minutes of the 44th Scientific Committee held on 18 February 2009

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 44th meeting held on 18 February 2009 (final version available on [CIRCA](#)).

Item 4. Update by the Scientific Committee Chairman

The Chairman informed the members that the main decisions from the March meeting of the Management Board were available in the MB minutes. He asked the Executive Director to inform the committee about the EEA involvement in the 'Environment for Europe' process and preparation of the pan-European report for the Ministerial conference in Astana in 2011.

With respect to the SC members' short profiles, the Chairman asked the members' agreement to publish them on the EEA web in line with a requirement from the EEA Data Protection Officer, which was endorsed by the committee.

Item 5. Update by EEA on major scientific developments

Further to the written report (Doc. EEA/SC/45/05), containing the EEA progress report for the first quarter of 2009, the Executive Director informed the members about major developments in various thematic areas over the past couple of months, as well as the latest EEA publications. She referred to the work done both in the Agency and in the ETCs.

With regard to the 'Environment for Europe' process, the Executive Director said that the Agency had been asked to consider producing the 5th pan-European report for the Ministerial conference in Astana in 2011 in continuation to its previous commitment to this process. Additional resources were required for the Agency to engage in integrating environmental information across the pan-European region following the production of SOER2010; to that end, a paper for Management Board's guidance was being prepared to look at ways how EEA could take on board such an assessment, while developing a long-term sustainable process requiring a firm support from the countries. The committee was informed that on 3 July the Agency would be hosting a meeting on this long-term perspective and the EEA engagement in the process.

In addition, the SC members were briefed about the EEA communication plans for the UNFCCC COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen. With reference to the recently published EEA GHG report, the Executive Director said that the latest analysis showed a positive trend for Europe which was very important for the outcome of the conference in December. In the coming months, the Agency would be looking into the green elements in the fiscal packages in Europe to examine systemic changes in the economy operations towards low-carbon economy.

On a different note, she informed the members that EEA had been honoured with the WWF Award for Conservation Merit for 2009.

Item 6. Follow-up from the data seminar of 25 May 2009 and recommendations for next steps

Following the seminar deliberations and the dinner group discussions, the SC took note of the findings of the following three groups:

- Discussion group on Social Science Data
- Discussion group on Sharing Data, incl. EU-funded research
- Discussion group on data integration of remote sensing and in situ measurements

The outcome of the SC discussion groups following the SC Seminar on data is attached for reference in annex 3 to the minutes.

In the discussion, the SC members underlined some issues linked to the importance of translating research results into policy relevant data, addressing demography and human development indices alongside environmental data, and measures towards greening the GDP.

In conclusion, the Executive Director thanked the members for their input and agreed to address the summaries from the discussion groups with relevant EEA activities currently being implemented or to be considered for the future.

Item 7. SOER 2010 and SC involvement in the process

Jock Martin (EEA) presented an outline of the State of the Environment and Outlook Report (SOER) 2010 with the main elements for the synthesis document and Parts A, B & C (see Doc. EEA/SC/45/07 for reference). While the countries contributions were to form the basis of Part C, the Agency was currently exploring ways to use the research community in its broadest. To that end, EEA was planning to launch a call for evidence to collect contributions for producing the forward-looking integrated assessment component (Part A) of SOER 2010. The SC assistance in this exercise was of major importance.

Theo Vermeire (SC coordinator for the SOER process) suggested reviewing the drafts for Parts A and B according to the members' expertise, while the synthesis document would be sent to the whole committee (draft expected in the autumn). With regard to Part C he proposed to provide scientific back-up to the Agency as appropriate and if needed. Thus in order to structure the future communication better, the members agreed to indicate their interest in reviewing various themes and cross-cutting sections of the report as they become available, as well as to participate in the web-based consultation on the first two parts to be launched gradually in 2009. In case a NFP/NRC SOER meeting was to be organised in the coming months, the Agency would inform/involve the Scientific Committee.

With respect to the policy coherence, the members were informed that the Agency was planning to launch an exercise to assess the possibilities within the current time frame while also looking into the 2014-2020 financial perspective.

It was agreed that any further developments in the preparation of the SOER2010 would be reported to the committee in October.

Item 8. ETC session

The purpose of this item was to present the EEA Scientific Committee with the generic features of the current five ETCs (in the areas of Air and Climate Change;

Land Use and Spatial Information; Water; Biological Diversity; Sustainable Consumption and Production) and their *modus operandi* so far. To that end, the EEA ETC topic managers presented the activities of each topic centres as documented in their implementation plans, as well as the main developments in each area (presentations available on [CIRCA](#)).

The presentations clarified the tasks of the ETCs aimed to provide regular support to the Agency, EEA member countries and the European Commission on data management, quality control, indicator production, preparation of reports and regular assessments.

The Scientific Committee also took note of the proposed mandate and composition of a Steering Committee that should be appointed by the Management Board to lead the review of three ETCs in 2009 (the first three ones as listed above). It was proposed that Detlef Sprinz and Yves Desaubies represent the Scientific Committee in the Steering Committee. Additional SC members would be appointed to the evaluation committee in the future.

