

56th Management Board Doc. EEA/MB/55/02-final 17 March 2010

MINUTES OF THE 55th MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING held on 25 November 2009

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board on 17 March 2010

SIGNED	
Dr Karsten Sach	
Chairman EEA Management Board	

Record of proceedings:

The Chairman Dr Karsten Sach opened the meeting by welcoming new Board members and presenting apologies on behalf of those members unable to attend. He announced that the morning session was open to DIMESA members. The following tabled documents were acknowledged during the course of the meeting (list included after the agenda in Annex 1).

Final agenda:

Attendance list:

Action list:

Decision list:

Summary of the seminar on 24 Nov:

Annex 1

Annex 2

Annex 3

Annex 4

Annex 4

Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda

The Board adopted the agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/55/01rev1) without changes.

Item 2 Adoption of the 54th Management Board minutes, 17 June 2009

The Board adopted the minutes of the 54th MB meeting held on 17 June 2009. The final version (Doc. EEA/MB/55/02) of the minutes is available on <u>CIRCA</u>. The members also took note of the tabled MB rolling action list.

ITEMS 3-6 FOR INFORMATION

Item 3 Draft minutes of the 49th Bureau meeting, 6 October 2009

The members took note of the draft minutes from the October Bureau meeting that had been sent to them for information.

Item 4 Update by the Chairman (oral)

Under this item, the Chairman of the Board informed the members about:

- An ongoing assessment of all EU Regulatory Agencies, the draft findings of which had been circulated in October. Even though the draft findings were rather general, EEA was mentioned as a best-practice example.
- There is a feasibility study expected to be published in November on a
 possible new Waste Implementation Agency. The Chairman asked Board
 members to follow closely the developments in this discussion in relation to
 possible implications for the EEA and the MB position on the matter.

Item 5 Update by the Executive Director

Taking the progress report as read (Doc.EEA/MB/55/05), under this update the Executive Director specifically mentioned the EEA COP15 activities and the 'open door' policy for MEPs, social networks, Arctic experts and scientists during the period of the conference in December, as well as the upcoming move of the EEA additional offices from Kongens Nytorv 28 to Kongens Nytorv 8, on which the MB members were consulted in the summer and informed of the budget implications.

Referring to the Agency's role in the 'Environment for Europe' process in preparation for the next Ministerial conference in 2011 in Astana, the Executive Director informed the members about the discussions at the UNECE-CEP meeting held in late October. While the timeline for delivering a report and some key priorities for this conference were already defined, there were modalities around assessment criteria and funding issues still to be resolved. The MB members recognised the complexity of the process with many potential sources of information and various partners involved.

With reference to the progress on the late lessons and early warnings publication, the Executive Director commented by describing the EEA work on the burden of evidence, recognising the need for a more careful analysis of evidence and uncertainty before going into risk assessment. She also explained to the members why the EEA issued in 2008, and has maintained since, and 'early warning' on the use of mobile phones, consideration that was given to the possible issue of other early warning. EEA staff have been attending various meetings organised by committees on risk management at EU level, in order to be able to look at risk from different angles.

Last but not least, the Executive Director informed the members that the Agency had concluded a round of recruitment of National Experts and a list of areas unfilled would be presented to the Bureau in February for possible follow-up.

Item 6 SEIS, GMES, INSPIRE and 'Group of Four' developments

Under this agenda item, Valère Moutarlier, Head of GMES Bureau, gave a presentation on the GMES outlining its added value, key elements and services designed in various areas. With respect to user involvement, he said that it is envisaged that EEA would play an important role that would be further defined in the framework of the preparation of programme implementation, and the existing networks, such as Eionet, would be essential for organising the user communities at Member States' level (GMES presentation available on CIRCA). Using the opportunity, V Moutarlier presented to the MB member from Luxembourg the GMES Urban Atlas of the country.

In the following interventions by the 'Group of Four', the MB members were informed about the following:

- EEA working paper assessing the SEIS country visits held so far that was distributed a few days before the MB meeting;
- Efforts by the 'Group of Four' to take SEIS forward through sharing activities, developing further Data Centres and Go4 Implementation Plan;
- INSPIRE work in Europe was considered as a good example to be followed in other parts of the world; to that end, a recognition of the Member States efforts and input was made.

In the further discussion, the MB members commented on the issues addressed, mainly focusing on the possible Eionet contribution to GMES activities, next steps in SEIS implementation and the possible legal framework, as well as the presented working paper on SEIS country visits, which is to be work in progress. The members spoke of the usefulness of the country visits in launching the SEIS discussion on a national level and recommended the next round of visits to be linked to the SOER process, while also touching upon the synergies with the GMES community and other similar ongoing activities. They advised keeping the momentum and the work done in the countries in applying SEIS principles by having an Implementation Plan drawn up rather quickly, even if the legal basis was not in place. In addition, they welcomed the Agency's role in the GMES in-situ work and reflected on the value of linking SEIS, INSPIRE and GMES elements together.

With regard to GMES – while the MB members spoke of the usefulness of having Eionet involved in the project, they advocated a realistic approach to the network, keeping in mind the limitations of resources and the individual mechanisms put in place in the different countries. Considering this, the members agreed that a separate component would have to be established as needed.

One expert nominated by the European Parliament welcomed the presented developments, while steressing the importance of having a roadmap of SEIS activities and links to GMES and INSPIRE for the Parliament in order to secure the necessary political support. Several MB members supported this statement. The DG RTD representative said that GMES was an important input to the GEO process and there were funds allocated to support interoperability and SEIS objectives.

Reflecting on the issues raised, V Moutarlier referred to the following:

 The interface between the GMES user community and Eionet was being explored following a discussion with Member States to make use of existing fora, incl. identification of Eionet-type of representation;

- If the GMES Programme is to be sustained, there should be a gradual buildup of capacities in the Member States, both for the user interface and in-situ coordination.
- The Council and the EP were co-legislators of the scope and funding of the GMES space component, while the Commission was the programme manager with a clear commitment to promote GMES sustainability by using various tools in the different Member States;
- Currently, it is expected to have the proposed Regulation adopted by end 2010 to support the GMES initial operations from 2011 onwards.

In closing, the EEA Executive Director summed up that the SEIS country visits were to continue with reinforcement of certain areas and stronger focus on SOER process. The MB members were asked to send their comments on the SEIS country visits working paper in writing to EEA. With respect to the Agency's role in the GMES in-situ coordination, the Executive Director expressed expectations to have a mechanism in place to support this as of 1 January 2010. Referring to the request to prepare an overview clarifying the linkages between the different components discussed, she committed the Agency to prepare the first draft for the Bureau meeting in February, to be further presented to the MB after discussion with the Go4 partners in the spring.

ITEMS 7-14 FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

Item 7 Conclusions from the MB Seminar on 24 November 2009

The Board welcomed the joint MB-DIMESA seminar and the topic on environmental accounting as very timely and interesting. The members supported the need for further cooperation between Eurostat and EEA, as well as within the Go4, and called for taking steps towards joint work on fast track implementation of environmental accounts at European level.

For more information, see the seminar summary points in Annex 5 to the minutes.

Item 8 Approval of the EEA Annual Management Plan 2010

The Executive Director informed the members that the Commission's opinion on the EEA work programme had been adopted on 23 November (tabled document). In the meeting, the MB members were presented with a revised version of the AMP2010 responding to the comments made in the CEC opinion (AMP version with track changes available on CIRCA). The Commission DG ENV representative thanked the Agency for incorporating the CEC opinion in the AMP2010 and emphasised that this work programme had been considered extensively with colleagues in the Commission services.

The Board welcomed the presented document and made the following points:

- Biodiversity was an important area of work for 2010 and developing a baseline for biodiversity was very essential; here ocean acidification was mentioned as one of the emerging problems that should be considered.
- The Agency's role in the Horizon 2020 process should be specified more explicitly in the international cooperation, as well as education activities.
- The Go4 partners should have a more coordinated approach towards their activities in 'Beyond GDP', the Stiglitz Commission and linked processes. In

that respect, the MB members asked the Go4 to provide an overview of their joint activities and keep the MB regularly informed on progress.

Reflecting on the points made, the Executive Director clarified that while the Board was presented with the strategic level AMP, activities were developed in further detail in the AMP at project level (level 3). With that, the Board adopted the EEA AMP 2010, taking into account the tabled opinion of the European Commission and the opinion of the EEA Scientific Committee presented in advance of the meeting.

Item 9 Approval of the Annual Budget 2010 and other upcoming multiannual projects/activities

The Executive Director presented the main elements constituting EEA budget for 2010, namely the Community budget subsidy, the contributions from Switzerland, Turkey and the European Economic Area agreement (covering the participation of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), as well as earmarked funds regulated by three separate agreements with the European Commission (see details in Doc. EEA/MB/55/09). Responding to a comment on the transparency related to the latter element of the budget, the Executive Director clarified that the additional funds are earmarked for specific pre-defined activities and the contract agents to be recruited under those projects would not have an impact on the EEA establishment table. Following this, the Management Board approved the EEA Annual Budget 2010 (core funds) and the additional revenue from earmarked fund agreements (IPA. GISC and ENP projects). The adoption of the EEA budget 2010 by the Board was conditional upon the approval by the budgetary authorities of the subsidy to the Agency within the Community budget 2010, as well as the EEA establishment table for 2010. It was agreed that the MB would be informed on the outcome of the deliberations in the European Parliament as soon as the process was completed.

Item 10 Approval of Eurostat Work Programme 2010

Under this agenda item, Pedro Díaz Muñoz, Director of Eurostat Directorate E for Sectoral and regional statistics, addressed the MB members on the key areas of work planned for 2010, emphasising also the Go4 cooperation and the deliberations at the seminar. The EEA response letter following the consultation on Eurostat's work programme 2010 with the Management Board was tabled. Referring to Eurostat's upcoming report on environmental statistics, on one hand, and the Agency's key product for next year – SOER2010 – on another, the MB members advocated a coordinated and coherent approach in producing these publications. Following this, the Board approved the Eurostat Work Programme in the field of environment for 2010.

Item 11 ETC review process 2009-2010

The Management Board took note of the recommendations of the ETC Steering Committee, which were endorsed by the Bureau in October and on which basis the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the four new ETCs had been prepared for MB decision. The Chairman thanked the ETC Steering Committee for the excellent work done.

With respect to the proposal to establish a new ETC on Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, the MB members recognised the fact that this area

deserved special consideration being high on the political agenda, requiring different set of competences and having impact on a range of environmental issues.

Therefore, further to the establishment of the new ETC, the headquarters in Copenhagen should enhance their in house capacity to deal efficiently with the issue of adaptation, in particular in coordinating the various aspects of the issues covered by the different ETCs.

In the following discussion, the members addressed the following aspects:

- ETCs should support the Agency to deliver cross-cutting assessment, and hence active interlinkages in the ETCs work should be encouraged, while ensuring there are no overlaps;
- EEA should maintain strong expertise in the areas covered by the ETCs in order to be able to set priorities for the work;
- While professional expertise and experience in the topic area should be the leading criterion in the selection of consortia, certain geographical balance should also be considered;
- The link between the ETCs and the data centres should be more explicit.

With this, the MB approved the four new ETCs for the period 2011-2013 in the areas of (1) air pollution and climate change mitigation, (2) climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, (3) inland, coastal and marine waters, and (4) spatial information and analysis, and the general lines of the draft ToR to be launched in line with the preliminary agreed timetable. The MB members were invited to send to the Agency their comments on the draft ToRs, which in turn would be sent to them for final check before publishing the call for proposals for new ETCs.

Additionally, the MB adopted a decision on the flat overhead rate of 20% for funding of indirect costs, applicable to ETC framework partnership agreements.

Item 12 Progress on SOER2010

The Executive Director informed the members about the latest developments in the SOER2010 process, as well as the fact that an updated version of the Part A Synthesis document was available on the SOER portal. The Board members took note of the progress and the recent discussions between EEA and DG ENV. The issues flagged up in the discussion referred to the need for homogeneity in the country contributions submitted for Part C and some difficulties expected in some countries due to varying political processes to meet the deadlines for submitting Part C materials.

In closing, the Management Board members agreed that the EEA member countries should deliver their contributions in time in order to make the SOER2010 a successful common endeavour.

Item 13 Proposal for a new Eionet Priority Data flow on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)

The Management Board approved the proposal for introducing the E-PRTR data reporting as a EEA priority data flow from 2010 onwards, following discussions on the matter with the NFP/Eionet group at their last meeting in October 2009.

Item 14 Staff Regulation Implementing Rules on EEA missions and the policy on preventing psychological and sexual harassment

The Executive Director informed the MB members about the process regarding the preparation of Implementing Rules on EEA missions and EEA policy on preventing psychological and sexual harassment, as well as about the fact that the opinion of the European Commission had to be received by the Agency before formal MB approval of the implementing rules. In view of that, the Board agreed to adopt the final version of these rules through MB written procedure as soon as the Agency received the opinion of the European Commission.

ITEMS 15-16 – FOR INFORMATION

Item 15 Observations of the auditors

The Executive Director informed the members about the various recurring audit visits to the Agency, which so far have documented that EEA had been managed and operating accurately. With respect to the fact that shortly before the MB meeting the Agency has received two documents from the Internal Audit Service (IAS) – IAS Charter and IAS Strategic Audit Plan 2010-2012 for MB approval, the Chairman suggested that the Board approves them through written procedure to be launched in the days following the present meeting.

Item 16 Feedback from members of the Management Board

Under this agenda item, the MB member from Spain, Maria Jesus Rodriguez de Sancho, gave a presentation on the Environmental Priorities for the Spanish Presidency running in the first half of 2010 (presentation available on CIRCA). The Commission DG ENV representative, Timo Makela, announced that this was his last MB meeting due to his move to another role on 1 December 2009 as part of DG ENV reorganisation. The Board members thanked him warmly for all the active support and contribution to the work of EEA he had provided over the years. In closing, the Chairman thanked Eurostat for hosting the MB seminar and MB meeting in their premises and said that after checking the possibilities of holding such a joint meeting in 2010, the Board will be informed about it in March. He reminded the members about the date of the next MB meeting – 17 March 2010. Furthermore, he informed them that a joint meeting with the high representatives from the cooperating West Balkan countries was being scheduled back-to-back

in the afternoon of 16 March and thus he encouraged all interested MB members

The meeting closed at 16:30.

to attend.

ANNEX 1 to MB minutes

Subject: Agenda of the 55th Management Board meeting

Wednesday, 25 November 2009, 10:00-16:30 h

Luxembourg-Kirchberg, BECH Building – Room Quetelet

FOR DECISION

1. Adoption of draft agenda

2. Adoption of the 54th Management Board minutes, 17 June 2009

FOR INFORMATION

- 3. Draft minutes of the 49th Bureau meeting, 6 October 2009
- 4. Update by the Chairman
- Update by the Executive Director, including plans for COP15,
 7-18 December 2009 in Copenhagen and EEA contributions to the next pan-European report for the Astana conference in 2011
- 6. SEIS, GMES, Inspire and 'Group of Four' developments

FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

- 7. Conclusions from the MB Seminar on 24 November 2009
- 8. Approval of the EEA Annual Management Plan 2010
- 9. Approval of the Annual Budget 2010 and other upcoming multiannual projects/activities
- 10. Approval of Eurostat Work Programme 2010
- 11. ETC review process 2009-2010
- 12. Progress on SOER2010
- 13. Proposal for a new Eionet Priority Data flow on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)
- 14. Staff Regulations' Implementing Rules on EEA missions and the policy on preventing psychological and sexual harassment

FOR INFORMATION

- 15. Observations of the auditors
- 16. Feedback from members of the Management Board, incl. short presentation on the priorities of the Spanish EU Presidency

TABLED DOCUMENTS

Item 02 – Rolling action list from the last MB meetings

Item 08 – Commission opinion on AMP2010 (adopted 23 Nov 2009)

Item 10 – EEA response to Eurostat work programme 2010

Item 12 - SOER2010 Synthesis - Annotated Outline-vers.25 Nov 2009

ANNEX 2

55th EEA Management Board meeting – Attendance list Luxembourg, 25 November 2009, BECH Building, Room QUETELET

MEMBER COUNTRIES				
COUNTRY		NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
	Chairman:	Karsten SACH	Chairman of the EEA Management Board	Signed
AUSTRIA	<u>Member:</u>	Elisabeth FREYTAG	Ministry of Environment	Signed
	<u>Alternate:</u>	Georg REBERNIG	Umweltbundesant	Signed
BELGIUM	Member:	Véronique VERBEKE	Institut Bruxellois pour la gestion de l'environnement	Signed
	Alternate:	Philipp D'Hondt		
BULGARIA	<u>Member:</u>	Dimitar VERGIEV	Bulgarian Environment Agency	Apologies
CYPRUS	<u>Member:</u>	Antonis ANTONIOU	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	
	Alternate:	Charalambos HAJIPAKKOS	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Apologies
CZECH REPUBLIC	Member:	Veronika HUNT ŠAFRÁNKOVÁ	Ministry of Environment	Signed
	Alternate:	Helen HÙLOVÁ	Ministry of Environment	Signed
DENMARK	Member:	Niels CHRISTENSEN	Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Apologies
	Alternate:	Helle PILSGAARD	Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Apologies
	Expert:	Esben TIND	Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Signed
ESTONIA	Member:	Allan GROMOV	Ministry of Environment	Signed
	Alternate:	Andres KRATOVITS	Ministry of Environment	
FINLAND	Member:	Markku NURMI	Ministry of Environment	Apologies
	Alternate:	Antero HONKASALO	Ministry of Environment	Signed

FRANCE	Member: Alternate: Expert:	Michèle ROUSSEAU Marie BONNET Valery MORARD	Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable NFP	Signed
GERMANY	Member:			
	<u>Alternate:</u>	Julia WERNER	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz & Reaktorsicherheit	Signed
	Expert:	Sylvia SCHWERMER	Umweltbundesamt	Signed
GREECE	Member:	Mata ARAVANTINOU	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works	Signed
	Alternate:			
HUNGARY	<u>Member:</u>	Erzsébet GERGELY	Ministry of Environment	Signed
ICELAND	<u>Member:</u> Alternate:	Hermann SVEINBJÖRNSSON Gunnar Steinn JONSSON	Ministry of Environment The Environmental Agency	Signed
IRELAND	Member: Alternate:	Michael LAYDE Larry STAPLETON	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Environmental Protection Agency	Signed
ITALY	Member:	Corrado CLINI	Ministerio dell'Ambiente	Apologies
	Alternate:	Giovanni BRUNNELI	Ministerio dell'Ambiente	Signed
LATVIA	<u>Member:</u>	Guntis PUKITIS	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Signed
	Alternate:	Andris LEITASS	Latvian Environment Agency	
LIECHTENSTEIN	Member:	Felix NÄSCHER	Ministry of Environment, Dept. Forests, Nature and Landscape	Apologies
LITHUANIA	Member:	Aleksandras SPRUOGIS	Ministry of Environment	Signed
	<u>Alternate:</u>	Liutauras STOSKUS	Environmental Protection Agency	

LUXEMBOURG	<u>Member:</u>	Eric DE BRABANTER	Ministère de l'Environnement	Signed
	Alternate:	Pierre PRUM	Ministère de l'Environnement	Signed
	Expert:	Marguy KOHNEN		
MALTA	Member:	Martin SEYCHELL	Environment and Planning Authority	Signed
	Alternate:	Louis VELLA	Environment and Planning Authority	
THE NETHERLANDS	Member:	Kees PLUG	Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment	Signed
	Alternate:	Adriaan OUDEMAN	Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment	
NORWAY	Member:	Harald RENSVIK	Ministry of Environment	Apologies
	Alternate:	Øysten NESJE	Ministry of Environment	Signed
POLAND	Member:	Andrzes JAGUSIEWICZ	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	Signed
PORTUGAL	Member:	Antonio GONÇALVES HENRIQUES	Ministério do Ambiente, do Ordenamento do Território e do Desenvolvimiento Regional	Apologies
	Alternate:	Fernanda SANTIAGO	Ministério do Ambiente, do Ordenamento do Território e do Desenvolvimiento Regional	
ROMANIA	Member:	Ciprian Constantin GHIOC	National Environmental Protection Agency	Apologies
	Alternate:			
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Member:	Stanislav STOFKO	Slovak Environment Agency	Apologies
	Alternate:	Vladimir BENKO	Slovak Environment Agency	Signed
SLOVENIA	Member:	Silvo ŽLEBIR	Environmental Agency	Signed
SPAIN	Member:	Mª Jesus Rodriguez de SANCHO	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente	Signed
	Alternate:	Javier CACHÓN DE MESA	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente	-
SWEDEN	Member:	Maria ÅGREN	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Signed
	Alternate:	Martin ERIKSSON	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	
SWITZERLAND	Member:	Bruno OBERLE	Federal Office for the Environment	Apologies
	<u>Alternate:</u>	Gérard POFFET	Federal Office for the Environment	Signed
	Expert:	Nicolas PERRITAZ	NFP	Signed

TURKEY	Member:	Hasan ZUHURI SARIKAYA	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Signed
	Alternate:	Sedat KADOĞLU	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	
	Expert:	Cagatay DIKMEN	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, NFP	Signed
UNITED KINGDOM	Member:	John CUSTANCE	Dept. for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Signed
	<u>Alternate:</u>			
EUROPEAN	Member:	Timo MÄKELÄ	DG Environment	Signed
COMMISSION	<u>Alternate:</u>	Leendert HORDIJK	Joint Research Centre	Signed
	Expert:	Nick BANFIELD	DG Environment	Signed
	Expert:	Peter WICKS	DG Environment	Signed
	Member:	Manuela SOARES	DG Research	Apologies
	Alternate:	Pedro DÍAZ MUÑOZ	Eurostat – Sectoral and regional statistics	Signed
	Expert:	Birgit de BOISSEZON	DG Research	Signed
	Expert:	Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat – Sectoral and regional statistics	Signed
	Expert:	Sheena BLAIR	Eurostat – Sectoral and regional statistics	
EUROPEAN	Member:	Ludger-Anselm VERSTEYL	Prof. Versteyl Rechtsanwälte	Signed
PARLIAMENT	Member:	Michael SCOULLOS	University of Athens	Signed
	Alternate:	Ludo HOLSBEEK	Free University of Brussels	
	Alternate:	Tomás MARCHESCU		
EEA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	Guest:	Detlef SPRINZ	EEA Scientific Committee Chair	Signed
EEA STAFF		Jacqueline McGLADE	Executive Director	Signed
		Gordon McINNES	Deputy Director, Head of Programme GAN	Signed
		Chris STEENMANS	Head of programme, SES	Signed
		Ronan UHEL	Head of programme, NSV	Signed
		Jean MOEREMANS	Head of programme, ADS	Signed
		Petra FAGERHOLM	Head of Group, EDO1	Signed
		Galina GEORGIEVA	Management Board secretariat	Signed
		Elena OSTÁRIZ	Management Board secretariat	Signed

ANNEX 3 DRAFT ACTION LIST

ACTIONS	Status 16 December 2009
To publish on CIRCA the final minutes of the 54 th Management Board meeting	Done
The MB members to follow the discussions on the proposed new Waste Implementation Agency and any implications this might have for EEA	Ongoing
To keep the Board informed on the next steps in the 'EfE' process and the preparations of the report for the Astana Ministerial conference in 2011	Done on regular basis
The Agency to present to the Bureau in February 2010 a list of unfilled ENDs positions following the previous recruitment round and decide on possible follow-up	To do for the 50 th Bureau meeting
MB members to send to the Agency any comments to the working paper on SEIS country visits, which should be kept as living document	Ongoing
The Agency to prepare the first draft of a paper clarifying the linkages between SEIS, GMES, INSPIRE and similar activities for the first Bureau/MB meetings in 2010	To do
To finalise the AMP2010 following the comments made at the MB meeting and publish it on the website once the EEA budget 2010 was adopted by the Parliament	To be followed-up in early January
EEA to finalise the ToRs for the four new ETCs and send them to the Board for final agreement before opening the calls for proposals	Done – process launched on 14 December 2009
EEA to keep the countries regularly informed about the developments in SOER2010 preparations	Done on regular basis
To launch a written procedure with the MB for the adoption of the Staff Regulations' Implementing Rules on EEA missions and the policy on preventing psychological and sexual harassment once the Commission's opinion on these rules was in place	To do in early 2010
To launch a written procedure for MB approval of two documents received from the Internal Audit Service (IAS): IAS Charter and IAS Strategic Audit Plan 2010-2012 following the present MB meeting	Done as foreseen - documents adopted through written procedure on 16 Dec 2009
MB to be kept informed about the possibility to have a joint MB-DIMESA meeting at the March 2010 MB meeting	To do
To invite the MB members to a half-day meeting with high-level representatives from the West Balkan countries the day before the 56 th MB meeting – on 16 March	To be followed up in early 2010



ANNEX 4

DECISIONS taken at the 55th Management Board meeting, 25 November 2009, EEA

Agenda item	Decisions	Comments
Item 2. Adoption of agenda	Adopted	_
Item 3. Adoption of the 54 th Management Board minutes, 17 June 2009	Adopted	-
Item 7. Conclusions from the MB Seminar on 24 November 2009	The Board welcomed the joint seminar with DIMESA network and topic of accounting as very timely and interesting	The members supported the need for further cooperation between the Go4 partners and called for taking steps towards joint work on fast track implementation of environmental accounts at European level.
Item 8. Approval of the EEA Annual Management Plan 2010	The Board adopted the EEA AMP 2010, taking into account the tabled opinion of the European Commission and of the EEA Scientific Committee	The members took note how the comments in the tabled CEC opinion on AMP2010 would be reflected in the final document. In addition, they invited the Go4 partners to provide an overview of joint activities at the next MB meeting and keep the MB regularly informed on progress.
Item 9. Approval of the Annual Budget 2010 and other upcoming multiannual projects/activities	The Board approved the EEA Annual Budget 2010 (core funds) and the additional revenue from earmarked fund agreements (IPA, GISC and ENP projects)	The adoption of the EEA budget 2010 is conditional upon the approval by the budgetary authorities of the subsidy to the Agency within the Community budget for 2010, as well as the EEA establishment table for 2010. The MB will be informed on the outcome of the deliberation in the European Parliament in due time.
Item 10. Approval of Eurostat Work Programme 2010	The Board approved the Eurostat Work Programme in the field of environment 2010	The members invited EEA and Eurostat to cooperate more closely on the occasion of the upcoming publications of the SOER2010 and the statistics report.

Item 11. ETC review process 2009-2010	The MB approved four new ETCs in the areas of air, climate change, water and land use, and the draft ToRs for open calls for proposals to be launched in Dec 2009. The MB also adopted the flat overhead rate of 20% for funding of indirect costs, applicable to ETC framework partnership agreements	
Item 12. Progress on SOER2010	The Board took note of the latest developments in the SOER2010 process	The Management Board encouraged the EEA member countries to deliver their contributions in time in order to make the SOER2010 a successful common endeavour.
Item 13. Proposal for a new Eionet Priority Data flow on European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)	The Board approved the proposal for introducing the E-PRTR data reporting as EEA priority data flow from 2010 onwards	The Board noted that this proposal followed a discussion held at the last NFP/Eionet meeting in October 2009.
Item 14. Staff Regulations' Implementing Rules on EEA missions and the policy on preventing psychological and sexual harassment	The Board noted the state of play regarding the preparation of the Implementing Rules on EEA missions and the EEA policy on preventing psychological and sexual harassment	

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board on 25 November 2009

(Signed)

Dr. Karsten Sach Chairman EEA Management Board

ANNEX 5

SUMMARY

of the EEA Management Board – DIMESA Seminar held on Tuesday, 24 November 2009, 10:00-17:00 Luxembourg-Kirchberg, Jean Monnet building, Room M6

Accounting for what matters: how linking national accounts and environmental accounts can support sustainable development objectives in Europe and globally

The seminar held back-to-back with the 55th MB meeting in November 2009 was organised as a joint event for the EEA Management Board and the Eurostat's DIMESA network in the context of the European Strategy for Environmental Accounting (ESEA) and the follow ups to the EC Communication 'GDP and Beyond'. The seminar was hosted by Eurostat in Luxembourg and was attended by almost hundred high-level participants, coming from the Ministries for environment and statistical offices of the EEA member countries, the Commission services (Eurostat, DG ENV and other DGs), representatives of the Stiglitz Commission on Economic Measurement and Social Progress, the European Climate Foundation, Institute for European Environmental Policy, NGO community, as well as Eurostat and EEA staff.

The participants recognised the fact that the accounting topic was touching upon many policies – from the macro scale discussions on GDP and/or sustainable development, to environmental priorities linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable consumption and production patterns, – and thus can support a wide range of policy processes of national, European and wider level.

The main objective of the seminar – which was also its key outcome – was to acknowledge the need to produce jointly through the 'Group of 4' setting, in particular the EEA and Eurostat stakeholders a proposal for ecosystem accounting to support the 'Beyond GDP' process. Among the other key conclusions were:

- The discussions indicated a sense of urgency in developing a proposal to work on the basis of a fast-track implementation of ecosystem accounts, and suggested as a first step to work on water, carbon and land accounting.
- To achieve that a work plan should be developed by Eurostat and EEA, in collaboration with DG Environment, to outline a set of activities for the next couple of years in line with the European Strategy for Environmental Accounting.
- These developments would be also contributing to the international work on accounting as part of the UN SEEA standardisation process.

The seminar agenda together with all the presentations are available to the Board members for reference under the MB group directory on <u>CIRCA</u>.