



39th Scientific Committee
Doc. EEA/SC/39/03
16 May 2007

Final minutes of 38th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 13-14 February 2007

Approved by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee on 14 February 2007

Signed

Prof. László Somlyódy
Chairman EEA Scientific Committee

A. PARTICIPANTS – see the list in annexes under item E

Birgit de Boissezon from DG Research, Pam Kennedy from JRC and Ludo Holsbeek - expert nominated by the European Parliament, attended the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Andre Berger, Manfred Kleemann, Július Oszlányi, Tomasz Zylicz, Manfred Grasserbauer from JRC, Christian Heidorn from Eurostat and Ahmet Saatçi from Marmara University.

B. AGENDA – see annexes under item E

The tabled documents were acknowledged under the respective agenda items throughout the meeting (listed in annex 1 under item E).

C. PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13 February 2007, EEA

An introduction visit to the EEA and its work was organised for the new five members on the Scientific Committee on 13 February (agenda annexed). Some current members also attended the day, during which the EEA programmes presented their areas of work, recent priorities and issues with potential SC involvement. During the evening lecture, the new members gave short presentations on their background and areas of expertise.

Wednesday, 14 February 2007, EEA

Item 1. Welcome by the Scientific Committee Chairman, Prof. L.Somlyody

The Chairman welcomed the members to the second day of the meeting, and passed on apologies on behalf of the members, who were unable to be present (see the Attendance list in Annex 2). Reflecting on the meetings of the SC members with EEA staff from the previous day, he encouraged the Agency to continue with this practice. On behalf of the committee, he asked the Executive Director to identify the most important projects and studies that would require scientific input and where the committee could play a more active role.

Moreover, the Chairman put forward a proposal to organise a number of seminars on different topics that could be used as orientation for the Agency's work. The papers for these seminars should be produced by two SC members and one EEA expert, in order to integrate the knowledge in the best possible way.

Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted (final version in Annex I to the minutes).

Item 3. Approval of minutes of 37th Scientific Committee, 10-11 October 2006

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 37th meeting held on 10-11 October 2006 (final version of Doc. EEA/SC/38/03 available on CIRCA).

Item 4. EEA presentation "European environment: main results and achievements of EEA in a scientific context"

The Executive Director presented to the Scientific Committee the EEA major outputs since the last meeting in October 2006 (presentation available on [CIRCA](#)). In the discussion that followed, the members raised the importance of priority setting and reflecting how to utilise the results of the research projects efficiently. The EEA position was on the interface of the scientific and political arenas. The members commented that the ozone web was a good example of networking with wider communities, applying standardised QA procedures and providing information of high quality, which was a good model for replicating to other fields. The Executive Director underlined that the Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) was a sound platform to look qualitatively across thematic areas. In response to a question from the Chairman, which three topics would need most support from the Scientific Committee, the Executive Director listed the following:

1. Support in climate change area and large scale modelling – to help place the Agency as demandeur of core services and outputs;
2. In the area of resource accounting – in covering land accounting, water accounting and how we integrate them into the economic spheres;
3. In a more generic terms on the dispersive side of knowledge – to inform the scientific community of what we do and get recognition for the Agency's efforts in assembling knowledge from scientific, as well as political perspective and using it in an integrated way.

Morning seminar

Item 5. Thoughts on the future operation of the EEA Scientific Committee

The Chairman's report from his November 2006 visit to the Agency formed the basis for the discussion under this agenda item. Prof. L. Somlyódy said that the arrival of five new members and the prospect of changing seven more members on the committee in the coming year was a good basis for reflecting on the cooperation with the Agency. Good foresight and outlook vision was essential for that, as we were talking about information and how data should be used for policy making on European level and which scientific knowledge to utilise in the future. The Chairman invited the members to think and propose well in advance topics for future SC opinions.

Recommendation: to improve the collaboration and the direct link between the EEA staff and SC members by organising a sequence of joint seminars as mentioned under item 1.

Item 6. A. EEA project 'Research foresight for environment and sustainability'
B. Interaction EEA, SC and DG Research – INTARESE case study

David Briggs made a presentation on the lessons learned from the INTARESE project (available on [CIRCA](#)). Following that Ingvar Andersson (EEA) presented to the members the objectives of the Research foresight for environment and sustainability project (available on CIRCA in Doc. EEA/SC/38/06A), proposing to hold a workshop on foresights and mega trends in conjunction with the next SC meeting in May. He asked the members for their input in identifying appropriate speakers and shaping the agenda of the workshop.

Following these presentations, the members made the following comments:

- The Agency has to make use of the science developed under the Framework Programmes (FPs) and by large academic consortia, as well as to relate its needs to the upcoming FPs;
- The SC should benefit from the synergies between the disciplines covered by the committee and help EEA identify gaps that could be integrated in Agency's work;
- Evaluation of policies has to be done methodologically, which can be included in the foresight activities;
- Link the foresight studies with the ecological economists' network.

Subsequent to that, the Chairman invited the members to split into two groups and address the research related issues in the first group and the policy foresight in the second one. The outcome of this brainstorming exercise demonstrated the close relation between the policy and the research foresight.

Recommendation: (1) To produce a short summary of the discussions in the brainstorming sessions and share it with the members

(2) To proceed with organisation of the research foresight workshop in May and to keep the committee informed about it.

Afternoon session

Item 7. SC input to the priorities for EEA 2008 annual work programme and next 5-year strategy. Links to SOER 2010

The Executive Director informed the committee of an early initiation – already in 2006, of the discussions with DG ENV on priority setting at Community level for 2008 before it was submitted to the Annual Policy Cycle. This exercise resulted in a list of new priorities (tabled paper) with an estimated additional cost of around €8 million in 2008 if the Agency were to deliver all the priorities identified in this process.

Having gone through the preliminary budgetary process within the Commission, the possible additional subsidy proposed by the Commission amounted to an extra €2 million (with the Agency expected to find an additional €1 million through refocusing). Among the major objectives for the Agency would be to streamline the data acquisition and data validation, to consolidate data flows in compliance with State of Environment (SoE) reporting, to highlight the Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) and 'Group of Four' agreement, to create global standards on land use through GMES planning in view of SOER 2010, to tackle the fiscal aspects of the environment and to take the foresight process on board.

The SC members observed the wide scope of planned activities, highlighting the importance of the GMES process and the quality assurance element in streamlining of the data sets. Reflecting on the uplift in the EEA work on market-based

instruments, some members pointed out that taxation could be applied for risk prevention and raise awareness on preventive measures.

Recommendation: (1) Over the following months, the SC members to provide EEA with input on the areas, where the foresight process could be taken on board, including the impact on innovations.

(2) The priorities for the next Strategy to be discussed in more depth at the May SC meeting.

Item 8. Round table on proposed topics and lectures during the May and October 2007 meetings

With regard to the discussion under item 6, the members put on the table the following suggestions to be addressed during the upcoming meetings:

- Contributions to the 'Bridging the Gap' Conference planned for spring 2008
- Low carbon energy systems and CO2 future of Europe
- Energy security as an overarching issue in the next 30-40 years
- Influencing the research agendas

Item 9. SC opinion on recruitment of scientific staff in the EEA

The Scientific Committee approved the proposed opinion. The Executive Director informed the members that as soon as the preliminary draft budget for 2008 was available, it would be sent to the members with the establishment plan for new recruits scheduled in 2007-2008.

Item 10. Election of second SC vice-chairperson

The SC members elected unanimously Prof. Teresa Andresen as a vice-chairperson of the committee.

Item 11. Process on Late Lessons vol. 2

David Gee (EEA) presented the state-of-art in the production of the second volume of Late Lessons, which was the most popular EEA report. The concept of the volume 2 was still evolving; guidelines and questions were prepared for the authors. In the discussion, the SC members suggested considering the following: to focus on communication issue on hazards with real life examples, to touch upon the nanotechnologies, to consider the nuclear power topic, as well as to think about following on some late lessons from the first volume (i.e. asbestos).

The committee was informed that the Agency was considering to create a web portal for exchange of stories and ideas in order to identify the best areas to be included in the volume.

Recommendation: The SC members to send to the Agency their contributions and ideas for the Late Lessons vol.2

Item 12. Any other business

The Chairman asked the members to fill in and return to the SC Secretariat the declarations of interest tabled at the meeting.

In addition, he informed the committee that the EEA Publication Plan 2007 was tabled and invited the members interested in a specific topic to get in touch with the respective Head of Programme in the Agency.

The meeting closed at 16:30.

D. ACTION LIST – 38th Scientific Committee, 14 February 2007

Item	Action	Status 25 April 2007
4	To upload the final version to CIRCA and make them available on the web	Done
5	To organise a sequence of joint seminars, prepared by EEA staff and SC members	To be considered for future SC meetings
6	To produce a short summary of the discussions in the brainstorming sessions and share it with the members	In process
6	To proceed with organisation of the research foresight workshop in May and to keep the committee informed about it	In process – workshop scheduled back-to-back with the SC meeting in May
7	The SC members to provide EEA with input on the areas, where the foresight process could be taken on board	Ongoing
7	To taken deeper discussion on the next EEA Strategy at the SC meeting in May	On the 39 th SC agenda
11	The SC members to send to the Agency their contributions and ideas for the Late Lessons vol.2	Ongoing
12	The SC members interested in a specific topic on the EEA Publication Plan 2007 to get in touch with the respective Head of Programme in the Agency	Ongoing

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agendas of the introduction programme for the new SC members and the 38th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 38th SC meeting, 14 February

**Annex 1 - Agendas of the introduction programme for the new SC members and the 38th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
13-14 February 2007**

Doc. EEA/SC/38/02rev1

Tuesday, 13 February 2007, 10:30-16:30

EEA induction visit for the new members of the Scientific Committee

Participants: Dr. Ulrike Kastrup, Dr. Nadia Pinardi, Dr. Yves Desaubies, Prof. Marc Bonazountas, Prof. Pierluigi Cocco (new SC members), and Prof. László Somlyódy, SC Chairman, Dr Detlef Sprinz, Vice-Chair, Prof. Teresa Andresen, Prof. Franc Lobnik, Dr. Pierre Laconte, Dr. Theo Vermeire, EEA staff

10:30-10:45 Welcome to the new SC members by the SC Chairman, Prof. László Somlyódy

10:45-11:15 Presentation of the EEA and Eionet, Ove Caspersen, EEA

11:15-11:45 Introductory course to CIRCA and other EEA web-based portals, Hermann Pfeifer, EEA

11:45-12:30 Meetings with Heads of Programmes and EEA staff responsible for respective thematic areas

12:30-14:00 Lunch (no special arrangement foreseen – together with EEA experts that meet the SC members at 11:45)

14:00-15:00 Meeting with Strategic Knowledge and Innovation (SKI) Programme

15:00-16:00 Meeting with Biodiversity, spatial analysis and scenarios (BSS) Programme

16:00-16:30 Visit to the Information Centre (room 28.2.1)

16:30-17:00 Meeting among the SC members (room 28.2.1)

17:30-18:00 Reception with SC members and EEA staff (EEA canteen)

18:00-19:30 Presentation of new SC members and their work (each around 10 min) followed by Q&A

19:30 Dinner with the SC members (EEA guest canteen)

Wednesday, 14 February 2007, 09:30-17:00, EEA Conference room

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Prof. L.Somlyody, and feedback from his November visit to the Agency
2. Adoption of the draft agenda – *for decision*
3. Approval of minutes of the 37th Scientific Committee of 10-11 October 2006 – *for decision*
4. EEA presentation “European environment: main results and achievements of EEA in a scientific context” *by Prof. J. McGlade*

Morning seminar

5. Thoughts on the future operation of the EEA Scientific Committee – *for discussion*
6. **A.** SC involvement in EEA Research foresight for environment and sustainability (Ingvar Andersson, EEA)
B. Interaction EEA, SC and DG Research – INTARESE case study (David Briggs, SC)

Lunch

Afternoon session

7. SC input to the priorities for EEA 2008 annual work programme and next 5-year strategy. Links to SOER 2010 – *for discussion*
8. Round table on proposed topics and lectures during the May and October 2007 meetings – *for discussion*
9. SC opinion on recruitment of scientific staff in the EEA – *for decision*
10. Election of second SC vice-chairperson – *for decision*
11. Process on Late Lessons vol. 2 – *for discussion*
12. Any other business

Tabled documents:

- Items 4 and 6: Presentations (available on CIRCA)
- Item 7: Summary of core operational outputs, additional work for 2008 requested by DG Environment and related budget estimates
- Declarations of Interest to be signed by the SC members

Annex 2 – Attendance list
EEA 38th Scientific Committee meeting, 13-14 February 2007, Copenhagen

NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
SC members		
Teresa ANDRESEN	Departamento de Botânica Faculdade de Ciências- Universidade do Porto	Signed
André BERGER	Institut d'astronomie et de Géophysique G Lemaître, Université Catholique de Louvain	Apologies
Marc BONAZOUNTAS	Epsilon International SA	Signed
David BRIGGS	Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Imperial College London	Signed
Pierluigi COCCO	Department of Public Health, University of Cagliari	Signed
Daniel COSSA	Department of Biogeochemistry and Ecotoxicology IFREMER	Signed
Yves DESAUBIES	IFREMER	Signed
Helmut HABERL	Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities	Signed
Ulrike KASTRUP	SBB – Swiss Federal Railways	Signed
Manfred KLEEMANN	Research Centre Jülich	Apologies
Pierre LACONTE	Foundation for the Urban Environment	Signed
Franc LOBNIK	Biotechnical Faculty, Center for Soil and Environmental Sciences	Signed
Juan MARTINEZ-ALIER	Department of Economics and Economic History, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	Signed
Nadia PINARDI	University of Bologna	Signed
Július OSZLÁNYI	Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences	Apologies
László SOMLYÓDY	Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering	Signed

Detlef SPRINZ	PIK-Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Global Change and Social Systems	Signed
Theo VERMÉIRE	National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM)	Signed
Peter WADHAMS	Centre for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge	Signed
Tomasz ZYLICZ	Economics Department, Warsaw University	Apologies
Guests		
Manuela SOARES	DG Research	Apologies
Birgit de BOISSEZON	DG Research	Signed
Manfred GRASSERBAUER	JRC	Apologies
Pam KENNEDY	JRC	Signed
Christian HEIDORN	Eurostat	Apologies
Ludo HOLSBEEK	Expert nominated by the European Parliament	Signed
Ahmet Mete SAATÇI	Marmara University, Turkey	Apologies
EEA Staff		
Jacqueline McGLADE	Executive Director	Signed
Jock MARTIN	Programme Manager - Biodiversity, spatial analysis & scenarios (BSS)	Signed
David STANNERS	Programme Manager - Strategic knowledge and innovation (SKI)	Signed
Galina GEORGIEVA	Scientific Committee secretariat, CCA1	Signed