



MINUTES OF THE 78th MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

held in Copenhagen, 14 March 2017

Adopted by the Management Board at its meeting on 13 June 2017

Signed

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler
Chair, EEA Management Board

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming new Board members and alternates.

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

ITEMS 1–2 FOR DECISION

Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/78/01 REV2) was adopted with following changes:

- Item 7 on the Update of the European Commission was extended to also include the European Commission's debrief on the EEA Executive Director's 2016 appraisal; and was renamed as follows:

Update by the European Commission:

- *Evaluation of EEA/Eionet.*
- *Closed Session — Briefing on outcomes of 2016 appraisal of EEA Executive Director*

The latter was a closed session and therefore not minuted.

- Item 11 on the EEAcademy was extended upon suggestion of the Chair of the EEAcademy Advisory Committee to clarify further the decision in the December 2016 Management Board on the financing of EEAcademy activities. The item was renamed 'EEAcademy – Advisory Group and Financing'.

The Chair also informed the Board on the fact that the originally foreseen special session on '*Citizen Science, Big data and Indicators*' was not figuring on the agenda, but would be included in the June Management Board meeting.

Item 2 Adoption of the 77th Management Board minutes, 7 December 2016

The minutes (Doc. EEA/BU/78/02) were adopted unanimously with minor modifications:

- Item 15: 'Scientific Committee: Designation of new members'
The designation of new Scientific Committee members being a closed session, no minutes were taken. For reasons of transparency, it was decided to include the following information



was in the minutes: 'In accordance with Article 10.2 of EEA's Founding Regulation (¹), the Management Board designated the new Scientific Committee members'.

- Item 22: 'EEAcademy'
Minor modifications following suggestions presented by the Chair of the EEAcademy Advisory Committee.

ITEMS 3–7 FOR INFORMATION

Item 3 Draft minutes 71st Bureau, 31 January 2017

The Board took note of the draft minutes (Doc. EEA/MB/78/03).

Item 4 Update by the Chair

The Chair addressed the usefulness of the European Commission Communication on the EU Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) for countries. Next to providing an overview of the implementation of EU environmental policies and laws across the EU, the Communication identifies common challenges across countries and as tool for exchange of information on best practises. Seeing the biennial cycle for the Implementation Review, the next Communication is foreseen to be published early 2019; and it will therefore more or less coincide with the publication of EEA's SOER 2020. The relation between the two exercises will need to be further discussed and any adjustment to the foreseen SOER 2020 shall be decided on in light of the resource implications for EEA.

Item 5 Update by the Scientific Committee Chair

The Scientific Committee (SC) Chair thanked the Board for the designation of new Scientific Committee members during the 77th Management Board meeting in December; and informed the Board members with an update through a presentation. Three important types of activities of the Scientific Committee were highlighted:

- The formal SC meetings and other collective actions
- Building the long term knowledge base: the Joint EEA-SC seminars
- Activities by individual members of the SC

Following the presentation, the Board members discussed the upcoming joint EEA-SC Seminar on 17 May, which will focus on the non-toxic environment. In light of the increasing interest in the topic across Europe, it was recognised that it would not be possible to invite all identified potential speakers. When deciding on the final selection of speakers, attention will be paid to ensure representation of a variety of expert communities to the extent possible, hereby laying the grounds for a broad discussion on the topic. The SC Chair also clarified that the main objective of the Seminar is to build further on both EEA's and the Scientific Committee's knowledge on the topic of the non-toxic environment. The Seminar is open for Board members next to Scientific Committee members, Eionet representatives and Environmental Knowledge Community (EKC) partners.

Finally, the Scientific Committee Chair highlighted again the commitment of the Scientific Committee as a whole to the SOER process and clarified further the foreseen SC involvement throughout the process. The role for the Scientific Committee will include both the formulation of a SC opinion in the context of the formal consultation process as well as scientific expertise support throughout the full process from individual SC members to EEA authors.

