

**MINUTES OF THE 70<sup>th</sup> BUREAU MEETING,  
held in Copenhagen on 4 October 2016**

Adopted by the Bureau at its meeting on 31 January 2017

*Signed*

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler  
Chair, EEA Management Board

**Record of proceedings**

The Chair, Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, opened the meeting by welcoming the Bureau members and guests, and presenting apologies on behalf of those unable to attend.

Final agenda:	Annex 1
Attendance list:	Annex 2
Rolling action list:	Annex 3
List of Decisions and Guidance at the 70 <sup>th</sup> BU meeting:	Annex 4

**ITEMS 1–2 FOR ADOPTION**

**Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda**

The Bureau adopted the agenda (Doc. EEA/BU/70/01) without changes.

**Item 2 Adoption of the 69th Bureau minutes, Copenhagen, 22 June 2016**

The minutes (Doc. EEA/BU/69/02) were adopted with a minor change to item 2: “The member nominated by the European Parliament informed the Bureau that there were two major conferences in Brussels and in Thessaloniki on immigration, with Commission participation.” and corrections in the spelling of two names. The minutes have been made available on the Forum.

**ITEMS 3–5 FOR INFORMATION**

**Item 3 Draft minutes 76th Management Board, 22 June 2016**

The Bureau took note of the draft minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Management Board held on 22 June 2016 (Doc. EEA/BU/70/03).

**Item 4 Update by the Chair**

The Chair reported on the following matters:

- Implementing rules under the EU staff regulations were successfully adopted in written procedure.
- There were two written procedures in preparation: one to reflect a budget update on the EFTA contribution; and another one to stop the automatic application of Commission implementing rules under the EU staff regulations while awaiting the development of corresponding models for EU Agencies.
- The importance to follow the next steps on the environmental implementation review.
- EU ministers approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the European Union end of September 2016.

#### **Item 5 Update by the Scientific Committee (SC) Chair**

The SC Chair informed about the SC's preparations of the SC seminar of 5 October 2016 and the subsequent SC meeting of 6 October 2016. At her last meeting in the capacity of SC Chair, Sybille van den Hove shared her reflections on

- what worked well in her work with the EEA (input on MAWP, strategic directions of EEA, exchanges with Executive Director and senior management team, SC contributions on knowledge base for long-term transitions and to the EEAcademy), and
- where there could be improvements (more frequent exchanges with EEA staff, staff participation in seminars, links with Eionet, links with DG RTD on Horizon 2020).

Moreover, the SC Chair shared her observation that SC participation in EEA recruitment procedures could not always be easily organised.

The Management Board (MB) Chair thanked the SC Chair for her intervention. While the MB Chair recognised that the communication of the MB with the SC could be further improved, the main constraint was time available.

EEA's Executive Director (ED) thanked the SC Chair for her very good work and, in particular, for her useful and constructive interventions at MB and Bureau.

#### **Item 6 Update by the Executive Director**

Taking document EEA/BU/70/06 as read, the Executive Director gave an overview of the highlights since the last meeting for the months of June to September 2016. He emphasised the importance of data work in the areas of air quality and industrial pollution. In the area of climate mitigation, he informed about the joint press event with Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič on EEA's report "Transforming the EU power sector: avoiding a carbon lock-in" on 7 October 2016. Shortly before the Bureau meeting and based on impetus given by Commissioner Arias Cañete, the EEA also published a report on electric vehicles and the energy sector. In the context of the Environmental Knowledge Community, there was progress on the knowledge innovation project on natural capital accounting. The EEA contributed to discussions on the circular economy, the monitoring and reporting review led by the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment (DG ENV) and on the monitoring of progress towards sustainable development goals. EEA's ED also announced that EEA would start to look into the architecture of Eionet's Reportnet in 2017, due to issues encountered with reporting in 2016. On the budget execution, EEA's 2016 budget was tight, not least due to a lower EFTA contribution.

