



## MINUTES OF THE 77th MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

Copenhagen, 7 December 2016

Adopted by the Management Board at its meeting on 14 March 2017

*Signed*

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler  
Chair, EEA Management Board

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming new Board members and alternates and thanking several for whom it was their last Board meeting.

Final agenda:           Annex 1  
Attendance list:       Annex 2  
Decision list:           Annex 3

### ITEMS 1–2 FOR DECISION

#### Item 1   Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/77/01 REV1) was adopted without any changes. Items 15 and 20 took place in a closed session and are not minuted. Item 9 was combined with the special session.

#### Item 2   Adoption of the 76th Management Board minutes, 22 June 2016

The minutes (Doc. EEA/BU/77/02) were adopted with minor changes.

### ITEMS 3–7 FOR INFORMATION

#### Item 3   Draft minutes 70th Bureau, 4 October 2016

The MB took note of the draft minutes and suggested minor changes.

Greece requested an update on one of the discussions that took place at the BU meeting, addressing environmental challenges related to migration. EEA's Executive Director (ED) suggested that EEA could provide information if there was an EU level effort. The representative of the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment (DG ENV) committed to provide more detailed information on the matter to Greece.

#### Item 4   Update by the Chair (oral)

The Chair informed the MB that the European Commission adopted a package on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in November 2016. While she expressed her disappointment that the EU sustainable development strategy was not mentioned, she supported the communication on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it included



many good ideas. She encouraged countries to work towards Council conclusions, potentially also from the General Affairs Council configuration.

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

The new Scientific Committee (SC) Chair, Per Mickwitz, presented himself to the MB and pointed out synergies of his current work for the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), the Finnish Strategic Research Council, and EEA.

Continuing his presentation, he highlighted three important activities of the Scientific Committee: 1) building a long-term knowledge base in joint EEA/SC seminars; 2) formal meetings and other joint activities; 3) individual activities by SC members including for example reviewing publications, organising workshops, and participating in EEA selection procedures.

Moreover, the SC Chair announced that a report on the EEA/SC seminar on land as a resource will be published on EEA's web page. The next SC seminar was planned to deal with the topic of a 'non-toxic environment' in May. The SC Chair invited MB members to participate. He also highlighted SC participation in workshops, such as the European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum in September. Comments on draft EEA reports were given by SC members in a number of instances in the course of 2016.

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

EEA's ED gave a [presentation](#) complementing his written update (Doc. EEA/MB/77/06), taken as read. He highlighted a number of publications that the EEA published since June 2016 in the areas of long-range transboundary air pollution, carbon lock-ins, the nexus between electric driving and the energy system, urban sprawl, seafood in Europe, environmental taxation and impacts of EU policies on land. The ED also stressed recent work by the EEA in the area of climate finance, where a cooperation was established with a number of international financial institutions and the European Commission's Directorate General in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA). A workshop was organised within the context of the Environmental Knowledge Community's Knowledge Innovation Project 'Within the limits of the planet'. The EEA worked also on Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators and agri-environmental indicators. On the governance of the energy union, EEA's ED emphasised that the EEA was now recognised as a partner in the areas of climate mitigation, renewables and energy efficiency.

Regarding Eionet Reportnet, the ED informed the MB that the EEA is planning an overhaul of the current platform (Reportnet 2.0). EEA contributed to the Directors' meeting on Inspire in Barcelona. The EEA also participated in a Copernicus in situ coordination workshop. In the area of communications, EEA's ED pointed out that the EEA is restructuring its homepage in an iterative manner. Regarding human resources, the ED informed the MB that many recruitments were taking place. The EEA developed a core competency framework and carried out a 360° evaluation of managers. As regards the budget, the EEA expected to get close to full budget execution in 2016.

In the last quarter of 2016, the new Head of UN Environment, Erik Solheim, visited the EEA. Moreover, there were visits of delegation of the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment). There were four country visits in Hungary, Slovakia, Ireland and Slovenia.



In the subsequent discussion, Spain expressed satisfaction with the Management Board seminar of 6 December 2016. Particularly relevant were discussions on the monitoring and reporting fitness check as they had implications for all EEA networks, including MB members and NFPs. Spain informed that it consolidated the country's position on improvements of monitoring and reporting, in particular as regards reductions of double reporting. The fitness check had a direct link to Inspire, a technical and complex matter. Therefore, a capacity building exercise on Inspire was needed. Inspire focal points would have to play a more important role. A concept paper on the future of e-reporting had implications for EEA's work. The lack of implementation of Inspire was also due to a lack of resources.

