

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 81ST MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING,
held in Copenhagen on 7 March 2018**

Adopted by the Management Board
at its meeting on 19 June 2018

[Signed]

Laura Burke
Chair, EEA Management Board

Record of proceedings

The Chair, Laura Burke, opened the meeting by welcoming the Management Board members, alternates and observers.

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| Final agenda: | Annex 1 |
| Attendance list: | Annex 2 |
| List of decisions and guidance at the 81st MB meeting: | Annex 3 |
| List of items for future discussion and presentation: | Annex 4 |

ITEMS 1–2 FOR DECISION

Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda

The Management Board adopted the agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/81/01).

Item 2 Adoption 80th Management Board meeting minutes, 6 December 2017

The minutes (Doc. EEA/MB/81/02) were adopted without any changes, and will be published on the EEA website and on the Forum Management Board Interest Group ⁽¹⁾.

ITEMS 3-7 FOR INFORMATION

Item 3 Draft 74th Bureau meeting minutes, 30 January 2018

The Management Board took note of the draft minutes of the 74th meeting of the Bureau held on 30 January 2018 (Doc. EEA/MB/81/03). No comments were formulated by the Management Board in advance or during the meeting.

Item 4 Update by the Management Board Chair

The Chair informed on the following topics addressed at the 74th Bureau meeting on 30 January 2018:

- Draft Programming Document (PD) 20192021
The Bureau adopted the Draft Programming Document (PD) 2019–2021, following the delegation by the Management Board; and the Executive Director transmitted it by the deadline of 31 January

¹ <https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/eea-mb/>



to the EU Institutions. The final PD 2019–2021 is foreseen to be adopted by the Board in December following a revision on the basis of feedback received during the stakeholder consultation process.

- Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union – implications for EEA of ‘Brexit’

The Bureau reflections regarding ‘Brexit’ are reflected in the minutes of the 74th Bureau meeting, including the request to EEA to bring forward factual information to facilitate a more in-depth understanding of the potential implications for EEA, which are identified in the Draft PD 2019–2021. The Bureau further decided to include ‘Withdrawal of the UK under Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union’ as a standing agenda item for the Bureau meetings for the foreseeable future; and to consider the appropriate timing for a potential future discussion in the Management Board.

Item 5 Update by the Scientific Committee Chair

The Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC) presented the following highlights of the written update from the SC (Doc. EEA/MB/81/05):

- The formal SC meetings and other collective actions

At its 69th meeting on 21–22 February, the Scientific Committee adopted its opinion on recruitment of EEA scientific staff in 2016 ⁽²⁾, and the SC foresees to adopt its opinion on the Draft PD 2019–2021 by the end of May.

- Building the long term knowledge base: the Joint EEA–SC seminars

- the ‘internal’ EEA–SC seminars on SOER 2020 back-to-back to the SC February meeting;
- the SC report based on the joint EEA–SC seminar on ‘Chemicals for a sustainable future’ held on 17 May 2017 ⁽³⁾;
- the upcoming SC report on the EEA–SC seminar ‘Big data and Environmental Knowledge’ held on 10 October 2017;
- the further 2018 joint EEA–SC seminars on ‘Environmental Justice’ on 16 May 2018, and on ‘Science communication’ on 3 October 2018.

- Activities by individual members of the SC

The continued engagement of individual members of the SC in EEA activities through support to seminars/workshops and reviewing publications, is a way for the SC to build bridges between the EEA and the scientific community.

Following a suggestion, the Chair of the Scientific Committee confirmed that the May seminar on Environmental Justice will be framed in the context of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

Finally, the Executive Director and the Chair expressed appreciation for the professionalism and level of engagement of the Scientific Committee.

Item 6 Update by the Executive Director, including publication plan 2018

Taking the document ‘Update by the Executive Director’, including the EEA publication plan for 2018 (Doc. EEA/MB/81/06) as read, the Executive Director presented an overview of highlights for the period December 2017 – February 2018.

² The opinions of the Scientific Committee on recruitment of EEA scientific staff are published at :

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/governance/scientific-committee/sc-opinions/opinions-on-recruitment-of-eea>

³ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/governance/scientific-committee/reports/chemicals-for-a-sustainable-future>



The Executive Director further informed on the foreseen publication of the Sustainable Finance Action Plan on 8 March ⁽⁴⁾, following the work by the EU High-Level Group on Sustainable Finance (HLEG), and highlighted that the Commission's Action Plan will most likely include a proposal regarding EEA's further engagement within the Agency's field of expertise, and this potentially already in 2018.

Following the presentation by the Executive Director, the Management Board engaged in a discussion including the following:

- Draft Programming Document 2019-2021

In light of the uncertainties governing the Agency's mid-term programming identified in the Draft PD 2019–2021, and the foreseen adoption of the final PD 2019–2021 by the Management Board in December 2018; the Chair informed on the intention to organise a session on work programming and priority setting at the occasion of the June Board meeting.

The Executive Director informed on the stakeholder consultation on the European Environment Agency's Draft Programming Document 2019–2021 over the period 28 February – 30 April 2018.