In the context of the update by the Executive Director, the Bureau also engaged in a more thorough discussion of EEA's role on climate and energy policies. The Commission package published on 20 July 2016 covers a number of proposals of relevance for EEA's work (including proposals for an Effort Sharing Regulation and on the land use sector).

On the governance of the energy union, a Commission proposal was expected by the end of 2016. The Executive Director informed the Bureau that some looked at the EEA as part of the solution for monitoring and reporting in the areas of climate mitigation, renewables and energy efficiency. In that context, he considered that it was crucial to consider resources available for the EEA.

The MB Chair expressed her support of an enhanced EEA role on climate, renewables and energy efficiency. The European Commission's Directorate General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) recognised the good work of EEA in the area of climate change. At the minimum, the current work should be continued. Streamlining and more integrated long-term planning of energy and climate policies were the main ambitions of the upcoming proposals. DG CLIMA was also aware of the need to resource new requirements for the EEA sufficiently. The member nominated by the European Parliament (EP) supported the idea for the enhanced role on Climate Change, however it was too early to express the EP's views. The representative of Bulgaria emphasised that the additional tasks could be quite comprehensive. Therefore, it was important that work by European agencies rely on the work of national agencies. Greece was supportive of a major role of EEA on monitoring and reporting in the areas of energy efficiency and renewables. She suggested that this type of work should be reflected in EEA's programming and discussions on human resources. The representative of Latvia raised concerns about duplications in the current legal framework. She was supportive of more involvement of EEA and more reliable data in relation to the Commission's proposal on land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF).

EEA's ED recognised that the knowledge base on LULUCF remained to be built. This would require additional investments, also in cooperation with a several Directorates General of the European Commission (e.g. the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, DG AGRI).

DG ENV's Deputy Director General expressed her appreciation of EEA's conversation with DGs AGRI and CLIMA on LULUCF. She emphasised the importance of EEA's focus on data and data management in support of policy analysis. In the context of the Environmental Implementation Review, discussions on the new challenges were as important as assessing the implementation of the current arrangements. More generally, DG ENV would welcome a broad discussion on reporting activities with EEA. The Deputy Director General also supported increased cooperation between DG ENV and EEA in the area of communications.

#### **Item 7 Update DG Environment: Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation**

DG ENV's Deputy Director General shared the latest information on the terms of reference of the evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation with the Bureau. She explained that the evaluation was expected to point at strengths and weaknesses of current model (compared to needs). Following her suggestion, the Bureau agreed to invite DG ENV's contractor for the evaluation to the MB Seminar of 6 December 2016. DG ENV also pointed to the link of the evaluation with the Environmental Implementation Review, since enhancing implementation of the environmental acquis could require a different kind of collaboration. It was important to do a lot more before it comes to infringement proceedings. DG ENV also announced that the Commission was working on a communication on the sustainable development goals.

The Chair thanked DG ENV for sharing information on the evaluation of EEA/Eionet. She emphasised that many parts of Eionet will have relevant contributions to the evaluation.

## **ITEMS 8–13 STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

### **FOR GUIDANCE**

#### **Item 8 MB seminar 6 December 2016: Finalisation of form and content**

EEA's ED introduced the background note and asked for a discussion on two elements in particular, the involvement of MB and Bureau members in the preparations of the seminar and feedback on the draft agenda. DG ENV's Deputy Director General welcomed the plans for the seminar as an opportunity to discuss environmental reporting that is fit for purpose. She also offered a DG ENV update on the fitness check on monitoring and reporting for seminar participants. The MB Chair stressed the importance of this seminar and requested the EEA to share background papers well in advance. The Bureau followed the suggestion of a 'world café' format on the seminar.

The member nominated by the EP suggested that the EEA should review the early documents produced when the EEA was created, but also to consider how long-term objectives could be achieved. Supported by the SC Chair, he encouraged the MB to develop its own vision on the future of EEA/Eionet. The member nominated by the EP and the representative of Bulgaria volunteered to contribute to the preparations of the seminar.