On Inspire, EEA's ED suggested to Spain to get in contact with EEA's ICT and data management (IDM) programme. It was clear that the monitoring and reporting fitness check would have an impact on EEA and countries. Therefore, the EEA cooperated with DG ENV on the matter, also looking at efficiency gains. On the idea expressed by Spain to address the fitness check monitoring and reporting at the MB seminar, the MB Chair added that it may be too late to address the topic at the time when the next MB seminar was scheduled.

Asked by Germany about an event of EU Agencies at the European Parliament, EEA's Executive Director and EEA's Head of Communications informed about two studies prepared for that event, one on the efficiency of EU Agencies, the other on the contribution of EU Agencies to Europe 2020 and the Juncker Commission's priorities.

Portugal re-emphasised the importance of the monitoring and reporting exercise. A serious reflection on the role of the EEA in that context was needed. Portugal also praised the work of the EEA, since the Agency addressed classic issues such as air (where the reports have become a landmark), but also more novel issues such as electric vehicles.

Greece expressed the appreciation of the large amount of work done by EEA, including EEA's participation in meetings, dissemination of information and involvement in regional activities (Mediterranean, West Balkans). Romania also expressed thanks to the EEA for its work.

Ireland expressed disappointment that the monitoring and reporting fitness check focused too much on reporting and too little on monitoring. She announced that the Better Regulation Interest Group (BRIG) of the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA network) would make a contribution to the fitness check. Ireland also informed that Irish media reported extensively on EEA's latest air quality report. Ireland expressed the desire to see a continuation of the pitch on health and environment, since it helped to raise the attention.

Switzerland emphasised that the core business of EEA shouldn't be forgotten, including on air.

The Netherlands supported more outreach of the EEA, despite limitations in resources. A clarification was requested as regards the EEA's plan to commission five papers on different perspectives on sustainability transitions with publication planned for 2017.

Reacting to the interventions, EEA's ED confirmed the big interest in the air quality report. He made a distinction between outreach and communication. While the policy context was increasingly supportive to take up EEA's messages, a balance had to be found between accessibility of the reports and the need to portrait complex issues. As regards the five papers on sustainability transitions, EEA asked leading experts on how they consider a knowledge base for



transitions should look like. Three papers look at different analytical perspectives, one paper on an integrated assessment model for transitions, one other on a more action-oriented approach. The report could be published early next year and discussed at a workshop around Easter 2017.

### **Item 7 Update by the European Commission: Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation**

DG ENV provided an update on three points by the European Commission:

#### *1) EEA/Eionet evaluation*

The roadmap for the evaluation of EEA/Eionet was revised based on the comments DG ENV received. The final version was made publicly available. DG ENV emphasised that the evaluation was outcome neutral. The evidence gathered will underpin a decision on whether the EEA/Eionet Regulation needs to be changed at all. Any opening of the EEA/Eionet Regulation would require a prior impact assessment. Efficiency and effectiveness will be covered by the evaluation, but also questions in relation to relevance, coherence and EU added value. DG ENV also informed about plans to organise a workshop on the evaluation, potentially back to back to the last MB meeting of 2017.

#### *2) Fitness check on environmental monitoring and reporting*

DG ENV informed that workshops were held in Brussels on 7 and 8 December 2016 to discuss a concept paper on the fitness check on environmental monitoring and reporting. The results of the fitness check and a proposal for follow-up actions were foreseen for spring 2017. The Commission stressed that it would rely on the EEA to follow-up on those actions. According to the Commission, an effective, transparent and streamlined reporting system is also relying on an improved Eionet. On these aspects, suggestions by EEA and EEA's MB to DG ENV were welcome. Moreover, Reportnet 2.0 was needed for a revised environmental reporting regime.

#### *3) Commission work programme 2017*

Main items on the agenda of DG ENV in 2017 are the continued implementation of the circular economy action plan; plastic recycling, use and leakage; minimum quality requirements for reused water; chemical products and the evaluation of REACH; natural capital; drinking water; an evaluation of the main pieces of water legislation, including water framework directive; the implementation of the revised National Emission Ceilings Directive, also looking at low emission vehicles and low emission mobility more generally; green finance; the environmental implementation review based on country-specific reports; compliance assurance; and sustainable development goals.