The Austrian representative expressed an interest to see negative priorities to be included in the June Board session, for example in relation to sustainable tourism. The Spanish representative, supported by the Italian representative informed on the intention to put forward to the next Board meeting a proposal to include an NRC on *Tourism and environment* in the context of the NRC review light review.

The Executive Director referred to discussions and clarifications in relation to the Agency's negative priority in relation to *Tourism and environment* at the occasion of previous Board meetings.

There was input from a number of Board members on the need for a strategic discussion on priorities; the impact of the evaluation of the EEA and Eionet and budget clarifications; and the evaluation of negative priorities.

Following the request for the EEA to inform in the June Board session on how any potential future overlap in activities will be avoided by EEA and JRC; the Executive Director informed on a recent meeting between JRC and EEA, which identified only very limited work overlap between the two institutions.

- Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) beyond 2020

Following a question for clarification regarding the process towards the Commission proposal for the MFF beyond 2020, the Executive Director clarified that this is an internal Commission process, in which DG ENV as EEA's parent DG is acting in full support of the Agency by endorsing the priorities of the Agency, the effective management of the Agency's resources, and recognising the limited possibility to integrate new tasks in the EEA's work programming within the present budget constraints.

- Future Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

Following a question regarding the EEA's contributions in preparation of a future CAP, the Executive Director clarified that the EEA's State of nature report ⁽⁵⁾ includes conclusions on the pressures on biodiversity in particular in agricultural areas in relation to e.g. bird populations and certain mammals.

⁴ Commission Press Release : http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-1404_en.htm

⁵ Published at : <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-nature-in-the-eu>



- Biodiversity towards 2020

France announced a potential communication entitled 'Towards a new silent spring' to raise the awareness to unprecedented disappearance of a number of bird populations.

The Executive Director informed on similar EEA findings through trend-line analysis, and on the likelihood that the EU would not meet its objectives in the Biodiversity Strategy; and highlighted the link with the Bio-economy Strategy ⁽⁶⁾ and the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy ⁽⁷⁾.

- Trade negotiations – Comprehensive Economic and Trade (CETA) Agreement

France asked for clarification on the Agency's involvement in the Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) led by DG Trade in support of the trade negotiations, such as the CETA agreement between the European Union and Canada; and further informed on the interest of France in such assessments addressing environmental and climate impacts of trade agreements, and this through an EU-wide cooperation, and with the aim of ensuring the incorporation of sustainability criteria such as on sustainable food systems into EU trade agreements. Switzerland expressed the view that national EPAs and EEA should play a role in the environmental impact assessments of trade agreements.

The Executive Director clarified that no formal role is foreseen for EEA in such SIAs and that this would most probably require different types of expertise e.g. environmental lawyers.

- Use of open-source geospatial data

The Spanish representative expressed the view that for data covered by Annex I of the Inspire Directive, priority should be given to geospatial data provided by countries instead of open-source or EU-level data; and referred to the specific examples of landscape fragmentation and Corine Land Cover plus, raised in the December 2017 Board meeting.

The Executive Director informed on the approach adopted by EEA and Eurostat to use open-source geospatial datasets, where no Inspire-compliant data is currently available, and agreed to inform the Board on the communication with Eurogeographics on the subject.

The management Board took note of the update by the Executive Director.

Item 7 Update by the European Commission

Taking the document 'Update by the European Commission' (Doc. EEA/MB/81/07) as read, the **Commission representatives highlighted** the following:

- EU Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) beyond 2020

The DG ENV representative informed on information received from the budgetary authorities:

- The resources for decentralised agencies, in particular human resources, are expected to decrease rather than to increase under the next MFF;
- New tasks should be performed within the same human resources envelope, and only in particular circumstances additional resource allocations can be decided upon for decentralised agencies on a case-by-case basis and for politically endorsed tasks (as e.g. for the energy Union Governance).

⁶ COM(2012) 60 final

⁷ COM(2017) 198 final



In light of the overall view of the budgetary authorities, DG ENV expressed the view that further reductions of EEA's resources should be avoided, in particular in light of the importance of the Agency and its efforts in response to the resources austerity over the past years.

DG ENV further informed on the Commission's planning to come forward with its proposal on the MFF beyond 2020 by 2 May 2018, and on the programmes by 29 May 2018; and on the fact that climate and environment policies should be mainstreamed in all programmes under the MFF.

- DG ENV proposals under preparation on single-use plastics, on compliance, and on requirements for water reuse;
- Changes in senior management in the Commission ⁽⁸⁾

The European Commission appointed five new Directors-General, including: Mariana Kotzeva as the new Director-General of DG Eurostat, Jean-Eric Paquet as the new Director-General of DG Research and Innovation, and Mauro Petriccione as the new Director-General of DG Climate Action. The European Commission also appointed Martin Selmayr as new Secretary-General.

- DG JRC's EU Science Hub ⁽⁹⁾
- 2030 climate and energy framework

The climate-related legislative proposals of the 2030 climate and energy framework have been politically agreed.