#### **Item 9 PD2017-2019: Status for finalisation**

EEA's ED introduced the item by stressing that the programming document (PD) 2017–2019 went through a first consultation process with MB members, National Focal Points (NFPs) and the Scientific Committee in 2015 before being adopted, as a draft, at the 68<sup>th</sup> BU meeting. Comments had been received, after the adoption as a draft, by the European Parliament. The EEA was still expecting the Commission and SC opinions. The final PD 2017–2019 was foreseen to be adopted by the 7 December 2016 MB meeting.

The representative of DG ENV expressed overall satisfaction with the programming foreseen, noting that the Commission would also reflect, in its opinion, whether the Commission's needs were taken into account.

These statements were followed by a thorough discussion of the figure of the proposed programming document on 'Living within ecological limits'. The Bureau agreed that this figure, and some other details of the 'general context' section of the draft programming document should be revised by the time of the Management Board meeting. Moreover, the EEA announced that it would respond the comments received in time for the Management Board mailing to the PD 2017–2019.

### **FOR GUIDANCE**

#### **Item 10 Draft PD2018-2020: Key highlights for 2018, timetable**

EEA's ED introduced the discussion on the initial draft PD2018-2020, sent to a consultation of MB members, National Focal Points (NFPs) and the Scientific Committee shortly before the 70<sup>th</sup> BU meeting. The challenge of preparing this document was to plan, already in 2016, for the year 2020. The main uncertainties concerned the topics to be addressed, the political priorities to be followed and the resources available. He therefore emphasised that strategic guidance on priorities was the most useful contribution at this stage. The MB added that the consultation of the initial draft PD 2018–2020 on Eionet Forum was open until the end of October 2016.

Germany expressed hesitation as regards the mentioning, in the initial draft PD 2018–2020, of an EU urban policy due to doubts about an EU competence in that area. Moreover, more caution should be expressed as regards a Commission proposal following the evaluation of EEA/Eionet which, at this stage, was only an option. Greece suggested to address the

environmental challenges related to immigration. The MB Chair emphasised, however, that such an activity would be rather far from EEA's usual activities.

EEA's ED clarified that the EEA contribution on urban policy was mainly from the perspective of specific areas, such as air quality. In these areas, a discussion on environmental issues that relate to urban issues was relevant irrespective of the attribution of the policy competence at a specific level of governance. He shared the MB Chair's view that an EEA activity in the area of environmental challenges related to immigration were not a part of EEA's core tasks in the light of the current resources available, despite the fact that a degrading environment was a 'push' factor for migration in many places outside Europe. These elements were best addressed by the competent UN agencies and bodies. DG ENV also recognised the need to take the issues raised by Greece seriously and suggested to establish links to a report on migration that the International Resource Panel was preparing. DG ENV also suggested to strengthen the emphasis of references to the circular economy and to the Knowledge Innovation Project (KIP) on Integrated natural capital accounting (INCA). DG ENV's Deputy Director General also expressed the expectation that resources would be allocated in line with the priorities of the European Commission, i.e. natural capital accounting, invasive alien species, air, forests and soils, water and marine and the urban waste water treatment Directive.

On invasive alien species, EEA's Executive Director referred to a constructive phone call EEA had with DG ENV before the summer. He also stressed that the circular economy was clearly referred to in the initial draft PD 2018–2020.

The Bureau left open the possibility of including work on environment and migration.

#### **Item 11 MAWP 2014–2019: Extension to 2020?, combined with:**

#### **Item 12 Next ETC review: process, timing and issues to be addressed**

After introductions by the MB Chair and the ED, EEA's senior advisor explained the details of the proposals made by EEA in Doc. EEA/BUR/70/11-12. Based on certain assumptions, such as EP elections in 2019 and a Commission proposal on a revised EEA/Eionet Regulation, a multi-annual work programme (MAWP) would have to be developed in 2019 at the latest if the final year of the MAWP was 2019. Not least due to the lack of clarity on the successor of the 7<sup>th</sup> EAP, the EEA favoured an extension of the current MAWP 2014–2019 to the year 2020. This would also allow the development of a new MAWP when there is more clarity as regards political priorities and the framing of environmental policy in the years after 2020.