Item 6 Update by the Executive Director

EEA's Executive Director gave a presentation complementing the written update (Doc. EEA/MB/78/06) structured around the Strategic Areas of the EEA Multiannual Work Programme

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



(MAWP) 2014-2018 and including EEA's publication plan in Annex, following the agreement at the previous Board meeting. The Executive Director presentation was; and focused on the most important developments in the period November 2016 – February 2017. EEA's Executive Director also informed on relevant networking activities within Eionet and with international partners including: the high level EU-UNEP meeting with Erik Solheim, UNEP's new Executive Director; coordination with UNEP MAP and planned EEA contributions to Maltese and Estonian Presidencies' events. The Executive Director also informed the Board on EEA's visit to the US. his included a visit to the US EPA focusing on continued exchange of views on State of Environment (SoE) reporting; and Research and Development; as well as a meeting with David O'Sullivan, the EU Ambassador to the United States.

In the follow-up discussion DG ENV highlighted the relevance of EEA's publications for the Commission services and expressed the need for an increased coordination and Commission uptake of EEA information in policy making processes. DG ENV informed also on DG ENV activities aiming to reinforce cooperation with EEA and suggested to include an EEA rolling publication plan on the Eionet website. EEA's Executive Director welcomed DG ENV's efforts towards increased coordination with EEA and participation in Eionet meetings. The Executive Director also clarified the process towards the production of publications, highlighted the broad formal and informal consultation processes both with the Commission services and Eionet partners, and expressed his interest in continued involvement of DG ENV and other DGs in the drafting of reports.

DG RTD asked for further clarifications on the approach to the dissemination of EEA reports. EEA clarified the EEA publication process, which focuses on online dissemination including targeted notifications and information provision through social media and on shifting from print to online publications.

The Irish representative, underlined the responsibility of the Board in ensuring the dissemination and uptake of EEA reports at the national level and expressed her appreciation for the good cooperation between the Irish EPA and EEA's communication team and highlighted recent examples such as the report on transformation of EU power sector ⁽²⁾ and the Air Quality in EU report ⁽³⁾, which were very beneficial for raising awareness in Ireland about these topics.

Spain welcomed the EEA report on taxation ⁽⁴⁾; EEA's ongoing work on transitions, in particular TERM 2016 ⁽⁵⁾, emphasising the relevance for countries as it includes a practical application of the transition theory; the establishment of the Eionet working group on INSPIRE and EEA's work on Copernicus. The Spanish representative also invited EEA to continue work on indicators for tourism in the context of the year of sustainable tourism ⁽⁶⁾; suggested EEA to closely follow the work on plastics under the EPA network, seeing its interlinkages with EEA's work on water and environment and health; and informed on the link between implementation compliance included in the Environmental Implementation Review process and the EEA on policy evaluation.

The Executive Director welcomed Spain's appreciation for EEA's work; clarified the EEA approach to address the transitions element more systematically in EEA reports, which is reflected in the carbon lock-ins and seafood reports ⁽²⁾ ⁽⁷⁾, next to TERM 2016; and informed the Board on the upcoming EEA sustainable tourism indicator report, which will be launched during the present

² Transforming the EU power sector: avoiding a carbon lock-in,

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/transforming-the-eu-power-sector>

³ Air quality in Europe — 2016 report, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2016>

⁴ Environmental taxation and EU environmental policies, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-taxation-and-eu-environmental-policies>

⁵ Transitions towards a more sustainable mobility system, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/term-report-2016>

⁶ 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, <http://www.tourism4development2017.org/>

⁷ Seafood in Europe — A food system approach for sustainability, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/seafood-in-europe-a-food>



Maltese Presidency. It was also further clarified that EEA is increasingly engaging with other international partners such as OECD in its continued effort to build the knowledge base on transition pathways to a green economy.

Upon Austria's request to clarify the resource implications in relation to EEA's role in the EU Energy Union governance, the Executive Director clarified that the Commission has proposed a strengthening of EEA's capacity through three additional Contract Agents posts, an increase of EEA's budget by 500k€ per year to support content work through for example the ETCs, as well as an allocation of financial resources to set up the necessary IT system.

Ireland welcomed the Executive Director's update and emphasised the relevance of IT security also at country-level.

The European Parliament designate welcomed the Executive Director's update and EEA's continued effort to inform Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on EEA product; and suggested to increase access to available information through at the one hand condensed briefings and at the other hand a strengthening of the link to national parliaments and educational institutions. The Executive Director informed on the ongoing shift towards four-page online briefings (16 are foreseen for 2017), which are expected to contribute to informing MEPs. It was also clarified that presentations to educational institutions for example in combination with a country-visit are encouraged within EEA.