Following the update by the European Commission, the Management Board exchanged further information, including the following:

- MFF

The representative of Luxembourg informed on a letter from fourteen EU ministers to Commissioner Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, requesting for 20% of climate-action related budget allocation in the future MFF; and for the mainstreaming of climate policy for the remaining budget allocation. Luxembourg also informed on a letter from several EU ministers requesting for a new nature fund in the context of the new MFF.

- West-Balkan countries

In light of the JRC update on its capacity building in the West Balkans through the Enlargement and Integration Action (E&IA) initiative ⁽¹⁰⁾; the Executive Director informed on the recent halving of the (non-core) financing ⁽¹¹⁾ for the Agency's cooperation activities with the West-Balkan countries; and reminded the Board that these countries are fully embedded in the Eionet network and have their own NRCs and NFPs. The Executive Director further raised the attention to the aspirations included in the Commission's new Strategy for the Western Balkans – A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans ⁽¹²⁾.

⁸ Commission Press Releases: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-1005_en.htm,
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-1004_en.htm

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news-list>

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/sharing-knowledge-and-supporting-innovation-western-balkans>

¹¹ Financing under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014–2020 (IPA II)

¹² COM(2018) 65 final, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf



STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

ITEMS 8–12 FOR GUIDANCE

Item 8 Organisational review of the Board and Bureau

On behalf of the Chair of the Review Committee for the Rules of Procedures of the Management Board and Bureau (RoP Review Committee), the Chair introduced background document EEA/MB/81/08 on the organisational review of the Board and Bureau, and invited the members of the Board to provide further guidance by 16 March 2018.

The Management Board took note of the update on the RoP Review Committee's activities and timelines.

Item 9 Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation

The DG ENV representative introduced background document EEA/MB/81/09, and highlighted in particular the overall timelines and process for further engagement with the Board:

- The Commission will organise a two-week commenting period with the Board on the draft final study report, in the period April – May 2018. The report will include draft findings on the thirteen evaluation questions, and Board feedback will be sought.
- The Commission Staff Working Document (SWD) on the evaluation is foreseen for summer 2018 (period June–August).

The Management Board took note of the Commission's proposal on the process and timelines for the study report and the Commission SWD on the evaluation report, and agreed to the overall process and timelines for further Board interaction:

- Commenting by individual Board members on the draft final study report, following invitation from DG ENV (two-week commenting period foreseen in April-May);
- The process and timeline for establishing the Management Board recommendations on the Commission's evaluation report (SWD) will be decided by the Board, in function of the timing of the Commission publication.

Item 10 SOER 2020: Prototype and implementation plan

The Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/81/10 on SOER 2020, and highlighted in particular the proposed engagement process with the Board. It was further clarified that in the 2019 stakeholder engagement process, the Board could take the role of a 'convener' of a stakeholder consultation on the findings in relation to policy aspects, and that this could potentially be facilitated through a Board seminar in December 2019 on SOER 2020.

The Board discussions included the following:

- Management Board members expressed appreciation for the SOER 2020 prototype and implementation.
- The Chair underlined the importance of country engagement in the dissemination of the SOER 2020 products, and several countries, in particular ones holding upcoming presidencies, expressed a keen interest to support EEA. The Executive Director welcomed the countries' support.
- The Chair agreed that a pragmatic approach should be taken towards the role of the Board and its members in the SOER 2020 process, in particular in relation to the provision of contributions to the report and the engagement in the consultation process, as no conflict of interest was identified for Board members being involved in both engagement processes.



- Currently a 'knowledge mapping' across the EKC is ongoing, with the aim of ensuring that information available across the EU institutions is taken into account for SOER 2020. To ensure the evidence-base, DG RTD suggested a cooperation between EEA and EASME ⁽¹³⁾.
- The DG ENV representative highlighted the importance of including country-level data and assessments in SOER 2020, as this information is required for the Commission's work in the context of the environmental implementation review by early 2019. The EEA clarified that although for the SOER 2020 no specific country-level section is foreseen, EEA intends bringing this information together on the EEA website.
- The DG RTD representative called for SOER 2020 communication material targeted to citizens.
- Following a request for clarification on how the SOER 2020 will take into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda, EEA clarified as follows:
 - the SDGs will form a key part of the framing of the 2019 assessment report alongside the 7th Environment Action Programme, the Circular Economy, Low-carbon economy and other policies addressing systemic challenges;
 - The thematic assessments in part 2 of the 2019 report will address the indicators and SDGs one-by-one; and
 - Part 3 of the 2019 report will look across in particular the environmental SDGs, but also in relation to the social and economic SDGs.

The Management Board decided to include 'update on SOER 2020' as a standing agenda item for Board meetings for the foreseeable future.

The Board also agreed in principle on the scope and timing of the Board engagement in the SOER 2020 process:

- 2019 Integrated Assessment report and 2020 Synthesis report: advise on overall messaging, and countries' support in dissemination and outreach; and
- 2019 stakeholder engagement process on the interpretation of the findings in the 2019 Integrated Assessment report: contribution as a key EEA stakeholder, and potentially acting as a 'convener' of stakeholder consultation with a policy focus, which could take the form of a Board seminar at the end of 2019.