On the ETC review, EEA's senior advisor outlined the options presented in Doc. EEA/BUR/70/11-12. Option 2 presented in the Bureau paper foresees a MAWP extension to 2020, a light topic review in 2018 and ETCs being designated for the years 2019 and 2020, with an additional year of extension. The discussions in a light topic review could focus on the terms of reference to be used for 'testing the market' (i.e. an open call). One of the main downsides of option 1 was the fact that the Financial Regulation required grants to be awarded for four years only, with certain exceptions. An extension of the current grants to eight years, as outlined in option 1, could barely be seen as an exception. EEA's senior advisor also presented EEA's proposal for a process starting with the EEA MB initiating an ETC topic review in 2017 at its meeting of December 2016.

The MB Chair supported both, a prolongation of the current MAWP to 2020 and option 2 for the ETC review. She emphasised that starting with a new MAWP in early 2020 would be artificial. However, the MAWP should not be prolonged beyond 2020. DG ENV's Deputy

Director General shared the Chair's opinion on the proposals. One question that needed to be taken into account in the discussions were resource constraints. Germany, Latvia, Bulgaria and the member nominated by the European Parliament all also expressed their support for the proposal to extend the MAWP to 2020 and for option 2. Responding to a question by Bulgaria about the contractual procedure, EEA's senior advisor clarified that the MB would agree on the names of ETCs, then terms of reference would be published, followed by bidders submitting proposals which would be evaluated by an evaluation committee chaired by MB members. The MB Chair said that the MB should also engage in a discussion on the contractual mechanism for future ETCs.

### **Item 13 EEAcademy summer schools: stock-taking and lessons learned**

The SC Chair introduced Doc. EEA/BUR/70/13 and provided feedback on the EEAcademy summer school late June/ early July 2016. The evaluation of this year's EEAcademy summer school was positive. The Central European University would like to continue the activity, albeit with slightly lower financial contribution. She considered that the summer school was a good way for EEA to share and receive knowledge, a view also shared by one of the DG ENV representatives who attended the summer school. The member nominated by the European Parliament emphasised that EEA and the EEAcademy steering group should become clearer about the target audience of the summer schools. DG ENV suggested, supported by the SC Chair, that there should also be outreach to the business community. On the audience, EEA's ED said that he favoured the use of networks with the right academic people.

MB Chair concluded that she was looking forward to the discussion about the next summer school to take place. She requested an overview of EEAcademy activities.

## **OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS FOR GUIDANCE**

### **Item 14 Draft Internal Audit Capability Work Plan 2017**

EEA's Internal Audit Capability (IAC) proposed to continue with on the spot verifications based on risk assessment. Moreover, she said she would also focus on IT security and at EEA's IT security policy. Regarding the advisory tasks, her plan is to look at EEA's internal control system, including the anti-fraud aspects. After a short discussion on the time available for additional tasks, the Bureau concluded that the IAC should indeed continue with the previous tasks, as suggested by the IAC.

### **Item 15 Scientific Committee recruitment: status**

The SC Chair provided an update on the selection committee that met on 3 October 2016, referring to some key figures such as the number of applications received. She announced that interviews would take place in November. Laua Höjer was chairing the Committee. The December 2016 MB had to take a final decision on the new SC members.

### **Item 16 Draft agenda 77th Management Board, 7 December 2016**

A revised agenda for the 77th Management Board of 7 December 2016 was tabled. EEA added the adoption of an amended conflict of interest policy. The MB Chair stressed the fact that a decision about when an MB seminar would take place in 2017 had to be taken at the December 2017 MB meeting. EEA's ED said a decision on meetings taking place outside Copenhagen would have to be taken in December at the latest. The Bureau agreed to encourage members to come forward in December with offers to host future MB meetings.