The European Parliament also expressed interest in a closer cooperation between the EEA and China and enquired whether this would be feasible considering current budget restrictions. EEA's Executive Director informed that although cooperation with China is within EEA's mandate and has been part of EEA's activities in the past, EEA is only able to provide support cooperation between China and Europe by facilitating visits of Chinese experts to EEA in light of the present resource constraints.

Upon a question of Latvia on EEA's involvement in EMAS, the EEA's Executive Director clarified that EEA has an EMAS registration since 2005, is a part of the EU inter-institutional group for EMAS and is the chair of the jury for the EU EMAS competition.

Slovenia asked about EEA's plans in relation to uptake of Copernicus data in future EEA reports on Air Quality. The Executive Director clarified that thematic experts are looking into the potential of Copernicus data and citizen science data. Considerations include the potential inconsistencies between monitoring data reported by countries under EU legal frameworks at the one hand and other data sources such as Copernicus and citizen science data at the other hand. It was also clarified that although EEA is interested in making better use of Copernicus and citizen science data, the final decision on using it in any compliance-related assessment, does not fall within EEA's mandate.

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

DG ENV's representative informed the Board on the following:

- EEA/Eionet evaluation
 - The evaluation process has officially started and meetings between EEA and DG ENV have taken place to identify relevant documents and to identify suitable timelines for the stakeholder consultation process.
 - In February, the in-depth evidence gathering process has started and this will run until September.
 - The Management Board will be a 'privileged' partner in the evaluation process. DG ENV suggested to reserve a timeslot at the June Management Board for in-depth discussion on the state of play and preliminary findings; and informed that a specific e-survey will be set-up for evidence gathering with Board members.



- By October, an interim evaluation report will be available, for further discussion with stakeholders and in particular during the workshop with stakeholders in December.
- Fitness Check of EU environmental monitoring and reporting
 - The final draft staff working document, has been assessed by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in February.
 - The publication of a Commission Communication is planned for later in spring and will be informed by the upcoming inter-service consultation.
 - The follow up action plan is expected to impact on EEA as it includes a plan to streamline reporting and to bring reporting in line with the Sustainable Development Goals indicators, the 7th EAP and SOER 2020.
 - DG ENV also clarified that the Commission is expecting Reportnet 2.0 to enable streamlining of reporting and to contribute to the modernisation of present Commission reporting mechanisms, while also recognising that this will require significant resources.
 - The Commission is considering options to make better use of data available in Member States, as well as big data and citizen science.
 - The outcomes of the Fitness Check will also feed into the EEA evaluation and a potential review of the EEA Regulation. DG ENV informed on the ongoing discussions with EEA on how the outcomes could be translated into new EEA tasks; and on its intention to present the work to the Board once the Communication is adopted.
- 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP)
 - The Commission has initiated the process for both the monitoring the implementation of the 7th EAP and the evaluation of the 7th EAP.
 - DG ENV highlighted that the EEA Environmental indicator report from 2016 ⁽⁸⁾ has already been of great value in terms of informing the Commission processes; and that also other EEA information will be used for further reporting on the 7th EAP.
- EU Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)
 - The European Implementation Review package, adopted early February has generated a lot of media attention across Europe including on social media. DG ENV highlighted it was a major milestone in raising awareness about environmental policies' implementation at citizen's level.
 - DG ENV clarified that the package translates the Commission priority on implementation of legislation by providing an overview of the state of play and improvement actions.
 - DG ENV also expressed interest in a more prominent role for the EEA including contribution to implementation and distance-to-target assessments and effectiveness evaluation of measures. Relevant examples of similar work include the in the 2016 air quality report ⁽⁹⁾ and the series of annual waste implementation report ^(10,11,12).
- EEA's draft Programming Document 2018–2020
 - DG ENV informed on the DG ENV internal assessment of EEA's PD 2018-2020. Main issues for DG ENV include the follow-up of the outcomes from the Fitness Check on monitoring and reporting, priority setting based on a mapping of policy needs and contribution to the EKC activities. DG ENV also informed that the SOER 2020 project plan will be reviewed in conjunction with the PD 2018-2020.