Item 11 Copernicus Programme: State of play on the EEA activities and budget implementation under the delegation agreement between DG GROW and EEA, and future role for the Agency

The Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/81/11, the EEA further presented highlighting the current role of EEA and Eionet in the Copernicus Programme 2014–2020, the increased uptake of Copernicus data, and the potential future role of EEA–Eionet beyond 2020.

It was further clarified that the Commission's legislative proposal on the Copernicus Programme beyond 2020, which is foreseen by 29 May 2018 in the context of the new MFF, will set the framework for the Agency's future role in relation to Copernicus.

The Management Board agreed on the important current role of EEA and Eionet in the Copernicus Programme.

The Management Board further concluded that, given the expected further enlargement of the portfolio of Copernicus services related to environment and climate change impact monitoring, the

¹³ Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME) : <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en>



EEA role should most probably increase on par, in particular in relation to Copernicus data uptake; while recognising a) the need for a balancing against activities related to more traditional monitoring data and their validation; and b) the associated resource needs, which need to be balanced against overall EEA activities, and this in particular in light of a context of resource constraints.

The EEA Management Board members recognised the need for an increased level of clarity regarding the Commission proposal for a Regulation on Copernicus beyond 2020, to ensure a better understanding of the potential future role for the EEA and Eionet, and to gain clarity on the potential impact on contributions from non-EU Member States to the EEA core budget.

Item 12 Reportnet 2.0 and 3.0: programming of resources and activities

The EEA presented the highlights of background document EEA/MB/81/12, including:

- the overall context, i.e. streamlining of reporting, increased use of Reportnet and the increased data complexity); and
- the main aspects of the two e-Reporting modernisation projects, i.e. Reportnet 2.0 and Reportnet 3.0, (objectives, investments and project management/governance).

The Management Board reflections included the following:

- the use of Reportnet as a universal platform for reporting of environmental data;
- the e-Reporting modernisation as a way of simplifying the reporting burden (both for MS and EU level); and
- the role of Reportnet 3.0 in the context of the e-Reporting platform for the Energy Union.

The Management Board expressed support to the e-Reporting development projects.

The Chair stressed the importance of full country participation in the development projects for Reportnet 2.0 and Reportnet 3.0 through for example an ICT user group, to ensure the future e-Reporting platform reflects country-level user requirements.

ITEMS 13–14 FOR DECISION

Item 13 Topic for the next Management Board seminar

The Executive Director introduced the Agency's scoping paper EEA/MB/81/12 on the topic for the December Management Board seminar to take place on 4 December 2018 ⁽¹⁴⁾.

The Management Board reflections included the following:

- the identification of both threats and opportunities arising from the new data sources;
- DG ENV's proposal to prepare the background document for the seminar in cooperation between the Commission, EEA and Eionet; in order to already address common reflections;
- The ongoing DG GROW-led study 'Copernicus for EC' (C4EC) on the potential use of Copernicus data across all Directorate Generals of the European Commission, for which the report is foreseen by summer 2018; and
- the potential framing of the seminar alongside a few questions on potential impacts of new data sources on EEA–Eionet activities;

¹⁴ The seminar and the 83rd Management Board meeting on 5 December are foreseen to be organised will be organised back-to-back.



The seminar could investigate how new sources to monitor the environment could change the overall way of working for EEA and Eionet, covering both threats and opportunities.

The Management Board agreed to the topic 'New opportunities offered by Big data, Copernicus and Citizen science for the strengthening of EEA's role as knowledge provider through innovation of Monitoring – Data – Information management (MDIAK)'.

Item 14 Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) for 2017: reconfirmation of the permanent delegation given to the Bureau in 2016

The Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/81/14, and provided the further clarifications:

- Following the agreement at the 75th Bureau on 30 January 2018 to request the Management Board for a reconfirmation of the permanent delegation given to the Bureau in 2016, the EEA background document includes a draft decision on a permanent delegation to the Bureau for which the overall scope is the same is decided upon in 2016; i.e. the annual finalisation and adoption of the CAAR is delegated to the Bureau, following a Board review (preferably in March).
- Timelines and process towards the adoption of the CAAR 2017:
 - By 10 April:
 - EEA to provide draft CAAR 2017 to the Bureau in preparation of its 75th meeting, and
 - invitation for written guidance from the Board by 20 April 2018;
 - 24 April (75th Bureau meeting):
 - EEA to provide a compilation of written guidance received from Board members; and
 - Guidance from the Bureau to EEA, taking into account the written guidance from the Board, on the finalisation of the CAAR 2017;
 - Agree on finalisation of the 'Assessment and analysis from the Management Board'; and
 - 23 May – 6 June:
 - Adoption of the CAAR 2017, including the 'assessment and analysis from the Management Board' through a two-week written procedure with the Bureau.

The Management Board took note of the timelines and process for the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2017.

The Management Board decided to reconfirm the permanent delegation to the Bureau decided upon in 2016 regarding the annual adoption of the EEA Consolidated Annual Activity Report, following a Board review.