The MB Chair thanked the Commission for the update. She expressed her wish that the MB should have a privileged role in the evaluation of the EEA, given that the MB is part of EEA's governance structure. The Chair was open to discuss the workshop on the evaluation and asked the Commission to clarify when the outcomes of the evaluation would be ready.

Portugal, Spain enquired about compliance assurance project by DG ENV. France requested more information about the future role of Eionet in relation to reporting. Austria, referring to the presentation by DG ENV's Director General Calleja Crespo at the EPA network meeting in Portugal, suggested a dedicated workshop on the results of the fitness check on monitoring and reporting which should take place before the results of the fitness check would be presented.



DG ENV's Deputy Director General confirmed that MB members and Eionet will be involved in the evaluation of EEA/Eionet in a special role by being consulted in interviews, focus groups and being given the possibility to provide assessments. She encouraged MB members to be proactive with contributions to the evaluation. As regards the fitness check on monitoring and reporting, drafts are being shared. The compliance assurance project aims at helping countries to ensure better implementation of environmental legislation, but also to adapt it to the needs of Member States. Complementing on the monitoring and reporting fitness check, the European Commission's Directorate General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) emphasised that the Commission's 2016 'winter package' identifies a number of reporting requirements related to climate change, renewables and energy efficiency with a timeframe of 2021-2030. Main provisions of the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation were maintained in the proposal made by the Commission with the winter package, but links to Kyoto Protocol were removed. If there are new provisions at international level, these would have to be taken on board at a later stage. DG CLIMA also pointed out that the EEA has been allocated three additional contract agents under these proposals. According to DG CLIMA, the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union foresaw to deal with the winter package in the Energy configuration of the Council. Supported by the MB Chair, DG CLIMA stressed that MB members should remain alert in order to ensure proper coordination.

The member designated by the European Parliament asked about the scope of the relevance questions in the evaluation. He also was interested in whether current resources and tasks of the EEA were considered stable parameters in the evaluation or whether there would be more flexibility.

DG ENV clarified that the evaluation focuses on the current mandate from an ex post perspective. DG ENV suggested a further session on the evaluation at the MB meeting in March.

## **SPECIAL SESSION**

### **Presentation by NFPs of progress under the Eionet Improvement and Innovation initiative**

#### **Agenda item combined with Item 9 SOER 2020 roadmap**

EEA's Head of the Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) Programme introduced the special session by outlining future state of environment assessments. There will be two main analytical elements of the future assessment (thematic and systemic) and the synthesis building on those two elements. As regards the systems assessment, the knowledge base is only emerging. Therefore, specific investments will be required over the next years in order to allow for the systemic assessment in the context of the assessment "Europe's environment – state and outlook 2020" (SOER 2020).

The Eionet National Focal Points (NFPs) of Switzerland and Portugal presented the project "mapping Europe's future" prepared under the umbrella of the Eionet Improvement and Innovation initiative (E3I), supported financially by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). As regards the global megatrends identified by EEA in its SOE assessments, the question remains about the real implications of these megatrends at national level. A number of EEA member countries contributed to the project. One of the outcomes of the project was a simple method and toolkit for identifying the implications of global megatrends at national level. The development of the method and the toolkit was an important learning experience for Eionet.

The NFPs of Germany and the Netherlands presented the second report, "Sustainability Transitions – now for the long term". They informed the MB that 27 countries and European Topic Centres have contributed to the report. The document included 75 case studies on



transition at different levels. The case studies allowed to identify activities in relation to transitions, but also to illustrate transition theory.

In the subsequent discussion, Finland asked about the continuity of the megatrend work and flagged the country's interest in contributing to similar work in the future.

DG CLIMA asked about the systemic assessment foreseen for SOER 2020, and in particular about its relevance for policies and about the approach for using existing systemic assessments. DG CLIMA also flagged similar work done by DG CLIMA with JRC.

The member designated by the European Parliament pointed out that megatrends seem to relate to socio-economic planetary boundaries. He stressed that it remained unclear how these boundaries relate to transitions. For EEA's systemic assessment, it was important to define those socio-economic trends that cannot be changed and to define areas where action, for example on climate change, can be taken. Otherwise, there would inevitably be a very pessimist perception. Positive, disruptive megatrends could change the picture completely.

France expressed satisfaction about the strong involvement of NFPs in the project. In the MB seminar of 6 December 2016, the question of resources available to EEA and Eionet was raised specifically in relation to work on cross-cutting issues. France asked for the network to be reorganised in a way that facilitates such cross-cutting work, since the methods employed for working on transitions had a cost. It was unlikely that Eionet was currently ready to take on these new challenges.