The draft agenda of the 77<sup>th</sup> Management Board was adopted without comments.

### **Item 17 Non-EU Member State presence in the Bureau: process**

The MB Chair raised that currently no non-EU member was present at BU meetings. She supported the idea that there should be non-EU representation.

The Bureau agreed to explore if there is interest in joining the Bureau amongst Board members of non-EU member countries. Depending on the outcome, a non-EU member country observer could be announced as part of the Chair update at the MB meeting in December.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **Item 18 Overview of audits**

EEA's Head of Administrative Services informed the BU that a meeting with the European Court of Auditors (ECA) took place the week before the meeting. While the ECA's observations were not yet available, he expected a positive outcome. A more comprehensive update would be given at the December 2016 MB meeting.

Germany asked whether EEA was contacted by the ECA on their audit of Natura2000, which EEA's Head of Administrative Services confirmed. He also explained, at request of the member nominated by the European Parliament, the background of the ECA remarks on the use of IT cloud services. The background was a legal issue. EEA has used a framework contract of the European Commission's Directorate General for Informatics (DIGIT). The ECA was concerned about the fact that the European geo-region defined by Microsoft included also North Africa, which could lead to a non-respect of the safe harbour agreement. Therefore, the EEA had amended the service contract in order to force Microsoft to store EEA's data in the European Union. Moreover, a court case in a similar instance established that the offices of Microsoft in Ireland and the Netherlands fall under European law. Implications for EEA's data services were unlikely.

#### **Item 19 EEA Publication Plan 2016. Update**

EEA's ED introduced the update on EEA's publication plan 2016. He stressed EEA's heavy work load in quarter 4/2016. To avoid negative implications for EEA staff, he said that some carry-overs of publications to 2017 could be expected. EEA's Head of Communications shared her view that she would expect high media interest in EEA's publications on carbon lock-ins, the sea food system, trends and projections in the area of climate mitigation and energy, as well as the climate change impacts and vulnerabilities report.

#### **Item 20 Feedback from Bureau members**

There was no further feedback from Management Board members. The MB Chair thanked the representative of Bulgaria for her participation at her last BU meeting and for the very good contributions.

*The meeting closed at 15.48h.*

## **ANNEX 1 Final agenda of the 70<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting**

### **FOR ADOPTION**

1. Agenda
2. 69<sup>th</sup> Bureau minutes, 22 June 2016

### **FOR INFORMATION**

3. Draft minutes 76<sup>th</sup> Management Board, 22 June 2016
4. Update by the MB Chair
5. Update by the SC Chair
6. Update by the Executive Director
7. Update DG Environment: Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation

### **STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

#### **FOR GUIDANCE**

8. MB seminar 6 December 2016: Finalisation of form and content
9. PD2017-2019: Status for finalisation
10. Draft PD2018-2020: Key highlights for 2018, timetable
11. MAWP 2014-2019: Extension to 2020?
12. Next ETC review: process, timing and issues to be addressed
13. EEAcademy summer schools: stock-taking and lessons learned

### **OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **FOR GUIDANCE**

14. Draft Internal Audit Capability Work Plan 2017
15. Scientific Committee recruitment: status

#### **FOR DECISION**

16. Draft agenda 77<sup>th</sup> Management Board, 7 December 2016
17. Non-EU Member State presence in the Bureau: process