⁸ Environmental indicator report 2016 — In support to the monitoring of the 7th Environment Action Programme, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2016>

⁹ Air quality in Europe - 2016 report, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2016>

¹⁰ Waste prevention in Europe - the status in 2013, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe-2014>

¹¹ Waste prevention in Europe — the status in 2014, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe>

¹² Prevention of hazardous waste in Europe — the status in 2015, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/waste-prevention-in-europe>



- The Commission inter-service consultation will be launched after the joint opinion of DG BUDGET and DG HR has been adopted (31 May 2017).

Spain asked why green fiscal reforms and land use were not included in the overall recommendations of the EIR. DG ENV responded that DG ENV experts will contact Spain on a bilateral basis to provide further clarifications.

In relation to the EEA/Eionet Evaluation, several Board members asked for further clarifications:

- France enquired about the Commission intentions for a revision of the EEA Founding Regulation as a follow-up to the EEA/Eionet evaluation. DG ENV answered that it is too early in the EEA/Eionet evaluation process to take a position on a potential re-opening of the EEA Founding Regulation; and that the outcomes of the evaluation process should not be pre-empted.
- DG ENV provided a clarification on the scope for country involvement in the process in response to a questions from Switzerland.

DG CLIMA informed on the proposal for a Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union, adopted in November 2016; and explained its aim to:

- streamline existing planning and monitoring procedures to avoid double reporting in climate and energy reporting;
- ensure Member States establish and implement integrated energy and climate plans;
- ensure the 2030 Energy Union targets are kept under surveillance and will be met
- Align the EU monitoring and reporting cycle in the climate change area with the Paris Agreement.

DG CLIMA also clarified on the proposed role for EEA in relation to the Energy Union governance, which relates to monitoring and reporting.

Finally, DG CLIMA informed on the intention of the Vice-President of the European Commission, Šefčovič, to visit all Member States with the aim of following up on the second report on the State of the Energy Union, which was adopted on 1 February and to underline the importance of national plans.

In response to an intervention from Luxembourg and Latvia on the relation between the Energy Union and mitigation policy in the transport sector and LULUCF, DG CLIMA confirmed that although the latter are not fully integrated in the Energy Union proposal, they remain priorities for the Commission. DG CLIMA also clarified that the proposal regarding the national plans is still subject to further discussions with Member States both in relation to the scope and timing of the plans.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) informed on a recently released mobile phone app for citizens to report on invasive alien species⁽¹³⁾, and on the publication of several reports.

The Board engaged also in a discussion on potential implications of Brexit; and concluded that it was too early to draw any conclusions on post-Brexit involvement of the UK and potential implications on the EEA budget from 2019 onwards. The UK representative confirmed continued UK participation in EEA and Eionet activities for the time being.

Item 7 – Continued: Closed Session on EEA’s Executive Director’s 2016 appraisal

DG ENV informed the Board on the results of 2016 appraisal of the Executive Director. This was a closed session and is therefore not minuted.

¹³ Invasive Alien Species in Europe app , <http://digitalearthlab.jrc.ec.europa.eu/app/invasive-alien-species-europe>



ITEMS 8–10 STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

Item 8 Topic for the next Management Board seminar

EEA's Executive Director introduced document EEA/MB/78/08 and informed on the proposal to organise the stakeholder workshop on the EEA/Eionet evaluation back-to-back to the December 2017 Board meeting and this replacing the Management Board Seminar. The stakeholder workshop would be organised by the Commission's consultants (COWI) and would take place at the COWI premises close to Copenhagen. The overall objective would be to discuss the preliminary outcomes of the Commission's EEA/Eionet evaluation with Board members, NFPs SC members and other key stakeholders.

The Management Board agreed unanimously to organise the stakeholder workshop on the EEA/Eionet evaluation instead of the Management Board seminar.

During the several countries informed about conflicting dates of the third meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 3), and the Management Board meeting in December 2017. It was decided that EEA in cooperation with the Chair will investigate the possibilities to shift the date for the December Board meeting and the EEA/Eionet evaluation stakeholder workshop.

Finally, the Chair informed about the offer from Portugal to host the October Bureau meeting in Lisbon back-to-back with the NFP/Eionet meeting. This would imply a shift of the meeting date from 3 October to 2 or 4 October. It was decided to delegate the decision on the potential change in meeting date to the Bureau.

Item 9 Follow up of the Management Board seminar

EEA's Executive Director introduced the item, taking document EEA/MB/78/09 as read. The Executive Director emphasised that the intention of the background document on the December 2016 Management Board Seminar was to capture and reflect the richness of the discussions. It was further clarified that the purpose of the document was to

- keep the discussion ongoing within the network
- feed into Commission's EEA/Eionet evaluation

EEA did not come up with recommendations as this was not a purpose of the MB Seminar. The Executive Director invited comments from the Board members, for the finalisation of the document. The Chair suggested to bring the Benefits part (in Annex) forward to the main body of the document.

The UK, supported by Ireland, suggested that Management Board members participate in the drafting of the final Board reflections including both benefits and challenges.

DG ENV welcomed the summary document, which articulates the added value of Eionet and EEA; and emphasised the usefulness of the outcomes document in the for EEA/Eionet evaluation process. DG ENV informed that further suggestions to the document will be provided in writing and will include following DG ENV comments:

- The document does not cover sufficiently the role of EEA and the Eionet network in supporting implementation of environmental policies and the Fitness Check on monitoring and reporting findings.
- While the document highlights firstly an increased role in data management would require an increase in EEA resources, and secondly the need for a clear agreement of the roles of the different knowledge partners; the document pays little attention to data operability and INSPIRE.

DG RTD suggested to include concrete references to relevant assessment in the thematic field (such as air quality, water quality and soils).



A number of countries expressed the strong view that outcomes document should only reflect the discussions, which took place during the seminar.

Turkey highlighted the outcomes in relation to data availability and the use of data provided through Eionet, including data dissemination to experts and the general public. The Turkish representative also emphasised the importance of regular capacity building and trainings for Eionet members and continued support to regional cooperation.

EEA's Executive Director clarified that EEA has endeavoured to balance the feedback from the various discussion groups in the outcomes document; invited the Board members to provide written feedback with a focus on the three most important benefits of and the three biggest challenges for EEA and the Eionet network; and agreed to bring the benefits part upfront in the document.

The European Parliament representative suggested to condense the document and asked for clarification on the purpose of the report beyond the EEA/Eionet evaluation. The Executive Director clarified that the final document will also provide guidance for the further development of the Eionet network.

The Chair summarised the agreement that the report should reflect the seminar discussions, invited the Board to provide further input on the benefits and challenges to include into the final document for the June Management Board meeting.

The Chair concluded with informing that both France and Switzerland had offered to host the 2018 Management Board meeting and seminar.

Item 10 SOER 2020 project plan

EEA's Executive Director introduced document EEA/MB/78/10 through a presentation on the process towards SOER 2020. The presentation focused on: the factors shaping SOER 2020, the SOER 2020 logic and structure, the SOER 2020 planning and the proposed interactions with EEA Stakeholders.

The Board welcomed the SOER 2020 project plan and the following issues were raised by countries:

- Countries' request to receive timely information on expected involvement from countries.
- The need for countries to understand also the differences at national level (in response to the proposal to drop the Part C, which was included in SOER 2010 and SOER 2015).
- Potential linking of SOER 2020 to existing EU and international processes such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EEA/Eionet evaluation, Brexit, future 8th EAP, CAP, etc.
- A potential extension of Part 2 to also include benefits of integration of environmental policies with other policies.
- The foreseen approach for the global megatrends and their potential impacts on EU policies
- The importance of addressing systemic issues and the planetary boundaries
- The proposed use of scenarios to evaluate future environmental policies
- The added value of a pro-active cooperation with EEA's Scientific Committee.

Several countries welcomed the plan to publish the report already in mid-2019 and suggested to closely coordinate with the EIR process, for which the second Commission Communication is planned for early 2019.

Slovakia informed on hosting the NRC FLIS/SOE workshop focused at SOER 2020 planning in September 2017.

DG ENV welcomed that the timing of the report is closely fine-tuned with Commission services to feed into ongoing policy processes; stressed that thematic assessments should be based on information sources beyond the EEA datasets; explained that SOER's main role is to describe the



state of the environment and has thus a different aim from the EIR process aiming at assessing implementation; encouraged EEA to use modelling tools available within the EKC; and called for a strong interlinkage between Part 1 and Part 2 (where Part 2 should be seen as complementing Part 1). DG ENV confirmed that comments on the SOER project plan will be provided in writing.

DG CLIMA emphasised the importance of addressing climate policies in the international context and offered to cooperate with EEA on this.

EEA's Executive Director welcomed the strong support of the Management Board members to ensure national involvement in the SOER 2020 drafting process and expressed EEA's commitment to cooperate closely with the countries. The Executive Director informed on EEA's intentions to align the SOER 2020 with European level processes and to take into account work of EKC partners. It was also clarified that the global picture will be included as a reference framework but that the scope of the report is defined by the 39 Eionet countries.

EEA's Executive Director also informed that the links with the EIR process will be identified in the SOER report; and confirmed that while the earliest possible publication date for SOER 2020 is mid-2019, the final timing will be closely coordinated with the Commission services.

The Management Board endorsed the SOER 2020 project plan unanimously.

ITEMS 11–14 OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Item 11 EEAcademy – Advisory Committee and Financing

The Executive Director introduced document EEA/MB/78/11, informed on EEAcademy developments and invited the Management Board to take a decision on the designation of members of the EEAcademy Advisory Committee, including one Management Board representative.

The Board delegated the decision on the designation of members of the EEAcademy Advisory Committee to the Bureau.

The Management Board members also discussed the EEAcademy financing proposal formulated in its 77th meeting in December 2016, which included the following:

- The financing model for the 2016 EEAcademy Work Plan, which was agreed upon in the 74th Management Board meeting in November 2015, included that support to the EEAcademy should mainly come from existing meeting and mission budgets. This financing approach does not reflect the actual EEA resource use and should therefore be revisited.
- EEAcademy activities do not constitute of a separate EEA work area but are integrated with already existing EEA activities in the thematic areas, hereby ensuring a maximum relevance of the EEAcademy for the EEA and its stakeholders. Allocating a budget specifically to the EEAcademy would therefore not reflect the resource use reality.
- In the light of the above considerations, the EEAcademy activities should not be financed through a specific budget line but the EEA should finance a specific EEAcademy activity from the most appropriate existing budget line.

The Board agreed unanimously with the proposal on resource allocation.

**Item 12 2016 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability**

EEA's Internal Audit Capability (IAC) summarised the main auditing activities in 2016 (Doc. EEA/MB/78/12). Focus was on auditing of ETCs, providing regular support to EEA management and liaising with other auditors, mainly the European Court of Auditors as well as following up on the auditors recommendation from the SOER 2015 audit.

The report was unanimously endorsed by the MB.

Item 13 1st amendment to 2017 budget (Copernicus)

EEA introduced the proposed amendment to the 2017 budget for the Copernicus project and explained the rationale behind it (Doc. EEA/MB/78/13).

In the discussion France raised the issue of the ratio between the budget of EEA and budget for Copernicus activities and consequences for the management of EEA budget and staff. The Executive Director clarified that EEA took a risk-avoidance approach when accepting the Copernicus project by securing several new staff for financial management, administration and human resources management to avoid any possible shortcomings.

The amendment was approved unanimously by MB Board.

Item 14 Account 2016 and discharge process 2015

EEA introduced the 2016 account and 2015 discharge process (Doc. EEA/MB/78/14). EEA reminded the Management Board members of the concerns expressed by the European Parliament in relation to the fact that not all CVs and Declarations of Interest for Board members are publicly accessible on EEA's website. The Chair invited the Board members to provide the relevant documents for publication on the EEA web site.

The Board took note of the information.

ITEMS 15–17 FOR INFORMATION**Item 15 Overview of audits**

EEA provided a short update on audits ((Doc. EEA/MB/78/15): the EU Court of Auditors visited EEA in February 2017 together with the Internal Audit Service. EEA is waiting for preliminary remarks from the EU Court of Auditors. The Internal Audit Services visit EEA in May to perform a risk assessment and to plan audits for the next three years. EEA informed the Management Board of the offer from the Internal Audit Service to present their work in relation to EEA during a next Board meeting.

The Management Board took note of the information.

Item 16 Introduction by the new Chair of the EEA Staff Committee

The Chair introduced the newly elected Chair of the EEA Staff Committee, who provided a short presentation informing about the role of, planned activities by and composition of the EEA Staff Committee.