Austria informed that it took an approach very similar to the one presented for SOER 2020 in the Austrian SoE report presented at the Austrian Parliament on 7 December 2016. However, it remained unclear how the Eionet report "mapping Europe's future" would be used at national level.

Bulgaria expressed appreciation for the work on global megatrends, but shared concerns about resource needs. There were increasing discrepancies between national SoE assessments that took place on annual basis and more advanced assessments.

Reacting to the comments by countries and DG CLIMA, EEA's Head of the IEA Programme recognised the importance of targeted investments for SOER 2020. The methodology of "mapping Europe's future" would be published and ready for use in early 2017. Moreover, the EEA was planning to harvest existing knowledge from several networks. In relation to DG CLIMA's cooperation with JRC, he stressed that the EEA was ready for further exchanges and didn't have the intention to compete with the work of other bodies. Three parts of EEA's network were considered key for the knowledge development for SOER 2020: NFPs, NRCs FLIS, and NRCs SOE reporting. In that context, input/output analysis and work similar to EEA's report on carbon lock-ins could become more important over the coming years.

EEA's ED thanked the NFPs for their presentation, emphasising that learning from case studies was possible. The approach of having a thematic (state of the environment analysis) and a systemic (transitions) assessment was supported by the outcomes of SOER 2015. The ED also recognised that a lot of work was needed that started already at EEA internally. Work also had to be continued in the context of the environmental knowledge community and its knowledge innovation projects. EEA's approach would not be to produce an enormous literature review.

The MB Chair concluded that several aspects on SOER 2020 needed further discussion, also at future MB meetings. The MB and Eionet didn't only have to be informed about progress with SOER 2020, but fully involved.



## **STRATEGIC ORIENTATION (FOR GUIDANCE)**

### **Item 8 Follow-up of the MB seminar 6 December 2016**

EEA informed that the MB will receive a paper on the outcomes of the 6 December 2016 seminar at the MB meeting of March 2017. The MB Chair expressed appreciation of the preparation of the seminar.

## **ITEMS 10–13 STRATEGIC ORIENTATION (FOR DECISION)**

### **Item 10 Adoption Programming Document 2017–2019, including Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2017**

EEA's ED introduced the item, recalling repeated opportunities for the MB to contribute to Programming Document (PD) 2017–2019. He pointed out that, linked to adoption of the PD, there was a financing decision to be adopted by the MB at its 77<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) stressed the importance of including in the document the role of natural capital and ecosystem accounting, as well as the environmental knowledge community, Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and citizen observatories. EEA's ED informed the MB that the comments received were included to the extent possible in the PD 2017–2019 and expressed his understanding that DG RTD emphasised these elements.

The PD 2017–2019 and the European Topic Centres (ETC) Financing Decision for 2017 were unanimously adopted by the MB, including the changes reflected in the tabled document EEA/MB/77/10ADD.

### **Item 11 Adoption EEA Budget 2017**

EEA's ED introduced the agenda item for formal approval of EEA's 2017 budget. The ED stressed that, next to the core budget, there were funding lines for Copernicus and the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU). The HBM4EU funding line was supported by DG RTD and the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). The opening ceremony for HBM4EU would take place on 8 December 2016 in Brussels.

Reacting to a request for clarification by DG ENV, EEA's Head of Administrative Services explained that all grants that EEA receives originate from the European Commission. The budget presented for Copernicus didn't assume a linear execution (i.e. the same amount of expenditure every year). DG ENV expressed that one element related to the delegation agreement would be further clarified with DG BUDG.

Switzerland enquired about the potential beneficiaries of Copernicus. EEA's Head of the IDM Programme clarified that there were, on the one hand, EEA's activities in the network and, on the other hand, specific tasks under the delegation agreement. For CORINE land cover, there would be full coverage of EEA member countries; potentially also for cooperating countries.

Ireland enquired about allocation of funds to IT which seemed rather low. EEA's ED clarified that while there was a clear internal prioritisation of IT projects by an internal ICT steering committee, the budget remained tight.



The EEA budget 2017 reflected in the document tabled was adopted unanimously by the EEA MB.

### **Item 12 Extension of MAWP 2014–2019 to 2020, planning of next ETC topic review**

EEA's senior advisor presented the implications of an extension of EEA's multi-annual work programme (MAWP) to 2020. He emphasised that the Bureau recommended an extension of the MAWP to 2020. Extending the ETCs to 2020 appeared difficult in the light of the current financial rules on grant management.

The second option he presented foresees the current ETC consortia to run until 2018, followed by a designation of new ETCs for the years 2019 and 2020. This designation for two years would be followed, in turn, by an extension to 2021 under the new work programme if the MB decided so. This way, the ETCs to be designated for the period starting in 2022 could take into account EEA's new MAWP.

For the ETCs to be designated for the years 2019 and 2020, a light topic review could be foreseen. Before starting the topic review and considering recent recommendations by the European Court of Auditors, the MB should discuss whether grants are the appropriate model for ETCs.

The United Kingdom (UK) supported the proposals by the EEA and the Bureau. Reflecting on discussions at the MB seminar of 6 December 2016 about the need to make EEA benefit of new expertise, the process for ETC reviews was particularly relevant.

Austria supported the point made by the UK and added that potential new areas of work should be addressed in the topic review, e.g. on the energy union and the circular economy package.

The decision to prolong the MAWP to 2020 was adopted unanimously by the MB.

### **Item 13 Draft Programming Document 2018–2020, including draft AWP 2018: MB review and delegation of adoption to the Bureau**

The Management Board was invited to delegate the adoption of the draft PD 2018–2020 (as reflected in the document tabled EEA/MB/77/13ADD) to the Bureau. EEA's ED informed the MB that the document tabled included the outcome of the budgetary conciliation of Council and Parliament for 2017. The conciliation did not confirm the earlier position taken by the European Parliament, according to which staff cuts for Agencies would have been limited to 5%. The ED stressed that these resource cuts decided by the budgetary authority required a serious discussion about implications for EEA's work.

The MB Chair recalled the MB members of their responsibility to match resources and requests to the EEA, also in times of decreasing resources. She invited MB members to comment.

The member nominated by the European Parliament emphasised that the green economy should be reflected in the PD 2018–2020 and, more generally, distributional effects should be reflected in EEA's work.

On behalf of the European Commission, DG ENV informed the MB that the Commission has provided detailed comments to the EEA. DG ENV supported that a strategic discussion should take place, also at the MB meeting.



At the end of the exchange, the MB decided unanimously to delegate the adoption of the draft PD 2018–2020 to the Bureau for transmission, in line with the requirements of the EEA Financial Regulation, to the Institutions.

#### **ITEMS 14–20 OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (FOR DECISION)**

##### **Item 14 Approval draft Eurostat Work Programme 2017**

The MB approved the Eurostat Work Programme 2017 in the field of the environment, as presented to the MB, unanimously (MB Decision EEA/MB/2016/030).

##### **Item 15 Scientific Committee: Designation of new members (closed session)**

Session was not minuted. In accordance with Article 10.2 of EEA's Founding Regulation <sup>(1)</sup>, the Management Board designated the new Scientific Committee members.

##### **Item 16 Approval Internal Audit Capability (IAC) Work Plan 2017**

EEA's ED informed about regular meetings with the IAC. The Bureau supported the IAC work plan 2017 at its meeting of October 2016.

The MB adopted the IAC work plan 2017 unanimously.

##### **Item 17 Meeting dates 2017: Decision on timing of the MB seminar**

The MB Chair introduced the agenda item, pointing out changes compared to previous versions of the overview of meeting dates in 2017. The SC seminar would not take place in February.

The MB Chair also asked the MB to take decision when to organise the 2017 MB seminar and added that the evaluation of EEA/Eionet could be the topic of the seminar in 2017. Since no country had volunteered to host the MB meeting and seminar in 2017, she invited MB members to come forward with suggestions.

After a short discussion, the MB decided to organise the MB seminar in December and to ask the BU to reflect on a topic for the seminar to be proposed for the March 2017 MB meeting. Next to the proposal made to discuss the evaluation of EEA/Eionet (a topic also dependent on the schedule of the evaluation), Spain proposed to discuss the monitoring and reporting fitness check. Germany suggested, next to the topic for the seminar and supported by the MB Chair, to discuss EEA's indicator report at the MB special session of March or June in order to prepare for the evaluation of the General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' (7<sup>th</sup> EAP).

The MB adopted the meeting dates unanimously, including the decision to organise a MB seminar in December 2017.