### **FOR INFORMATION**

18. Overview of audits
19. EEA Publication Plan 2016. Update
20. Feedback from Bureau members

**ANNEX 2 ATTENDANCE LIST – EEA 70<sup>th</sup> BUREAU, 4 October 2016**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
<b>Members</b>		
Elisabeth FREYTAG-RIGLER	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Environment and Water Management (Austria)	Signed
Vanya GRIGOROVA	Executive Environment Agency (Bulgaria)	Signed
Nuno LACASTA	Ministry for Agriculture, Environment, Sea and Spatial Planning (Portugal)	Signed
Alda OZOLA	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy (Latvia)	Signed
Maria PEPPA	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Greece)	Signed
Joanna DRAKE	DG ENV, European Commission	Signed
Julia WERNER	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Germany)	Signed
<b>Guests/Observers</b>		
Sybille van den HOVE	Chair, EEA Scientific Committee	Signed
Elena MONTANI	European Commission, DG ENV	Signed
Hans BERGMAN	European Commission, DG CLIMA	Signed
Michael SCOULLOS	Expert designated by the European Parliament	Signed
<b>EEA Staff</b>		
Hans BRUYNINCKX	Executive Director	Signed
Søren NIELSEN	Head of Programme, ADS	Signed
Jeff HUNTIGTON	Senior Advisor/Management Board Secretariat, EDO	Signed
Johannes SCHILLING	Management Board Secretariat, EDO	Signed

**ANNEX 3 ROLLING ACTION LIST**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>Status 18 November 2016</b>
To publish on Forum the final minutes of the 69 <sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting	Done

**ANNEX 4 LIST OF DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE 70TH BUREAU MEETING  
(Copenhagen, 4 October 2016)**

**Draft Decision EEA/BU/2016/020**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1 Adoption of the agenda	Adopted	
2 Adoption 69 <sup>th</sup> Bureau minutes, 22 June 2015	Adopted with one amendment	The member designated by the European Parliament clarified his statement on conferences that took place on the topic of environmental impacts of migration.
8 MB seminar 6 December 2016: Finalisation of form and content	The Bureau gave further input into the form and content of the seminar	The need to aim for a clear vision for the future of EEA/Eionet was emphasised. A world café format was preferred to break-out sessions. The member designated by the European Parliament and the member from Bulgaria volunteered to participate in the preparation for the seminar. It was agreed that the MB meeting of 7 December should agree on a follow-up procedure.
9 PD2017-2019: Status for finalisation	The Bureau took note of the status for finalisation of the PD 2017-2019 and endorsed the revised 'General context' section of the document with minor amendments	The EEA agreed to look into the possibility of modifying one of the figures in the 'General context' section to include concepts such as 'values', 'culture' or 'social practices'.
10 Draft PD2018-2020: Key highlights for 2018, timetable	The Bureau took note of the timetable, and provided input to the list of key highlights.	The Bureau left open the possibility of including work on environment and migration.
11 MAWP 2014-2019: Extension to 2020?	The Bureau agreed to recommend to the MB to extend the multi-annual work programme to the end of the year 2020.	It was noted that further extensions of the MAWP would not be relevant.

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Comments</b>
12 Next ETC review: process, timing and issues to be addressed	The Bureau agreed to recommend option 2 presented in the background note to the MB, i.e. that an ETC topic review process be initiated in 2017 in line with the proposed scope and timetable, so that new ETC consortia could start work at the beginning of 2019.	
13 EEAcademy summer schools: stock-taking and lessons learned	The Bureau welcomed the overview of experience gained so far, and supported the continuation of the summer schools.	Bureau members brought forward ideas for activities in other areas, and emphasised the need to clarify audiences and to reach out to other partners e.g. the business and academic communities. The Chair requested an overview of EEAcademy activities.
14 Draft Internal Audit Capability Work Plan 2017	The Bureau welcomed the draft.	
15 Scientific Committee recruitment: status	The Bureau took note of the progress in recruitment.	
16 Draft agenda 77 <sup>th</sup> Management Board, 7 December 2016	The Bureau agreed to the revised draft agenda as tabled (Doc. EEA/BU/70/16 REV).	It was agreed to encourage members to come forward in December with offers to host future MB meetings.
17 Non-EU Member State presence in the Bureau: process	The Bureau agreed to explore if there is interest in joining the Bureau amongst Board members of non-EU member countries.	Depending on the outcome, a non-EU member country observer could be announced as part of the Chair update at the MB meeting in December.

Approved by the Chair of the Management Board  
on 4 October 2016

*Signed*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler