

14 October 2004

ANNEX X

Presentation of the EEA policy analysis group: its role, objectives and 2004 activities

‘Today the Agency is being asked by the European Parliament, the European Commission and its member countries not only to report and advise on the state of the environment and technical issues concerning environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources, but also the effectiveness of key environmental and sectoral policies and their implementation’. Jacqueline McGlade, EEA Strategy 2004-2008

‘... we must be able to demonstrate that [environmental policies] are delivering real results in an effective way. I welcome the fact that the European Commission also sees a clear role for the EEA in this field. Lars-Erik Liljelund, EEA Strategy 2004-2008

Who does what?

- Ann Dom: group leader, analysis of policy integration in the context of SD
- Jane Feehan, Lars Mortensen: policy effectiveness evaluation
- Hans Vos: analysis of environment – economy integration

The Policy Analysis group: its role and objectives

The [EEA Strategy 2004-2008](#) foresees a significant enhancement of EEA’s policy analysis work, including among others activities on ex-post policy effectiveness analysis, policy integration and governance. The ‘Policy Analysis’ (PA) group, which was created in early 2004, will play a pivotal role in the further development of these work areas.

The group is mainly developing activities in the areas ‘sustainable development’ and ‘policy effectiveness’ that are described in the Strategy. Its aim is to provide information to underpin successful and effective policy-making and policy implementation through all stages of decision-making, bearing in mind the five political principles for policy-making and implementation set out in the Commission’s White Paper on European governance¹; openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and provision of information on preparation of policy.

The group’s core activities consist of development of methods and guidelines for policy analysis, pilot studies, targeted assessments, exchange of information on experience and practice throughout Europe, and networking. Building on this, the group also aims to promote consistent approaches for policy analysis throughout the EEA.

The following sections give an overview of the group’s current activities. Also included is an overview of 2004 products in the make, with an indication of the upcoming periods of external review, in which the EIONET will be involved.

¹ COM(2001) 428 final

Environmental policy integration (EPI) in the context of sustainable development

Follow-up of SDS, Lisbon, Cardiff processes; analysis of trade-offs and synergies of economic and environmental policies; development of an evaluation framework for EPI; a series of EPI papers

Environmental policy integration is an essential pillar of the EU sustainable development strategy, the 6th environmental action programme, the Lisbon and Cardiff processes. To support these processes, the EEA has in past years significantly enhanced its work on sector integration and on environment-economic policy interlinkages. The EEA Management Board seminar of November 2002 identified policy integration as one of the areas where EEA needs to enhance its work, and this recommendation was duly reflected in the EEA multi-annual strategy.

End 2003, the EEA initiated a project on EPI in the context of the preparations of its next state of the environment and outlooks report (SoER) in 2005. This project is being developed as a series of self-standing papers dedicated to specific governance aspects (policy and institutional) of environmental policy integration (EPI).

The first draft paper, a state-of-the art review, provided recommendations for 1) the development of an evaluation framework, 2) a knowledge gap analysis and 3) subjects for subsequent papers on which additional analysis is required. This paper and its recommendations were discussed on 4 May with the advisory group that was set up to co-steer this project. It was decided to develop 5 additional papers, i.e.

- An analytical framework for evaluating progress with EPI
- How do sector administrations deliver EPI? An examination of institutional structures and capacity
- The role of EU budgetary mechanisms and funding in EPI
- Ex-ante sustainability impact assessment: an effective tool for EPI?
- Sector integration: an evaluation of EPI progress in 3 sectors (transport, agriculture and fisheries)

The PA group also participated in the study group of the European Economic and Social Committee, and in the Comhar Conference for National Sustainable Development Councils and National Sustainable Development Experts, an Irish Presidency initiative that focused on the SDS review.

Ex-post effectiveness analysis, including cost effectiveness analysis

Two pilot studies, assessing the use of economic instruments; inventory of good practice and methods for cost effectiveness analysis

In the EEA Strategy, ex-post policy effectiveness analysis figures among the agency's priorities. The EEA's aim is "to support understanding of the effects and effectiveness of policies by encouraging the exchange of information on policy implementation, develop targeted assessments of selected environmental policy measures".

The 2001 EEA report "[*Reporting on environmental measures: Are we being effective?*](#)" (the REM report) confirmed the lack of knowledge in Europe about the effectiveness of past policies for most areas. Ex-post evaluations of effectiveness of

policies are needed by Parliament, the Commission and member countries when developing and negotiating Directives and when implementing programmes, strategies and specific measures.

As a follow-up to the REM report, two pilot studies on ex-post policy effectiveness evaluations are currently undertaken, i.e.

- Pilot study 1 is investigating the effectiveness of policies to address waste water pollution in six EU Member States.
- Pilot study 2 deals with the effectiveness of packaging waste management systems in five EU Member States. Preliminary results have been used for a [speech by the Executive Director](#) at a major waste conference and for Signals 2004.

The two pilot studies will be finalised in 2004 and published in early 2005.

EEA's work on economic instruments is being continued and enhanced. The [EEA - OECD database on economic instruments](#) has been updated this year and now covers 44 countries. A concise report on the use of economic instruments in Europe is expected for Autumn 2004, followed by the technical background report by early 2005.

Finally, a literature review of existing cost-effectiveness methods, manuals and practice will be carried out in the second half of 2004. This should pave the way for the further development of methods and guidelines on policy effectiveness evaluations.

Ex-ante sustainability impact assessment

Follow up of Impact Assessment process, methodological aspects and links to policy making

The PA group is investigating some of the methodological aspects of the Impact Assessment process set up by the Commission and of similar practices in countries.

Earlier this year, under the Irish Presidency, the PA group co-organised a one-day session on Impact Assessment session (29 April) during the [Bridging the Gap conference](#). The session brought together presentations some of some of the main EU actors in the field (Secretariat General, DG ENV, DG TREN, DG Research, European Parliament, EEB) and also included presentations from UK, the Netherlands and Canada. The session resulted in a report giving some strong messages for the future development of (sustainability) impact assessment.

EEA has been invited to present its views in the Impact Assessment seminar during Green Week and in an international conference on Impact Assessment in Berlin, June 2004. In addition, the Commission has invited the EEA to foresee support to extended Impact Assessments in its work programme as of 2005. This will mainly be provided by the Environmental Assessment programme, with methodological input by the PA group.

A paper is being developed on the effectiveness of sustainability impact assessment as a tool for policy integration under the EPI project (see above).

The group is also linked up to ongoing DG Research projects in the area, such as the MATISSE, IQ-TOOLS and Sustainability-A Test projects.

Networking and communication

Supporting high level networks, linking with policy analyst networks, the EIONET and key-policy clients, advisory group

Efforts will be made to link EEA/EIONET to existing networks on policy analysis (including economic networks). The group will also regularly tap into country expertise via the EIONET and involve the network in peer reviews of reports and papers, and when needed also invite it to contribute information on e.g. national policy implementation issues and good practice.

The attached table gives an indication of the work planning and involvement of EIONET. The upcoming NFP meeting in October 2004 will be an opportunity to discuss the longer-term role and involvement of NFPs and PCPs in EEA's policy analysis work.

The outcomes of current project will also be disseminated via the network of Environmental Protection Agencies. In addition, support is provided to the high-level network of environmental economists, which has been established by EEA and DG ENV. The first meeting was organised by DG ENV on 9 July, and focused on climate change and impact assessment. A second meeting is planned for end of November, in the context of the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the EEA, in Copenhagen.

To co-steer the work on policy integration an advisory group has been established that will meet 2 or 3 times this year. The PA group will also consider the need for running an advisory group on policy analysis (or policy effectiveness analysis) in a longer-term perspective.

Table: Overview of 2004 products and review periods (draft)

	EEA project manager	product type	EIONET reviewers	2004						2005	
				July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Environmental policy integration (EPI) in the context of SD											
State of the art	Ann Dom	paper - 50p	NFPs, PCPs transport, energy, agri		review draft						publication
A framework for evaluating progress with EPI	Ann Dom	paper - 8p	NFPs, PCPs transport, energy, agri				review draft				publication
How do administrations deliver EPI? An examination of institutional structures and capacity	Ann Dom	paper - 40p	NFPs, PCPs transport, energy, agri					review draft			publication
The role of EU budgetary mechanisms and funding in EPI	Hans Vos	paper - 30p	NFPs, PCPs transport, energy, agri					review draft			publication
Ex-ante sustainability impact assessment: an effective tool for EPI?	Ann Dom	paper - 30p	NFPs, PCPs transport, energy, agri					review draft			publication
Sector integration: an evaluation of EPI progress in 3 sectors (transport, agriculture and fisheries)	Ann Dom, Jane Feehan, Hans Vos	paper - 30p	NFPs, PCPs transport, energy, agri					review draft			publication
Ex-post policy effectiveness evaluation											
Pilot study 1: the effectiveness of waste water policies (5-6 member states)	Lars Mortensen	Technical report - 70p	NFPs, PCP policy instruments, PCP water					Review draft			Web publication
Executive summary		EEA report - 10p	NFPs, PCP policy instruments, PCP water								Publication
Pilot study 2: the effectiveness of packaging waste management systems (5 member states)	Jane Feehan	Technical report - 70p	NFPs, PCP policy instruments, PCP waste					Review draft			Web publication
Executive summary		EEA report - 10p	NFPs, PCP policy instruments, PCP waste								Publication
A literature review of existing cost-effectiveness methods, manuals and practice	Hans Vos, Lars Mortensen	database or technical report (to be decided)	NFPs, PCP policy instruments							Review draft	
Economic instruments											
Update of the EEA/OECD database on economic instruments (44 countries)	Hans Vos	Database	NFPs, PCP policy instruments	done							
Report on market based instruments	Hans Vos	Technical report - 100p	NFPs, PCP policy instruments				Review draft				Web publication
Market based instruments report - executive summary	Hans Vos	EEA report - 10p	NFPs, PCP policy instruments				Review draft		Publication		