CLOSED SESSION

ITEMS 15–16 FOR INFORMATION

Item 15 Appraisal of the Executive Director for the reporting year 2017

The Management Board took note of the very positive appraisal on the performance of the EEA's Executive Director, Dr Hans Bruyninckx for the year 2017.



Item 16 Implementing rules applicable to the Executive Director: debriefing by the Bureau

The Chair introduced the confidential background document MB-CHAIR/EEA/MB/81/16, and debriefed on behalf of the Bureau, on the activities from the Bureau, following the delegation from the Board ⁽¹⁵⁾:

- the finalisation of draft implementing rules concerning the annual appraisal, and probationary and management trial period of the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency'; and
- the decision to submit the draft implementing rules for transmission to the Commission ⁽¹⁶⁾.

The Chair reminded the Management Board of the applicable formal procedure, which makes the final adoption of the implementing rules subject to a Commission decision on the agreement, in accordance with Article 110(2) of the Staff Regulations.

The Management Board took note of the Chair's debrief on behalf of the Bureau.

Item 16B Other items discussed in the closed session

In light of the fact that Poland has not appointed a representative as member of the EEA Management Board since June 2016, the Management Board agreed to the Chair's proposal to send a formal enquiry on the issue to the Polish Permanent Representation in Brussel.

OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEMS 17–20 FOR DECISION

Item 17 ETCs beyond 2018: designation process and timelines

The Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/81/17 on the process and timelines for the designation of the seven new European Topic Centres (ETCs) for 2019-2021.

The seven Agency ETCs beyond 2018 are:

1. Air Pollution, Transport, Noise and Industrial pollution (ETC/ATNI);
2. Biological Diversity (ETC/BD);
3. Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and Adaptation (ETC/CCA);
4. Climate change Mitigation and Energy (ETC/CME);
5. Inland, Coastal and Marine waters (ETC/ICM);
6. Urban, Land and Soil systems (ETC/ULS); and
7. Waste and Materials in a Green Economy (ETC/WMGE).

The Executive Director further highlighted the importance of the applicable procurement procedures, including in relation to management of conflict of interest; and provided further clarifications regarding the proposed Opening Committee, Evaluation Committee and assistance from EEA with the preliminary evaluation of compliance of ETC proposals with the exclusion and selection criteria.

The DG ENV representative requested for the possibility to have European Commission representatives participate on a rotating basis, in light of the range of thematic areas across the ETCs.

¹⁵ Delegation of the decision to submit the 'draft decision on implementing rules concerning the annual appraisal, and probationary and management trial period of the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency', Decision EEA/MB/2017/028

¹⁶ Decision of the EEA Bureau to submit the draft decision on 'annual appraisal, and probationary and management trial period of the EEA Executive Director' to the European Commission for agreement in accordance with Article 110(2) of the Staff Regulations, Decision EEA/BU/2018/003



The DG ENV representative further requested for the timely provision of electronic versions of the proposals to the members of the Evaluation Committee.

The Chair requested that information on all people to be involved in the evaluation, including experts, as well as Declarations of Interest (Dols) for each of them to be provided in advance of taking the decision on the designation of the members of the Evaluation Committee, if the decision from the Chair includes the management of conflict of interest. In light of the total value of about EUR 24 million of the seven Framework Partnership Agreements with the ETCs, the Chair further highlighted the importance of full transparency regarding all people involved in the evaluation process, including experts.

The Board adopted the decision towards the designation of seven ETCs for 2019–2021 on:

- the establishment of an Opening Committee, and on the delegation of the designation of the members to the Executive Director;
- the establishment of an Evaluation Committee, its composition, and the delegation of the designation of the members to the Chair of the Board.
- the delegation to the Chair of the Board to appoint experts from the EEA staff to assist the Evaluation Committee with the preliminary assessment in terms of compliance with the exclusion and selection criteria announced in the terms of reference relevant to the calls for proposals.

Management Board members are invited to express their interest to participate in the ETC Evaluation Committee by 30 April 2018. The evaluation committee will convene between 29–31 May 2018 in Copenhagen.

The Management Board designation of the seven new ETCs for 2019-2021 is foreseen to at its 82nd meeting on 19 June 2018.

Item 18 Advisory Committee to the EEAcademy, annual update

The Chair of the Advisory Committee (AC) to the EEAcademy introduced the AC annual update included in background document EEA/MB/81/18, and highlighted its main recommendations.

The Management Board took note of the annual report of the Advisory Committee to the EEAcademy, including the Advisory Group's recommendations.

The Management Board invited EEA to bring forward a proposal regarding decision on the Advisory Committee and its members in preparation of the June Board meeting

Item 19 2017 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability (IAC)

The Agency's Internal Audit Capability (IAC) introduced background document EEA/MB/81/19 on the IAC's annual activity report for 2017.

The Management Board approved the 2017 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability.

Item 20 Decision on Vice-Chairs

The Chair introduced background document EEA/MB/81/20, and informed on the expression of interest from the Alda Ozola to serve a second term in office as Vice-Chair / Bureau member.