Item 17 Feedback from Management Board members

Finland invited the Board members to the World Circular Economy Forum 2017, which Finland co-organises with EEA and will take place 5–7 June 2017 in Finland.

France enquired about the background document for the Big data and Citizen science session in June and encouraged to make a link to OECD work in this area.



Annex 1 Agenda of 78th Management Board meeting
Tuesday, 14 March 2017, 10.00-17.00, EEA premises

FOR DECISION

1. Adoption draft agenda
2. Adoption 77th Management Board minutes, 7 December 2017

FOR INFORMATION

3. Draft minutes 71st Bureau, 31 January 2017
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:
 - Evaluation of EEA/Eionet

CLOSED SESSION

7. Update by the European Commission (continued)
 - Briefing on outcomes of 2016 appraisal of EEA's Executive Director

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

FOR DECISION

8. Topic for the next Management Board seminar

FOR GUIDANCE

9. Follow up of the Management Board seminar (6 December 2016)
10. SOER project plan

OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

FOR DECISION

11. EEAcademy – Advisory Group and Financing
12. 2016 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability (IAC)
13. 1st amendment to 2017 budget (Copernicus)

FOR GUIDANCE

14. Accounts 2016 and discharge process 2015

FOR INFORMATION

15. Overview of audits
16. Introduction by the new Chair of the EEA Staff Committee
17. Feedback from Management Board members



Annex 2 Attendance list 78th Management Board meeting

Copenhagen, 14 March 2017

COUNTRY/AFFILIATION		NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
CHAIRMAN	-	Elisabeth FREYTAG-RIGLER	Chair of the EEA Management Board	<i>Signed</i>
AUSTRIA	<i>Alternate:</i>	Sabine McCALLUM	Environment Agency Austria	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>	Florian EYWO	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management	<i>Signed</i>
BELGIUM	<i>Member:</i>	Francis BRANCART	European Policy and International Agreements	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Véronique VERBEKE	Brussels Institute for the Management for the Environment Site de Tour et Taxis	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
BULGARIA	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Philip NEDELKOV PENCHEV	Executive Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>			
CROATIA	<i>Member:</i>	Ivana GUDELJ	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Rene VUKELIĆ	Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
CYPRUS	<i>Member:</i>	Costas HADJIPANAYIOTOU	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Eirini KONSTANTINO	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Nasia DIKIGOROPOULOU	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
CZECH REPUBLIC	<i>Member:</i>	Michal PASTVINSKÝ	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Markéta KUČEROVÁ	Ministry of the Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
DENMARK	<i>Member:</i>	Henrik HEDEMAN OLSEN	Danish Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Thomas Nicolai PEDERSEN	Danish Ministry of the Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>			



ESTONIA	<i>Member:</i>	Meelis MÜNT	Estonian Ministry of the Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Kerli KIILI	Estonian Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>			
FINLAND	<i>Member:</i>	Laura HÖIJER	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Pekka HARJU-AUTTI	Ministry of the Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
FRANCE	<i>Member:</i>	Valéry MORARD	Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Guillaume COUNIO	Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
GERMANY	<i>Member:</i>	Julia WERNER	European Union - Strategic and Legal Aspects	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Holger MÜRLE	Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
GREECE	<i>Member:</i>	Maria PEPPA	Ministry of Environment and Energy	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Nicholas MANTZARIS	Ministry of Environment and Energy	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
HUNGARY	<i>Member:</i>	Teréz Krisztina SZABÓ	Ministry of Agriculture	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Mariann NEMES	Eionet National Focal Point	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
ICELAND	<i>Member:</i>	Herdís Helga SCHOPKA	Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Land and Natural Heritage	
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
	<i>Expert:</i>			
IRELAND	<i>Member:</i>	Laura BURKE	Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Brian CARROLL	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>			