Item 9. Topics / seminars for the future SC meetings

With respect to the 'Beyond GDP' and the Green New Deal discussions proposed to be addressed by the Scientific Committee, the Executive Director informed the members that this was a topic also considered for the Management Board Seminar in November. Given the multiple elements in it, the resource accounting, complexity and resilience discussion could be looked at. It was agreed that the agenda of the MB Seminar would be circulated to the committee once available, and some SC members would be invited to attend.

Among the other topics previously put forward by the members remained resource and waste management, transport and environment, continuation of the foresight workshop held in 2007, quantification of uncertainty, hot spots and desertification. For the February 2010 meeting the ecosystem assessment was proposed as a priority and timely topic due to EURECA process.

Item 10. Any other business

Under this agenda item, Theo Vermeire informed the members that he had been elected as a member of the EC DG SANCO Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks and in this role would explore the possibilities for cooperation with EEA SC (for example, health risks resulting from climate change). Such cooperation was also regularly addressed in the framework of the annual joint meetings with other Agencies and Community bodies.

The Executive Director mentioned various films and initiatives the Agency was preparing to support during the UNFCCC COP15 meeting in December in Copenhagen. To that end, any contributions from the SC members were welcomed.

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

The meeting closed at 16:10.

ACTION LIST – 45th Scientific Committee, 26 May 2009

Item	Action	Status 31 August 2009
1	With respect to the re-established SC working group on biofuels, to inform the members on the latest developments since the publication of SC opinion in March 2008	Background information circulated by Ludo Holsbeek (on 29/05) and by Jan-Erik Petersen (on 28/06)
3	To upload the final version of 44 th SC minutes on CIRCA and the web	Done
4	To publish the SC short profiles on the EEA website	Done
6	The Executive Director to address the summaries from the SC discussion groups following the seminar on data with relevant EEA activities or activities to be considered for the future	To follow-up as appropriate
7	EEA to send the draft call for evidence to underpin the production of Part A of SOER2010 for SC comments	Done – comments collected by 15 June 2009 and reflected in the paper
7	SC to indicate to which themes and cross-cutting issues they would like to review in the coming months	Done – SC input collected by end June
7	EEA to circulate the synthesis document for a review by the SC when available	To do during last week of September 2009
7	To inform the SC about a potential NFP/NRC SOER workshop and invite SC representative to it	To follow-up as needed
8	To keep the committee informed on the next steps in the ETC review process	Done following the 54 th MB meeting on 17 June
9	The SC members to be kept informed about the topic and agenda of the MB Seminar on 24 November	To do at the 46 th SC meeting
9	To consider the ecosystem assessment for a major discussion at the February 2010 SC meeting	On the agenda of the October SC meeting
10	To continue pursuing opportunities for cooperation with the scientific bodies of other Agencies and Community services	To follow-up as appropriate

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1a – Agenda of the SC Seminar on data, 25 May 2009, 13:00-18:00
- Annex 1b – Agenda of the 45th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee, 26 May 2009, 9:00-16:30
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 45th SC meeting, 26 May 2009
- Annex 3 – Outcome of the SC discussion groups following the SC Seminar on data, 25 May 2009, EEA

**Annex 1a - Agenda of the SC Seminar on data held back-to-back
with the 45th SC meeting, Monday, 25 May 2009, 13:00-18:00
EEA Conference room**

- 13:00-13:10 Welcome and Introduction (Detlef Sprinz & Jacqueline McGlade)
- 13:10-14:10 Session 1: Overview (Chair: Detlef Sprinz)
- Data & the EEA: Past, Present, Future Strategy (incl. SEIS & INSPIRE; Chris Steemans)
 - Report from GEOSS workshop (Yves Desaubies)
 - Discussion
- 14:10-15:40 Session 2: SC Perspectives (Chair: Pierre Laconte)
- Remotely Sensed and In Situ Data (Yves Desaubies & Ole Hertel)
 - Social Science Data (Detlef Sprinz & Tomasz Zylicz)
 - Discussion
- 15:50-16:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:00-17:50 Session 3: Major New Developments (Chair: Yves Desaubies)
- GMES (Robert Lowson, EEA)
 - Long-Term Data Monitoring outside the regular EEA reporting (e.g., LTSER, etc.) (Michael Mirtl)
 - "Socializing the Pixel": social data & science in EEA assessments (e.g. Quality of Life forthcoming report) by Ronan Uhel (EEA)
 - The GISS vision and the Problem with Statistics...or How to develop the inspire annexes into a useful tool for sustainable development (Lars Baker, Statistics Sweden)
 - Discussion
- 17:50-18:00 Closing of the seminar and introduction to dinner groups by Detlef Sprinz
- 19:00 Dinner (EEA guest canteen)

**Annex 1b - Agenda of the 45th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee,
Tuesday, 26 May 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 44th Scientific Committee held on
18 February 2009 – *for decision*
- 9:15-9:30 4. Update by the Scientific Committee Chairman
- 9:30-10:00 5. Update by EEA on major scientific developments since the
last SC meeting
- 10:00-10:30 6. Follow-up from the data seminar of 25 May 2009 and
recommendations for next steps
- 10:45-12:30 7. State of Environment report (SoER) 2010 and SC involvement
in the process
- 12:30-14:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00-16:00 8. ETC session
8a. Presentations and discussion with the ETC Managers for
the 5 topic centres on Air and Climate Change (ACC), Water
(WT), Land Use and Spatial Information (LUSI), Biological
Diversity (BD), Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)
8b. Discussion on the ETCs role, tasks and structure – input to
the 2009-2010 review process
- 16:00-16:15 9. Topics/seminars for the future SC meetings
- 16:15-16:30 10. Any other business
- 16:30 *Closure of the meeting*

Tabled documents:

- Item 5. Draft meeting summary and conclusions from the EEA – Global environmental observation and monitoring meeting, 13-15 May 2009
- Item 8. Presentations from the ETC session (made available on [CIRCA](#))

**Annex 2 – Attendance list
EEA 45th Scientific Committee meeting, 26 May 2009, Copenhagen**

NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
SC members		
Marc BONAZOUNTAS	National Technical University of Athens	Signed
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	Signed
Nadia PINARDI	University of Bologna	Apologies
Anette REENBERG	University of Copenhagen	Apologies
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	Signed
Guest		
Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat	Apologies
Ludo HOLSBECK	Free University of Brussels	Signed
Cagatay DIKMEN	NFP (Turkey)	Signed
Ahmet Mete SAATÇI	Marmara University	Apologies
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
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

Annex 3 – OUTCOME OF THE SC DISCUSSION GROUPS FOLLOWING THE SC SEMINAR ON DATA, 25 May 2009, EEA

Discussion group on Social Science Data

- Enhanced measures of welfare and well-being that are regularly collected and broadly communicated
- Spatial resolution of data commensurate with the specific question, temporal resolution normally ranging from quarterly to yearly
- Data integration with environmental data: EEA shall facilitate development of standard for pan-European assessments [in between DK and I]

Discussion group on Sharing Data, incl. EU-funded research

*Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?*

[T. S. Eliot, The Rock](#)

- Article 29: Access rights to foreground for policy purposes: Turn it into practice
 - Make data accessible
 - Explain it
- Focus at the right level of entry (prioritise):
 - Data in itself; existence of a project; existence of a community of research or a community of practice
- Train scientists,
 - convince them, bring them on-board
 - Moral duty... code of conduct?
- Showcase (used and useful)
 - to scientists
 - to decision-makers: (success stories: resilience alliance, butterflies...)
- Role for EEA? Task force?
 - Bring the users in
 - Help scientists and users: brokerage, interfaces
 - Advocacy
 - e.g. Calls for evidence
 - e.g. Create web of ... data/info?
 - Take over datasets after projects?

Discussion group on data integration of remote sensing and in situ measurements

1. SPACE SENSING

Satellite remote sensing works best for large areas where quick repeatable coverage is required, i.e. global monitoring. Therefore it is the preferred technique for the EEA where its interests extend beyond Europe to the world, i.e. climate change monitoring. But the EEA must decide which global

questions it is going to try to answer, hence how much global remote sensing it is going to do. On a national, regional or local scale, in situ monitoring has much to commend it, but the EEA should carry out a complete survey of all the parameters that it is monitoring and decide which, if any, can be better measured by remote sensing alone, or by remote sensing with validation by in situ sampling, or by in situ methods alone.

2. IN SITU MEASUREMENTS

Innovative techniques should be used to the full, including the use of citizens as monitors, but as the scientific value of the results gathered in this way is likely to be somewhat low in relation to the volume of data, the EEA should not be directly involved in analysing the data but should contract this out. Similarly, for marine work, the Agency should take every opportunity of monitoring ocean and seabed parameters using ships intended for other purposes (e.g. ferries with Ferry Box or continuous plankton recorder installed) or even using the European research ship fleet which is often scandalously under-used in that no along-track monitoring is done on the way to and from their survey areas.

3. SENSORS AND TECHNOLOGY

Technology is advancing frighteningly fast and in unexpected directions, driven often by the desires of the general public (people who are “neither clever nor good”) rather than higher-minded motivations. An example is GoogleEarth and its even higher resolution offshoots. Another is Iridium and other satellite-based phone technology. Some of these advances may be of enormous value in environmental monitoring but we could have trouble predicting which, when and how. It is therefore very difficult to plan a long term monitoring programme and we should be ready to take advantage of every new wave.

4. MODELLING

In the US the three legs underpinning remote sensing research are space monitoring, in situ validation and modelling. In Europe we are bad at modelling, when modelling is conceived widely as the development of general numerical analyses of processes as opposed to giant climatic models. Purpose-led modelling of this kind should be encouraged.