The Chair further reminded the Board members of the applicable rules, in particular the Rules of Procedures of the EEA Management Board and Bureau (RoP), which includes that a maximum of five Vice-Chairs are to be elected amongst the Board members with voting rights, and which establishes the Vice-Chairs as members of the Bureau.

The Management Board elected Alda Ozola as a Vice-Chair / Bureau member of the EEA Management Board, for a second term in office of three years from 24 June 2018 until 23 June 2021.



The Management Board decided a total number of five Vice-Chairs, to be appropriate for the foreseeable future, and agreed to elect two new Vice-Chairs at the June Board meeting.

Following the Management Board decisions, the Chair invited members with voting rights to put forward applications for the two open Vice-Chair /Bureau member posts by 15 May 2018.

ITEM 21 FOR GUIDANCE

Item 21 Accounts 2017 and discharge process 2016

Taking background document EEA/MB/81/21 as read, the EEA further informed on:

- the preliminary information from the external auditors that there will be no remarks formulated regarding the EEA accounts for 2017; and
- the increasing level of detail regarding the EEA's reporting to the European Parliament, as the Agency's discharge authority, on e.g. complaints sent to the Executive Director under article 90(2) of the EEA Staff Regulations and on the follow-up on recommendations from the Commission's Internal Audit Service.

The Management Board will be invited at its 82nd meeting in June to adopt the Agency's final accounts for the financial year 2017. The EEA will also provide in preparation of the June meeting information on the final discharge for 2016, and the final observations from the Court of Auditors for 2017.

The Chair shared the observation that the change in budget over the years and the move of the budget from about 80% being core budget in 2014 to 60% in 2017; and raised the importance for the Management Board to understand the discretionary and non-discretionary funding and how that funding is allocated, particularly in relation to Board discussions in terms of prioritisation.

In light of the Board's oversight role and the increasing significance of non-core funding (upto EUR 29 million in 2017) in comparison the EEA's core budget, the Chair asked the Executive Director to include information on the evolution of both funding types in the background information for the June Board discussion on the EEA's future resource allocation and priority setting.

The Management Board took note of the information on a) Discharge process for 2016; and b) the Provisional Annual Accounts for the EEA for the financial year 2017, including the Report on Budgetary and Financial Management accompanying the annual accounts.

ITEMS 22–23 FOR INFORMATION

Item 22 Overview of audits

The Agency's Internal Audit Capability (IAC) introduced background document EEA/MB/81/22.

The Management Board took note of the overview of audits presented by EEA's Internal Audit Capability.

Item 23 Feedback from Management Board members

The French representative informed on a concern regarding the robustness of the sampling method proposed in the context of the European soil monitoring project LUCAS Topsoil. EEA informed on the proposal from Eurostat and JRC following the recent Eionet meeting with NRCs on Soil, regarding a meeting with countries on the 2018 survey foreseen for the summer 2018.

The meeting closed at 16h04.



Annex 1 **Agenda of 81st Management Board meeting,**
Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 9.30-17.00, EEA premises

FOR DECISION

1. Adoption draft agenda
2. Adoption 80th Management Board meeting minutes, 6 December 2017

FOR INFORMATION

3. Draft 74th Bureau meeting minutes, 30 January 2018
4. Update by the Management Board Chair
5. Update by the Scientific Committee Chair
6. Update by the Executive Director
7. Update by the European Commission

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

FOR GUIDANCE

8. Organisational review of the Board and Bureau
9. Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation
10. SOER 2020: prototype and implementation plan
11. Copernicus Programme: State of play on the EEA activities and budget implementation under the delegation agreement between DG GROW and EEA, and future role for the Agency.
12. Reportnet 2.0 and 3.0: programming of resources and activities

FOR DECISION

13. Topic for the next Management Board seminar
14. Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) for 2017:
Reconfirmation of the permanent delegation given to the Bureau in 2015

CLOSED SESSION – FOR INFORMATION

15. Appraisal of the Executive Director for the reporting year 2017
16. Implementing Rules applicable to the Executive Director: Debriefing by the Bureau

OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

FOR DECISION

17. ETCs beyond 2018: designation process and timelines
18. Advisory Committee to the EEAcademy, annual update
19. 2017 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability (IAC)
20. Decision on Vice-Chairs

FOR GUIDANCE

21. Accounts 2017 and discharge process 2016

FOR INFORMATION

22. Overview of audits
23. Feedback from Management Board members

Annex 2 Attendance list – 81st Management Board meeting
Copenhagen, 7 March 2018

| COUNTRY/AFFILIATION | MANDATE | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| CHAIR | - | Laura BURKE | Chair of the EEA Management Board |
| AUSTRIA | <i>Alternate:</i> | Florian EYWO | Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management |
| BELGIUM | <i>Member:</i> | Véronique VERBEKE | Brussels Institute for the Management for the Environment, Site de Tour et Taxis |
| CROATIA | <i>Member:</i> | Ivana GUDELJ | Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | <i>Member:</i> | Michal PASTVINSKÝ | Ministry of the Environment |
| DENMARK | <i>Alternate:</i> | Thomas Nicolai PEDERSEN | Danish Ministry of the Environment |
| ESTONIA | <i>Member:</i> | Margit MARTINSON | Estonian Ministry of the Environment |
| FINLAND | <i>Member:</i> | Laura HÖIJER | Ministry of the Environment |
| FRANCE | <i>Member:</i> | Valéry MORARD | Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs |
| GREECE | <i>Member:</i> | Maria PEPPA | Ministry of Environment and Energy |
| HUNGARY | <i>Member:</i> | Teréz Krisztina SZABÓ | Ministry of Agriculture |
| ICELAND | <i>Member:</i> | Herdís Helga SCHOPKA | Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Land and Natural Heritage |
| IRELAND | <i>Alternate:</i> | Brian CARROLL | Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment |
| ITALY | <i>Member:</i> | Giovanni BRUNELLI | MATTM |
| | <i>Expert:</i> | Luca DEMICHELI | President's Staff, Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research |
| LATVIA | <i>Member:</i> | Alda OZOLA | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development |
| LITHUANIA | <i>Member:</i> | Aldona MARGERIENĖ | Environmental Protection Agency |
| LUXEMBOURG | <i>Member:</i> | André WEIDENHAUPT | Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures |
| NETHERLANDS | <i>Member:</i> | Jetske VERKERK | Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment |
| NORWAY | <i>Member:</i> | Bjørn BJØRNSTAD | Norwegian Environment Agency |
| PORTUGAL | <i>Expert:</i> | Sofia RODRIGUES | NFP |
| ROMANIA | <i>Member:</i> | Doina CATRINOIU | National Environment Protection Agency |
| SLOVAK REPUBLIC | <i>Alternate:</i> | Barbora DORIČKOVÁ | Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic |
| SLOVENIA | <i>Member:</i> | Joško KNEZ | Slovenian Environment Agency |
| SPAIN | <i>Alternate:</i> | Emilio CANDA MORENO | Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente |
| SWEDEN | <i>Member:</i> | Björn RISINGER | Swedish Environmental Protection Agency |
| SWITZERLAND | <i>Member:</i> | Marc CHARDONNENS | Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) |
| | <i>Expert:</i> | Nicolas PERRITAZ | Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) |

| COUNTRY/AFFILIATION | MANDATE | NAME | ORGANISATION |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|
| TURKEY | <i>Expert:</i> | Mahmut DAĞAŞAN | Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection |
| | <i>Expert:</i> | Ahmet GÖKTAŞ | Directorate-General for the Environmental Impact Assessment |
| UNITED KINGDOM | <i>Alternate:</i> | Vicky BEAUMONT-BROWN | Eionet National Focal Point |
| EUROPEAN COMMISSION | | Gilles GANTELET | DG ENV |
| | | Jacques DELSALLE | DG ENV |
| | | Yrjö MÄKELÄ (observer) | DG CLIMA |
| | | Peeter PÄRT | JRC |
| | | Mireille DELPRAT | DG RTD |
| EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT | | Lena NEIJ | Professor, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) |
| | | Peter HENNICKE | Professor, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy |
| | | Michael SCOULLOS | Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) |
| SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE | | Per MICKWITZ | Chair of EEA Scientific Committee |



Annex 3

List of decisions and guidance

81st Management Board meeting, 7 March 2018

Decision EEA/MB/2018/004

LIST OF DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE
81ST MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING, 7 MARCH 2018

| Agenda item | | Outcome | Comments |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | Adoption of the agenda | The Management Board adopted the agenda as drafted. | |
| 2 | Adoption 80th Management Board meeting minutes, 6 December 2017 | The Management Board adopted the minutes. | The minutes will be published on the EEA website and on the Forum MB Interest Group ⁽¹⁷⁾ . |
| 3 | Draft 74th Bureau meeting minutes, 30 January 2018 | The Management Board took note of the minutes. | No comments were formulated by the Management Board in advance or during the meeting. |
| 8 | Organisational review of the Board and Bureau meetings | The Management Board took note of the update on the RoP Review Committee's activities and timelines. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context: Review of the Rules of Procedure of the EEA Management Board and Bureau (RoP) and the functioning of the Board and Bureau supported by the RoP Review Committee. - Overall timeline for the review work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - kick-off meeting of the RoP Review Committee on 22 January 2018; - fact finding during spring 2018; - analysis and formulation of proposals to the Board by November 2018. - Written guidance from Board members is invited by 16 March 2018 ⁽¹⁸⁾ |
| 9 | Evaluation of the EEA/Eionet Regulation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Management Board took note of the Commission's proposal on the process and timelines for the study report and the Commission Staff Working Document (SWD) on the evaluation report, and agreed to the overall process and timelines for further Board interaction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context: Commission-led evaluation of the EEA and Eionet ⁽¹⁹⁾, following the Better Regulation guidelines. - Foreseen Board process and timelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commenting by individual Board members on the draft final study report, following invitation from DG ENV (two-week commenting period foreseen in April-May), and - Management Board recommendations on the Commission's evaluation report (SWD) in second half of 2018. |