ITALY	<i>Member:</i>	Giovanni BRUNELLI	MATTM	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Felice CAPPELLUTI	MATTM	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>			
LATVIA	<i>Member:</i>	Alda OZOLA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
	<i>Expert:</i>			
LIECHTENSTEIN	<i>Member:</i>	Helmut KINDLE	National Office of Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
	<i>Expert:</i>			
LITHUANIA	<i>Member:</i>	Aldona MARGERIENÉ	Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Vytautas NARUŠEVIČIUS	Environmental Protection Agency	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
LUXEMBOURG	<i>Member:</i>	André WEIDENHAUPT	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Pierre PRUM	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
MALTA	<i>Member:</i>	Michelle PICCININO	Environment Resources Authority	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Marguerite CAMILLERI	Environment Resources Authority	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
NETHERLANDS	<i>Member:</i>	Hannie VLUG	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Jetske VERKERK	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
NORWAY	<i>Member:</i>	Bjørn BJØRNSTAD	Norwegian Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Ingunn LIMSTRAND	Norwegian Environment Agency	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
POLAND	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Anna Katarzyna WIECH	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	
	<i>Expert:</i>			



PORTUGAL	<i>Member:</i>	Nuno LACASTA	Portuguese Environment Agency	
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
	<i>Expert:</i>	Sofia RODRIGUES	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
ROMANIA	<i>Member:</i>	Doina CATRINOIU	National Environment Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Gabriela VASILIU-ISAC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes	
	<i>Expert:</i>			
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	<i>Expert:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Norbert KURILLA	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Katarina BUTKOVSKA	Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU	<i>Signed</i>
SLOVENIA	<i>Member:</i>	Joško KNEZ	Slovenian Environment Agency	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Silvo ŽLEBIR	Slovenian Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>			
SPAIN	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Elisa RIVERA MENDOZA	Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>			
SWEDEN	<i>Member:</i>	Björn RISINGER	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Martin ERIKSSON	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>			
SWITZERLAND	<i>Member:</i>	Marc CHARDONNENS	Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Karine SIEGWART	Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Nicolas PERRITAZ	Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)	<i>Signed</i>
TURKEY	<i>Member:</i>	Mustafa ÖZTÜRK	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Mehmet Mustafa SATILMIŞ	Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>	Fatma Nur CEBECIOGLU	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
UNITED KINGDOM	<i>Member:</i>	Robert BRADBURNE	Defra	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Vicky BEAUMONT-BROWN	Eionet National Focal Point	
	<i>Expert:</i>			



EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Joanna DRAKE	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
	Jacques DELSALLE	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
	David WILKINSON	JRC	
	Peeter PÄRT	JRC	<i>Signed</i>
	Jack METTHEY	DG RTD	
	Mireille DELPRAT	DG RTD	<i>Signed</i>
	Artur RUNGE-METZGER	DG CLIMA	
	Hans BERGMAN	DG CLIMA	<i>Signed</i>
	Marcel JORTAY	Eurostat	
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	Peter HENNICKE	Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie	<i>Signed</i>
	Michael SCULLOS	University of Athens	<i>Signed</i>
	Ludo HOLSBECK	Flemish Government	
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	Per MICKWITZ	Chair of EEA Scientific Committee	<i>Signed</i>
	Mikael SKOU ANDERSEN	Aarhus University	



Annex 3 **List of decisions and guidance**
78th Management Board meeting, 14 March 2017

Agenda item	Outcome	Comments
1 Adoption of the agenda	Adopted with few comments	Wording of the agenda Item 7 was corrected to 'EEA and Eionet evaluation' Special Session on Citizen science, Big Data and Indicators was postponed to June Agenda item on EEA Academy shall be expanded to EEA Academy Advisory Committee and Financing
2 Adoption 77th Management Board minutes, 7 December 2016	Adopted with smaller modifications.	The minutes will be published on the EEA website and the Forum
8 Topic for the next Management Board seminar	Adopted	The dates of the Seminar to be checked against the dates of UNEA 3
9 Follow up of the Management Board seminar (6 December 2016)	MB to send comments to EEA by end of March 2017	
10 SOER project plan		
11 EEAcademy – Advisory Group	Decision on Advisory Committee delegated to Bureau	MB endorsed continuation of EEAcademy stating that funds supporting operation shall come from existing EEA budget, not only from missions and meetings.
12 2016 annual activity report of the EEA Internal Audit Capability (IAC)	Endorsed	
13 1st amendment to 2017 budget (Copernicus)	Approved	



14 Accounts 2016 and
discharge process 2015

Approved by the Chair of the Management Board
on 14 March 2017

Signed

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler