Decision EEA/BU/2026/026

LIST OF DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE
119TH BUREAU MEETING, 6 OCTOBER 2026

Agenda item		Outcome	Comments
	Opening of the meeting	The Chair welcomed participants. The Bureau thanked Laura Höijer for her work in the Bureau and MB, as well as with other key tasks in the MB context. The Bureau took note of the upcoming election of a new Vice-Chair in the December MB meeting, alongside the re-election of two Vice-Chairs for a second mandate.	Participants did not declare any interests which could be considered to be prejudicial to their independence with respect to any of the points on the agenda. Laura Höijer (Vice-Chair and member from Finland) will leave her position for a 2-year leave of absence starting on 1 November. The MB Chair will send a letter to MB members to open the call for applications for the vacant Vice-Chair position, for the election in the December MB meeting. Aljoša Duplić volunteered to join Valérie Drezet-Humez and Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler as reporting officers for the Executive Director's appraisal for reporting year 2026. Martine Rohn Brossard's 2-year mandate as Bureau observer from a non-EU member country will end on 31 December 2026. The 5 MB members from non-EU member countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye) have received a letter from the MB Chair asking them to come forward with the name of the member who would take over the role from January 2027 onwards. They have until 20 November to do so, and the name of the new observer will be announced in the December Bureau/MB meetings.
	FOR ADOPTION		
1	Agenda of the 119th Bureau meeting	The meeting agenda was adopted.	
	FOR DISCUSSION		
2	Follow-up to the previous Bureau meeting (17 June 2026)	The Bureau took note of follow-up items to the June Bureau meeting.	The Scientific Committee rules of procedure were revised to be aligned with the new MB rules of procedure, and will be adopted by the MB via written procedure.
3	Preparations for the December Bureau and Management Board meetings, including elements of the proposal on future stakeholder events	The Bureau took note of the draft December Bureau/MB agendas. The Bureau also took note of the reflections of the EEA on planning future stakeholder events within current financial constraints. The Chair concluded that the format of a possible	A member confirmed their interest in having an update on the plans regarding the next cycle of Europe's Environment on the December MB meeting agenda.

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Agenda item		Outcome	Comments
		event would need to be adequate to avoid unnecessary costs.	The Chair highlighted that a small celebration could be organised as part of the December MB meeting, provided that the new cooperating countries Moldova and Ukraine take part in person. The Executive Director mentioned the possibility to organise stakeholder events, working within budget constraints. If the EEA was to organise such an event in 2027-2028, cost-efficient solutions would be necessary, such as limiting the scale of the event, organising it back-to-back with existing meetings to limit travel costs, and co-organising with external partners to limit venue costs. The EEA may bring back the topic to the December MB meeting, for instance as part of the Single Programming Document discussion. The EEA also highlighted that the budget issue to be managed relates to upcoming salary adjustments, the increase of the correction coefficient for Copenhagen, the expected increase of costs related to Topic Centres, and the increase of IT hardware costs on the world market.
4	Preparations for the EEA-Eionet evaluation 2022-2026	The Bureau took note of the timeline and steps of the EEA-Eionet evaluation.	The member representing the European Commission (DG ENV) highlighted that the background document does not cover some elements that will be part of the evaluation, such as the role of the MB and how the different EEA-Eionet partners will be involved throughout the process. Following questions from members, the member representing the European Commission confirmed that the MB would be given the opportunity to comment on draft reports from the contractor and the Commission as they did last time. They also confirmed that the evaluation would look at all relevant commitments and elements, such as the Environmental Action Programme. A member highlighted the importance of the evaluation looking at the different national models, capacities and governance arrangements which have a major impact on the functioning of the Eionet network.

Agenda item		Outcome	Comments
5	Draft Single Programming Document 2027-2029 stakeholder consultation)	The Bureau took note of the outcome of the stakeholder consultation on the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2027-2029.	The Executive Director thanked the European Commission and Scientific Committee participants for their comments to the SPD, and asked the European Commission to clarify their comments regarding the differentiation between core and non-core activities, and regarding the adequate resourcing of partners. The member from the European Commission (DG ENV) replied that core/non-core refer to resourcing via subsidy (core) or other means (non-core), and 'ensuring adequate resourcing' refers to the EEA's role to help ensure that the right structures are in place to support the work of Eionet. The Executive Director highlighted that the core/non-core differentiation holds some nuances within the Agency, given that some key activities such as Copernicus are resourced via non-core resources. The MB will adopt the SPD 2027-2029 at the December meeting.
6	Follow-up to a procedural issue raised by the European Commission on the MB decision on the EEA's policy on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest, and potential parallel drafting of a code of conduct for the MB	The Bureau took note of a procedural issue raised by the European Commission in relation to the EEA's policy on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest, and its resolution. The Bureau agreed that the MB Chair and the MB Secretariat would draft a proposal for a possible code of conduct for the MB, based on existing examples of other decentralised Agencies.	The European Commission had raised a procedural issue in relation to the EEA's policy on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest, as they consider that a prior consultation of DG HR before its adoption should have taken place. The European Commission and the EEA agreed that this would be looked into in the context of the next review of the policy. The member from the European Commission (DG ENV) emphasised that the issue of revolving doors would be important to have in the future code of conduct. A member encouraged the MB Chair to come up with a slim draft that fits the context of the EEA.
FOR INFORMATION			
7	Update on Topic Centres	The Bureau took note of the latest developments on Topic Centres.	The EEA provided an update on the work streams related to the transition of the new Topic Centre model: • Establishment/designation: Total pool of validated organisations: 295: broader and more geographically diverse than the current European Topic Centres • Operation/implementation from January 2027: the MB will receive the full picture in December

Agenda item		Outcome	Comments
			• Integration of Topic Centres to Eionet: discussions with Eionet National Focal Points NFPs, definition of roles, moving from conceptual design towards operational clarity, and from a grant-based to a framework contract-based model, engagement of contracted and non-contracted organisations The EEA confirmed that the basic architecture and the necessary plans for the new model to function and for business continuity to be ensured are in place. They also highlighted that members can support the process by highlighting issues in their countries that have not yet been identified.
: 8	Standing item: update on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework 2028-2034)	The Bureau took note of the latest developments on the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2028-2034.	The member from the European Commission (DG ENV) mentioned that they are waiting for the negotiating box of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU, and that Bureau members may reach out to their national contacts to support the negotiations.
9	Update on the European Commission's large-scale review	The Bureau took note of the ongoing large-scale review of the European Commission.	The member from the European Commission (DG ENV) stated that the recommendations of the large-scale review are expected to be finalised by the end of 2026. They flagged that the current draft includes recommendations on decentralised agencies: to consolidate a number of decentralised agencies, a restrictive approach to new decentralised agencies, to pool support services across agencies, and to enhance decentralised agencies' governance through synergies.
10	Feedback from Bureau members	The Bureau took note of the Executive Director's recent country visits in Switzerland and Luxembourg.	The observer from a non-EU member state suggested to consider reviewing Eionet Core Data Flows as part of Eionet modernisation, as they are not all relevant for non-EU member countries.
	CLOSED SESSION		
11	Next steps to replace a member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change	Following the resignation of one of the members of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (ESABCC), the Bureau agreed to reconvene the evaluation committee in charge for the 2025 designation procedure to select the most suitable candidate from the reserve list. The Bureau agreed that the EEA would approach the candidates on the reserve list and ask them to confirm	The evaluation committee will reconvene in October 2026 to propose the most suitable candidate to the MB. The MB will designate a new ESABCC member at their December meeting, following a proposal from the reconvened evaluation committee.

Agenda item		Outcome	Comments
		their continued availability and interest.	
12	Follow-up to confidential MB closed session item	The Bureau took note of the latest developments on the follow-up to the confidential MB closed session item.	

The meeting closed at 11:00

Approved by the EEA Bureau at its 119th meeting
6 October 2026

Signed

André Weidenhaupt
Chair, EEA Management Board

Annexes

Annex 1: Final agenda of 119th Bureau meeting, 6 October 2026
Annex 2: Participants list, 119th Bureau meeting, 6 October 2026

Agenda of the 119th Bureau meeting

Tuesday, 6 October 2026, 09:00-12:00 CEST, Microsoft Teams

AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENTS
FOR ADOPTION	
1. Agenda of the 119th Bureau meeting	EEA/BU/119/01

FOR DISCUSSION	
2. Follow-up to the previous Bureau meeting (17 June 2026)	Verbal update
3. Preparations for the December Bureau and Management Board meetings, including elements of the proposal on future stakeholder events	EEA/BU/119/03
4. Preparations for the EEA-Eionet evaluation 2022-2026	EEA/BU/119/04
5. Draft Single Programming Document 2027-2029 stakeholder consultation	EEA/BU/119/05
6. Follow-up to a procedural issue raised by the European Commission on the MB decision on the EEA's policy on the prevention and management of conflicts of interest, and potential parallel drafting of a code of conduct for the MB	Verbal update

FOR INFORMATION	
7. Update on Topic Centres	Verbal update
8. Standing item: update on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework 2028-2034	Verbal update
9. Update on the European Commission's large-scale review	EEA/BU/119/09
10. Feedback from Bureau members	Verbal update

CLOSED SESSION	
11. Next steps to replace a member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change	Verbal update
12. Follow-up to confidential MB closed session item	Verbal update

Participants list, 119th Bureau meeting, 6 October 2026 09:00-12:00 CEST, online

Name	Represented country/ organisation	Role	Presence
André Weidenhaupt	Luxembourg	Chair	Present
Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler	Austria	Vice-Chair	Present
Aljoša Duplić	Croatia	Vice-Chair	Present
Laura Höijer	Finland	Vice-Chair	Present
Julia Werner	Germany	Vice-Chair	Present
Stefano Laporta	Italy	Vice-Chair	Present
Valérie Drezet-Humez	European Commission (DG ENV)		Present
Lena Neij	Member designated by the European Parliament		Present
Leena Ylä-Mononen	EEA	Executive Director	Present (including closed session item 12)
Louis Meuleman	Chair of the Scientific Committee		Present (including closed session item 11)
Martine Rohn-Brossard	Switzerland	Observer from non-EU member state	Present
Yvon Slingenberg	European Commission (DG CLIMA)	Standing observer	Present
Gabriella Manganelli	European Commission (DG ENV)	Invited observer	Present
Jürgen Salay	European Commission (DG CLIMA)	Invited observer	Present
Eva Jensen	EEA		Present (including closed session item 11)
Riyong Kim	EEA		Present
Karl Hamilton	EEA		Present
Katja Rosenbohm	EEA		Present
Søren Nielsen	EEA		Present
Milan Chrenko	EEA		Present
Anne-Marie Buttolo	EEA		Present
Jasmiina Laurmaa	EEA/MB Secretariat		Present

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