¹⁷ <https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/eea-mb/>

¹⁸ Template for providing input included in annex of background document EEA/MB/81/08 to the EEA Management Board Secretariat (MB-Secretariat@eea.europa.eu))

¹⁹ The Commission's Roadmap for the evaluation is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2018_env_002_eea_evaluation_en.pdf.



| Agenda item | Outcome | Comments |
|--|---|---|
| 13 Topic for the next Management Board seminar | The Board agreed to the topic ' <i>New opportunities offered by Big data, Copernicus and Citizen science for the strengthening of EEA's role as knowledge provider through innovation of Monitoring – Data – Information management (MDIAK)</i> '. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context: Topic for next Management Board seminar to take place on 4 December 2018, back-to-back with the 83rd Board meeting on 5 December. - The seminar is an opportunity to investigate how new sources to monitor the environment could change the overall way of working for EEA and Eionet. |
| 14 Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2017: reconfirmation of the permanent delegation given to the Bureau in 2015 | The Management Board decided to reconfirm the standing delegation to the Bureau decided upon in 2016 (Decision EEA/MB/2018/005) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall scope of the standing delegation has remained unchanged; i.e. the annual finalisation and adoption of the CAAR is delegated to the Bureau; following a Board review (preferably in March). - Timelines and process in 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft CAAR and invitation for written guidance from the Board by 10 April 2018 - Written guidance from Board members by 20 April 2018 - Compilation of written guidance received by the 24 April Bureau (tabled document) - Bureau guidance on 24 April (taking into account MB guidance) - 2-week written procedure with Bureau starting 23 May 2018 |
| 17 ETCs beyond 2018: designation process and timelines | <p>The Management Board adopted the decision towards the designation of 7 new ETCs on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the establishment of an Opening Committee, and on the delegation of the designation of the members to the Executive Director; - the establishment of an Evaluation Committee, its composition, and the delegation of the designation of the members to the Chair of the Board. <p>(Decision EEA/MB/2018/006).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context: Designation of seven European Topic Centres (ETCs) for 2019-2021. - To allow for the management of potential conflict of interest of members to the Evaluation Committee, the Chair of the Board, should be provided with information on all people to be involved in the evaluation, including experts, as well as Declarations of Interest (Dols) for each of them in advance of taking the decision on the designation of the members of the Evaluation Committee. - Board members are invited to put forward candidatures for the Evaluation Committee by 30 April 2018. |
| 18 Advisory Committee to the EEA Academy, annual update | The Management Board took note of the annual report of the Advisory Committee (AC) to the EEA Academy, including the AC's recommendations. | EEA will bring a proposal forward regarding a future Advisory Committee and its members in preparation of the June Board meeting. |
| 19 2017 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability | The Management Board approved the update by the Internal Audit Capability (IAC). | |



| Agenda item | Outcome | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| 20 Decision on Vice-Chairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Management Board elected Alda Ozola as a Vice-Chair / Bureau member of the EEA Management Board, for a second term in office of three years from 24 June 2018 until 23 June 2021. (Decision EEA/MB/2018/007) - The Management Board decided a total number of five Vice-Chairs to be appropriate for the foreseeable future, and agreed to elect two new Vice-Chairs at the June Board meeting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context: The RoP allow for a maximum of five Vice-Chairs to be elected amongst the Board members with voting rights, and establishes the Vice-Chairs as members of the Bureau. - Management Board members with voting rights are invited to put forward applications for the two open post of Vice-Chair / Bureau member by Tuesday, 15 May 2018 ⁽²⁰⁾. |
| 21 Accounts 2017 and discharge process 2016 | <p>The Management Board took note of the information on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discharge process for 2016; b) Provisional Annual Accounts for the EEA for the financial year 2017, including the Report on Budgetary and Financial Management accompanying the annual accounts Budget Report for 2017. | <p>In light of the Board's oversight role and the increasing significance of non-core funding in comparison the EEA's core budget, the Chair asked the Executive Director to include information on the evolution of both funding types in the background information for the June Board discussion on the EEA's future resource allocation and priority setting.</p> |

Approved by the EEA Management Board at its 81st meeting
in Copenhagen, 7 March 2018

[SIGNED]

Laura Burke
Chair, EEA Management Board

²⁰ Communication to the EEA Management Board Secretariat (MB-Secretariat@eea.europa.eu)



Annex 4 **List of items for future discussion and presentation**
81st Management Board meeting, 7 March 2018

Action list EEA/MB/2018/002

| Agenda item | | Follow-up | Follow-up MB/BU mtg |
|--------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 6 | Update by the Executive Director, including publication plan 2018 | <i>Use of open-source geospatial data</i> EEA to inform the Management Board on the exchange of letters with Eurogeographics regarding the use of open-source data instead of Inspire-compliant data services for the Corine Land Cover plus (CLC+). | After 7 March Board |
| 10 | SOER 2020: Prototype and implementation plan | 'Update on SOER 2020' as a standing agenda item for EEA Management Board meetings for the foreseeable future. | All MB/BU meetings in 2018 |