##### **Item 18 Adoption of amended EEA Conflict of Interest Policy and of guidelines on whistleblowing**

The MB adopted both documents unanimously.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network



### **Item 19 Election of Vice-Chair/Bureau member**

The Chair introduced the election of the Vice-Chair and Bureau member. She reminded the MB that a Bureau member shall be a full member of the MB.

Laura Burke (Ireland) was the only candidate and the MB Chair gave her an opportunity to present herself to the MB.

The MB elected Laura Burke unanimously as a Vice-Chair and Bureau member.

One non-EU member country expressed interest to become an observer in the Bureau (Iceland) and the MB agreed on the observer status (subject to final confirmation by the Icelandic Ministry of the Environment).

### **ITEMS 21–24 FOR INFORMATION**

#### **Item 21 Priorities Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Malta [presented](#) its priorities for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first six months of 2017 and recalled that this was the first EU Presidency of the country. Priorities of the Presidency were migration, the single market, security, social inclusion, Europe's neighbourhood and maritime. In the area of the environment, there were three main priorities: climate change, circular economy and the marine environment.

DG CLIMA reminded MB members that the part on governance of energy union in the Commission's winter package also included all monitoring and reporting for greenhouse gases.

#### **Item 22 EEAcademy**

The Chair of the EEAcademy Advisory Group, reported on progress with the EEAcademy. He recalled that the MB agreed in 2015 to establish the EEAcademy. The decision stated that resources foreseen to support the EEAcademy will mainly come from existing meeting and mission budgets. The Chair of the EEAcademy Advisory Group requested the MB to reconsider the decision on the origin of resources for the EEAcademy by allocating a dedicated budget to the EEAcademy.

The Chair recommended to put the item on the MB agenda in March to take a decision on the proposal made on budget allocation.

Ireland, Portugal and the UK expressed appreciation of the work of the EEAcademy.

The ED expressed his gratitude for the work of the EEAcademy Advisory Group. A response to the letter by the group was under preparation. Since EEA's internal goal was to provide space for 10 days of learning and development, the EEAcademy was a good opportunity for content-driven learning. The goal of the EEAcademy was not to establish a new institution, but to provide a structured approach on knowledge development.

#### **Item 23 Overview of audits**

The EEA informed the MB about the first visit by the ECA in 2016. The second visit will take place in early 2017 before conclusions by ECA will be made available to the MB of June 2017. Ongoing discussions on grant management will feed into the discussion on the funding model for ETCs.



**Item 24 Feedback from Management Board members**

The MB Chair and EEA's ED thanked Vanya Grigorova for her work with the EEA MB and announced departures in the MB Secretariat.

Greece informed about a meeting in Athens, co-organised with UNEP-MAP on SEIS work plans at national level.

*The meeting closed at 15.57.*



**Annex 1 Final agenda of 77<sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting  
(Wednesday, 7 December 2016, 9.30–16.30)**

**FOR DECISION**

1. Adoption draft agenda
2. Adoption 76<sup>th</sup> Management Board minutes, 22 June 2016

**FOR INFORMATION**

3. Draft minutes 70<sup>th</sup> Bureau, 4 October 2016
4. Update by the MB Chair
5. Update by the SC Chair
6. Update by the Executive Director
7. Update by the European Commission: Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation

**SPECIAL SESSION**

Presentation by NFPs of progress under the Eionet Improvement and Innovation initiative

**STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

**FOR GUIDANCE**

8. Follow-up of the MB seminar 6 December 2016
9. SOER 2020 roadmap

**FOR DECISION**

10. Adoption Programming Document 2017–2019, including Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2017
11. Adoption EEA Budget 2017
12. Extension of MAWP 2014–2019 to 2020, planning of next ETC topic review
13. Draft Programming Document 2018–2020, including draft AWP 2018:  
MB review and delegation of adoption to the Bureau

**OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**FOR DECISION**

14. Approval draft Eurostat Work Programme 2017
15. **Closed session:** Scientific Committee: Designation of new members
16. Approval Internal Audit Capability (IAC) Work Plan 2017
17. Meeting dates 2017: Decision on timing of the MB seminar
18. Adoption of amended EEA Conflict of Interest Policy and of guidelines on whistleblowing
19. Election of Vice-Chair/Bureau member
20. **Closed session:** Approval Key Performance Indicators of the Executive Director for 2017

**FOR INFORMATION**

21. Priorities Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union
22. EEAcademy
23. Overview of audits
24. Feedback from Management Board members

