



and it was recognised that the use of videoconferencing could only be relevant in exceptional circumstances if a single member is unable to attend.

All members confirmed their availability for the next meeting on 4 October apart from the Commission representative, who would no longer be a Commission representative on the Board due to a change of responsibilities in DG Environment.

#### **Item 4 Update DG Environment: Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation (oral)**

The Commission representative gave a brief update on the state of play concerning the evaluation, highlighting that the members of the EEA Management Board were in the process of being consulted on the draft roadmap for the evaluation.

The Bureau took note of the update, recognising that the item would be discussed with the Board later in the day.

### **ITEMS 5-6 STRATEGIC ORIENTATION/FOR GUIDANCE**

#### **Item 5 Resource outlook and implications for EEA work programmes**

Referring to document EEA/MB/76/07, the Bureau welcomed the initiative by EEA Management to raise the issue of present and likely future resource constraints on the work of the Agency in a timely and structured way with the Bureau and the Board.

Members recognised that, though the evaluation and possible revision of the EEA/Eionet Regulation held some hopes for improvements in the future, the trend of declining resources was unlikely to change fundamentally in the next few years under the present legal framework and with the present political priorities in Europe. It was therefore necessary to adopt a strategic approach towards the evaluation process while at the same time facing up to the reality of the constraints of the next few years.

In the latter context it was recognised that the scope for further efficiency gains was limited, and that there would be a growing need to set priorities and to be very cautious in accepting requests for new work. This applied in principle to requests from the Commission, member countries or the European Parliament. It was vital that the quality of the work of the EEA was in no way compromised by spreading resources too thinly in an attempt to respond positively to all requests.

Though several highlighted the fact that resources are constrained at the national level also, it was felt that there might be a possibility of more support from countries in the form of National Experts.

In the context of setting priorities and the need to focus even more on the core tasks of the agency, it was emphasised that these involve assessment and indicator work as well as data collection and management. It was also pointed out that the Commission-led Monitoring and Reporting Refit exercise could perhaps lead to a reduction in the work associated with managing data flows and databases.

While finding the background paper very useful as a means to initiate the debate, it was recognised that real priority-setting requires analysis and discussion at a greater level of detail ('granularity') than present in the paper.

On specific issues the Executive Director clarified:

- (in answer to a question from the Chair of the Scientific Committee), that the agency would continue to work on urban issues in relevant fields such as air pollution, noise and climate change adaptation, but was not able to respond to the overall urban agenda being developed by DG REGIO;

- (in answer to a question from the Commission representative) that resource implications and expected benefits from the Environmental Knowledge Community were factored in.

The Bureau concluded that the discussion in the Bureau and the Board later on the same day was very useful to raise awareness of the issue, while the more specific consequences of the resource constraints should be addressed in the annual work programming processes.

## **Item 6 Representation of non-EU countries at Bureau meetings**

As several of the non-EU member countries were in the process of replacing their members of the EEA Management Board, it was agreed to postpone the issue until later in the year.

*The meeting closed at 10.30*

## **ANNEX 1 FINAL AGENDA OF 69<sup>th</sup> BUREAU MEETING**

### **FOR DECISION**

1. Adoption draft agenda
2. Adoption 68<sup>th</sup> Bureau minutes, 2 February 2016

### **FOR INFORMATION**

3. Attendance at Bureau meetings
4. Update DG Environment: Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation

### **STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

#### **FOR GUIDANCE**

5. Resource outlook and implications for EEA work programmes
6. Representation of non-EU countries at Bureau meetings

## ANNEX 2 ATTENDANCE LIST – EEA 69<sup>th</sup> BUREAU, 22 JUNE 2016

As it was a very short Bureau meeting immediately preceding the Management Board meeting (in which all participated), a separate signature list was not produced.

NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
<b>Members</b>		
Elisabeth FREYTAG-RIGLER	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Environment and Water Management (Austria)	Present
Vanya GRIGOROVA	Bulgarian Environment Agency	Present
Nuno LACASTA	Portuguese Environment Agency	Present
Alda OZOLA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (Latvia)	Present
Maria PEPPA	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Greece)	Present
Julia WERNER	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Germany)	Present
Astrid SCHOMAKER	DG ENV, European Commission	Present
Michael SCOULLOS	Expert designated by the European Parliament	Present
<b>Guests/Observers</b>		
Florian EYWO	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Environment and Water Management (Austria)	Present
Sybille van den HOVE	Chair, EEA Scientific Committee	Present
Hans BERGMAN	DG CLIMA, European Commission	Present
<b>EEA Staff</b>		
Hans BRUYNINCKX	Executive Director	Present
Jeff HUNTINGTON	Senior adviser, Management Board Secretariat	Present
Johannes SCHILLING	Project manager, Management Board Secretariat	Present

### ANNEX 3 EEA BUREAU ROLLING ACTION LIST

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Originating from (meeting date)</b>	<b>Status 20 September 2016</b>
DG ENV to circulate the ToR of the evaluation of the EEA Regulation when available	23 June 2015	Not yet available
EEA to take stock and reflect on lessons learned regarding the EEAcademy summer schools, once the exercise has taken place two or three times	6 October 2015	On 4 October 2016 agenda
To return in the autumn to the issue of non-EU Member State presence at Bureau meetings.	22 June 2016	On 4 October 2016 agenda