Annex 2 Attendance list

AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
AUSTRIA	Chair	Elisabeth FREYTAG-RIGLER	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Sabine McCALLUM	Environment Agency Austria	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert			
	Expert			
BELGIUM	Member	Francis BRANCART	Directorate-General for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Wallonia	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Véronique VERBEKE	Brussels Institute for the Management of the Environment	
	Expert			
BULGARIA	Vice-Chair	Vanya GRIGOROVA	Bulgarian Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Philip PENCHEV	Bulgarian Environment Agency	
	Expert			
CROATIA	Member	Ivana GUDELJ	Croatian Ministry for Environment and Nature	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Rene VUKELIĆ	Croatian Environment Agency	
	Expert			
CYPRUS	Member	Costas HADJIPANAYIOTOU	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	
	Alternate	Charalambos HAJIPAKKOS	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	

AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
	Expert	Eirini KONSTANTINO	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	<i>Signed</i>
CZECH REPUBLIC	Member	Michal PASTVINSKÝ	Ministry of the Environment	
	Alternate	Markéta KUČEROVÁ	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert			
DENMARK	Member	Henrik Hedeman OLSEN	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Thomas Nicolai PEDERSEN	Ministry of the Environment	
	Expert	Jonas GILLETT	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
ESTONIA	Member	Meelis MÜNT	Ministry of the Environment	
	Alternate	Kerli KIILI	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert			
FINLAND	Member	Laura HÖIJER	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Pekka HARJU-AUTTI	Ministry of the Environment	
	Expert			
FRANCE	Member	Valéry MORARD	Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Guillaume COUNIO	Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs	
	Expert			
GERMANY	Vice-Chair	Julia WERNER	Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Holger MÜRLE	Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety	
	Expert	Christina PYKONEN	NFP	<i>Signed</i>

AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
GREECE	Vice-Chair	Maria PEPPA	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Nicholas MANTZARIS	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	
	Expert			
HUNGARY	Member	Teréz Krisztina SZABÓ	Ministry of Agriculture	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Mariann NEMES	Ministry of Agriculture	
	Expert			
ICELAND	Member	Herdís Helga SCHOPKA	The Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate			
	Expert			
IRELAND	Member	Laura BURKE	Environment Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Brian CARROLL	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	
	Expert			
ITALY	Member	Federica FRICANO	Ministry of the Environment, Land and the Sea	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Alessandro Giuliano PERU	Ministry of the Environment, Land and the Sea	
	Expert			
LATVIA	Vice-Chair	Alda OZOLA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Inita STIKUTE	Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre	
	Expert			
LIECHTENSTEIN	Member	Helmut KINDLE	National Office of Environment	<i>Apologies</i>
	Alternate			



AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
	Expert			
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Member	Aldona MARGERIENĖ	Environment Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Vytautas NARUŠEVIČIUS	Environment Protection Agency	
	Expert			
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	Member	Eric DE BRABANTER	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Pierre PRUM	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert			
<b>MALTA</b>	Member	Michelle PICCININO	Environment Resources Authority	
	Alternate	Marguerite CAMILLERI	Environment Resources Authority	
	Expert	Nadine MERCIECA	Environment Resources Authority	<i>Signed</i>
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Member	Hannie VLUG	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment	
	Alternate	Eduard DAME	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert	Kees SCHOTTEN	Environment Assessment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
<b>NORWAY</b>	Member	Bjørn BJØRNSTAD	Norwegian Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Øystein NESJE	Ministry of Environment	
	Expert			
<b>POLAND</b>	Member			
	Alternate	Anna Katarzyna WIECH	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert	Małgorzata BEDNAREK	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	<i>Signed</i>



AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
PORTUGAL	Vice-Chair	Nuno LACASTA	Portuguese Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Alexandra CARVALHO	Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy	
	Expert	Sofia RODRIGUES	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
ROMANIA	Member	Doina CATRINOIU	National Environment Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Gabriela VASILIU-ISAC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	
	Expert			
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Expert	Katarina KOSKOVA	Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Norbert KURILLA	Ministry of the Environment	
	Expert	Sylvia BASLAROVÁ	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
SLOVENIA	Member	Joško KNEZ	Slovenian Environment Agency	
	Alternate	Silvo ŽLEBIR	Slovenian Environment Agency	<i>Apologies</i>
	Expert			
SPAIN	Member	Guillermina YANGUAS MONTERO	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente	
	Alternate	Elisa RIVERA MENDOZA	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert			
SWEDEN	Member	Björn RISINGER	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Martin ERIKSSON	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	
	Expert			



AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
SWITZERLAND	Member	Marc CHARDONNENS	Federal Office for the Environment	
	Alternate	Karine SIEGWART	Federal Office for the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert	Nicolas PERRITAZ	Federal Office for the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
TURKEY	Member	Mustafa ÖZTÜRK	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization	
	Alternate	Mehmet Mustafa SATILMIŞ	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert	Fatma Nur CEBECIOGLU	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
UNITED KINGDOM	Member	Robert BRADBURNE	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Vicky BEAUMONT-BROWN	Environment Agency	
	Expert	Martin FOWELL	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	Member	Peter HENNICKE	Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie	<i>Signed</i>
	Member	Michael SCOULLOS	University of Athens	
	Alternate	Ludo HOLSBECK	Department of Environment, Nature and Energy, Flanders	
	Alternate			
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Member	Joanna DRAKE	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
	Guest	Claudia FUSCO	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
	Guest	Artur RUNGE-METZGER	DG CLIMA	<i>Signed</i>
	Guest	Jacques DELSALLE	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
	Expert	Peter PÄRT	DG JRC	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	Mireille DELPRAT	DG RTD	<i>Signed</i>
	Alternate	David WILKINSON	JRC	

AFFILIATION	ROLE	NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
	Member	Jack MATTEY	DG Research and Innovation	
	Alternate	Marcel JORTAY	Eurostat	
	Alternate	Hans BERGMAN	DG CLIMA	
<b>EEA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>	Observer	Per MICKWITZ	Chair of EEA Scientific Committee	<i>Signed</i>
	Observer	Mikael SKOU ANDERSEN	Vice Chair of EEA Scientific Committee	<i>Signed</i>
	Observer	Małgorzata GRODZIŃSKA-JURCZAK	Member of EEA Scientific Committee	<i>Signed</i>
<b>EEA STAFF COMMITTEE</b>	Observer	Hans-Martin FÜSSEL	EEA	
<b>EEA</b>	Executive Director	Hans BRUYNINCKX	EEA	<i>Signed</i>



## Annex 3

Decision EEA/MB/2016/024

**List of decisions and guidance**  
**77<sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting, 7 December 2016**

Agenda item	Outcome	Comments
1 Adoption of the agenda	Adopted.	
2 Adoption 76th Management Board minutes, 22 June 2015	Adopted with smaller modifications.	
8 Follow-up to the MB seminar 6 December 2016	The Board took note of the intention to return to this issue at its meeting in March 2017.	
9 SOER 2020 roadmap	The item will be discussed at the January Bureau meeting.	
10 Adoption PD2017-2019	Adopted, together with the decision on financing of European Topic Centres in 2017.	
11 Adoption EEA Budget 2017	Adopted.	
12 Extension of MAWP 2014-2019 to 2020, planning of next ETC Topic Review	The Board adopted the decision to extend the MAWP to 2020 and agreed to initiate an ETC topic review process in 2017.	The ETC Topic Review should follow the 'light' process described in the background note.
13 Draft PD 2018-2019	The Board took note of the draft and agreed to delegate the adoption of the draft to the Bureau.	It was noted that the Board could return to the draft PD in 2017 when the resource situation and implications were clearer.
14 Eurostat Work Programme 2017	The Board approved the draft.	



Agenda item		Outcome	Comments
15	Scientific Committee: Designation of new members	The Board agreed to the proposal from the Evaluation Committee.	Board members who had participated in the Evaluation Committee did not participate in the decision.
16	Approval IAC Work Plan 2017	Approved.	
17	Meeting dates 2017	The Board agreed to hold the 2017 MB seminar in December, and to agree on the topic in March. It also agreed that the summer meeting would be on Tuesday, 13 June.	The EEA would develop a proposal for a topic for first discussion in the Bureau in January. Board members were invited to send ideas to the Chair or EEA staff before the Bureau meeting.  A need to coordinate with Commission plans for a workshop as part of the EEA evaluation was recognised.
18	Conflict of Interest Policy and guidelines on whistleblowing	Adopted.	
19	Election of Vice-Chair/Bureau member	The sole candidate Laura Burke (IE) was elected unanimously.	
20	Approval KPIs of the ED in 2017	Approved.	The KPIs will be published on the EEA website.

Approved by the Chair of the Management Board  
on 7 December 2016

*Signed*

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Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler