

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 79TH MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING,  
held in Copenhagen on 13 June 2017**

Adopted by the Management Board  
at its meeting on 6 December 2017

*Signed*

Laura Burke  
Chair, EEA Management Board

**Record of proceedings**

The Chair, Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler, opened the meeting by welcoming the Management Board members, alternates and observers.

Final agenda: Annex 1  
Attendance list: Annex 2  
List of decisions and guidance at the 79th MB meeting: Annex 3

**ITEMS 1–2 FOR DECISION**

**Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda**

The Management Board adopted the agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/79/01REV1) with the following modifications:

- Item 17 to be changed to ‘Election of Management Board Chairperson and Vice-Chair’ in case of election of a Vice-Chair as new Chair of the Board; and
- Inclusion of a new agenda item 21 on ‘Priorities Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union’.

**Item 2 Adoption 78th Management Board minutes, 14 March 2017**

The minutes (Doc. EEA/MB/79/02) were adopted without any changes.

**ITEMS 3-7 FOR INFORMATION**

**Item 3 Draft minutes 72nd Bureau, 16 May 2017**

The Management Board took note of the draft minutes of the 72nd Bureau meeting held on 16 May 2017 (Doc. EEA/MB/79/03).

**Item 4 Update by the Management Board Chair**

At the occasion of the last Board meeting as a Chair, Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler thanked the Management Board for the effective, collegial and enjoyable cooperation over the years with the Board and the Bureau.

The EEA Executive Director thanked the Chair in name of EEA. The Vice-Chairs thanked the Chair in name of the Board and Bureau.



## Item 5 Update by the Scientific Committee (SC) Chair

The Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC) provided a presentation informing the meeting on:

- EEA-Eionet Joint EEA-SC seminar on the non-toxic environment (17 May 2017) <sup>(1)</sup> for which the ‘summary of the meeting outcome’ document was distributed to the Board during the meeting.
- 67th meeting of the Scientific Committee (18 May 2017), which included the first draft Scientific Committee opinion on of the draft AWP 2018 in preparation for the formal Scientific Committee opinion to be adopted in October, the EEA publication plan for 2017 and the evaluation of EEA/Eionet (special session with the Commission consultants led by COWI).
- Upcoming joint EEA-SC seminars with the following topics:
  - Big Data and EEA indicators, 11 October 2017
  - Environmental Justice, 21 February 2018
  - SOER 2020, 16 May 2018
  - Enhancing citizen engagement and communication of science, 3 October 2018.

The EEA Executive Director expressed appreciation for the work and the dedication of the Scientific Committee, which was strengthened in the beginning of 2017 with nine new members <sup>(2)</sup>. Appreciation was also expressed for the consistent JRC participation in and contributions to the Scientific Committee.

## Item 6 Update by the Executive Director, including publication plan 2017 progress

Taking the document ‘Update by the Executive Director’ (Doc. EEA/MB/79/06) as read, the Executive Director presented an overview of highlights since the last meeting including an update on the status of the EEA publication plan for 2017.

EEA’s Executive Director also informed on the recent acknowledgement by the Danish government that the principle of freedom of movement for EU workers being applicable to staff in international organisations in Denmark. This means that it is now finally possible for EEA staff to obtain a resident civil registration (CPR) number and health security certificate.

The Chair of the EEA Academy Advisory Committee informed on the summer school event in San Sebastian on ‘*The water framework directive implementation – is it possible to achieve good ecological status in European waters from the lessons learnt?*’, which was co-organised with AZTI and took place on 6-8 June 2017. The 2017 EEA Academy summer school on the ‘Precautionary Principle: Governance of Innovation and Innovations in Governance’ will take place from 24 to 30 June 2017 in Budapest <sup>(3)</sup>.

Finland highlighted the usefulness of the country Eionet seminar with NFPs and NRCs, in which the Executive Director participated.

Spain underlined the importance of looking further into the use of Copernicus data in reducing administrative burden from monitoring and reporting as well as informing citizens and assessment of environmental implementation in Member States by the Commission. Romania suggested that a future Board meeting could include a session on Copernicus; and welcomed the event on ‘*The Future*

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<sup>1</sup> All documents have been made available on the SC Eionet Forum at [https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/eea-sc/library/sc\\_seminars/eea-sc-seminar-non-toxic-environment-18-may-2017/](https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/eea-sc/library/sc_seminars/eea-sc-seminar-non-toxic-environment-18-may-2017/).

<sup>2</sup> EEA Management Board decision EEA/MB/2016/025.

<sup>3</sup> <https://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/precautionary-2017/>.



of *Plastic Materials in the European Circular Economy*'<sup>(4)</sup> which was organised in Brussels on 7 April 2017. The EEA Executive Director informed on the EU legislation as the framework for data to be reported by Member States and to be taken into account by the Commission in relation to the implementation and compliance assessment of environmental legislation.

Following a question regarding the link between the streamlining actions resulting from the monitoring and reporting fitness check, INSPIRE and Copernicus, the Executive Director clarified that EEA activities will in first instance focus on the further improvement of Reportnet 2.0 as a reporting platform, while recognising the interlinkages.

Following a question from Luxembourg regarding the proposed provisions in relation to the Energy Union governance, the EEA informed that the future role for EEA and Eionet will only be definite after the adoption of the legal act. The EEA informed further on the following:

- Implementation is foreseen to start from 2018 onwards
- The draft Commission budget for 2018, which was adopted on 30 May 2017, is in line with the estimated impact on expenditure for the Agency as included in the Commission proposal<sup>(5)</sup>. The estimated expenditure over the period 2018-2020 is the following:
  - 2018: 250k€ and 0.5 of a Contract Agent (CA) (35k€)
  - 2019: 500k€ and 2 CAs (140k€)
  - 2020: 500k€ and 3 CAs (210k€)

The hiring of Contract Agents would follow a phased approach (hiring of one CA per year over the period 2018-2020 and will reach the total of 3 extra CAs in 2020).

- EEA is participating in the relevant Working Group, which is defining the full reporting modalities.

EEA proposed to provide a background document for the next Board meeting in December on the status of the Energy Union, the historic role of EEA and the foreseen future role for EEA and Eionet (including both tasks and resource implications).

The Chair requested the EEA to also provide a background document for the December Board on the impact on EEA of the Commission action plan resulting from the Fitness Check of reporting and monitoring'<sup>(6)</sup>, which includes a budget transfer from the LIFE Programme to EEA of approximately EUR 3.1 million over the three years pilot phase over the period 2018-2020.

Following a question from the European Parliament representative regarding EEA's role in relation to the cost estimation of renewables in the context of the Energy Union; the EEA informed to look into the possibility to include information on costs of renewables in the upcoming EEA report on renewables. The DG CLIMA representative clarified that the new energy sector economic model 'Policy Oriented Tool for Energy and Climate Change Impact Assessment' (POTEnCIA), which is being developed by the JRC, will include an improved cost estimation of renewables compared to the 'Price-Induced Market Equilibrium System' (PRIMES) energy system model.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://ebcd.org/event/the-future-of-plastic-materials-in-the-european-circular-economy/>.

<sup>5</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Union Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union, COM(2016) 759, [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1\\_en\\_act\\_part1\\_v9\\_759.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1_en_act_part1_v9_759.pdf); Article 35 sets out the proposed role for the EEA and the Legislative Financial Statement on the EEA is included on pages 75-89.

<sup>6</sup> All documents are published on the Commission webpage: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc\\_overview\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc_overview_en.htm).



## Item 7 Update by the European Commission, including evaluation of EEA/Eionet Regulation

The **DG ENV representative** informed about the following Commission activities:

- Monitoring and reporting fitness check

The Commission adopted on 9 June 2017 the outcome of the 'Fitness Check of reporting and monitoring of EU environment policy' (SWD(2017) 230), which is accompanied by a Commission Report on 'Actions to Streamline Environmental Reporting' (COM(2017) 312) <sup>(7)</sup>.

The action plan to streamline environmental reporting is structured around five areas:

- Getting the right information in the right form at the right time;
- Streamlining of reporting processes;
- Promotion of active dissemination of environmental information at European and national level;
- Exploiting other data sources and alternative approaches complementing environmental reporting (including the role and the use of Copernicus data); and
- Improving coherence and cooperation.

The DG ENV representative welcomed the good cooperation with EEA and informed on the prominent role for EEA foreseen in the action plan, including a proposed resource allocation of 3.1 million EUR and two new contract agent posts. The DG ENV representative further informed on the ongoing discussions with EEA on the Agency's future role in the implementation of the action plan. Furthermore, DG ENV informed on areas where the Directorate General would be interested in support from EEA and recognised that this might require a change of the Agency's Programming Document (PD) 2018-2020 compared to the draft PD 2018-2020 submitted to the EU Institutions on 31 January 2017:

- Development and phase in of standard procedures and practices for DG ENV reporting using in most cases Reportnet as the main reporting infrastructure;
  - Centralising outsourcing through one (or several) Framework Contracts which allow EEA and DG ENV to rely on a standardised, combined expertise;
  - Establishing an upgraded and standardised European environmental reporting model (including new functionalities);
  - Development of a feasibility study and thereafter an investment plan for Reportnet 2.0;
  - Development of harmonised reporting tools and end-user applications; and
  - Improvement of guidance regarding the national portals.
- Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)

Following the adoption of the first EIR package in February 2017 <sup>(8)</sup>, including country fiches for all EU-28 Member States. This first set of biannual reports focused on air quality, natural protection and waste.

Bilateral country dialogues have started. Dialogues with Estonia, Belgium, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Germany have already taken place, and country dialogues with Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg are planned for the second half of 2017.

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<sup>7</sup> All documents are published on the Commission webpage:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc\\_overview\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc_overview_en.htm).

<sup>8</sup> The full EIR package is available in a single document at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/pdf/full\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/pdf/full_report_en.pdf).



In parallel with the country dialogues, the Commission is starting the preparation for the next EIR package (foreseen for 2019) and looking into options for increased cooperation with EEA and this in particular in relation to climate change, chemicals and industrial emissions.

- Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

Following the Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives the Commission decided not to propose a revision of the legislation but to formulate an Action Plan. The European Commission adopted the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy <sup>(9)</sup> on 27 April 2017, the main goal of which is to improve the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives through a focus on four priorities:

- Improving guidance and knowledge and ensuring better coherence with broader socioeconomic objectives
- Building political ownership and strengthening compliance
- Strengthening investment in Natura 2000 and improving synergies with EU funding instruments
- Better communication and outreach, engaging citizens, stakeholders and communities

The actions in which the Commission could see a role for EEA include: public online access to data necessary for implementing the Directives (e.g. satellite imagery from the Copernicus programme), completing the Natura 2000 network (especially filling gaps for the marine environment) and the development of guidance to support the deployment of green infrastructure for better connectivity of Natura 2000 areas.

- Evaluation of the 7th EAP

The Commission's evaluation of the 7th EAP commenced, including assessing how the work of EEA can feed into it. The Commission evaluation, which is foreseen to be finalised by the beginning of 2019, will be supported by a Commission service contract and will take into account work from other EU institutions such as the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee.

- EEA/Eionet Evaluation

The evaluation of EEA and Eionet is a Commission-led process, which will cover the period from mid-2012 until the end of 2016. It will take into account previous EEA evaluations, including Management Board recommendations; and will be supported by a Commission consultancy contract.

The evaluation will include a consultation of a wide range of stakeholders using a range of methods. Consultation with the EEA Management Board will include: a 12-week open consultation to be launched later in June, a mini-survey to all Board members and in-depth interviews with a representative sample of Board members. The Commission foresees also the set-up of a specific functional mailbox.

The interim report is foreseen for autumn and will be discussed at the stakeholder workshop, which will take place on 5 December 2017, back-to-back with the Board meeting.

The final Commission report will become available in the second quarter of 2018.

Following the presentation by the DG ENV representative, the Board engaged in a discussion including the following topics:

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<sup>9</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness\\_check/action\\_plan/communication\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/communication_en.pdf).



- Monitoring and reporting fitness check
  - Spain informed on the need of countries to receive early information on the actions for the rolling programme and suggested to provide countries with a roadmap on this.
  - Portugal shared its view that the recent Commission initiatives such as the MRR and EIR are recognised as being useful for the countries. Portugal also called for an integrated approach regarding the implementation of the monitoring and reporting fitness check package, which should include both technical and political actions. The Chair, DG ENV and EEA's Executive Director recognised that the implementation should have both a technical and political dimension.
  - EEA's Executive Director informed on the ongoing discussion between the Commission (including the thematic units) and EEA on the interpretation of the action plan for EEA and on the fact that the Reportnet 2.0 project will be the EEA's key contribution.

- Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)

Following a request from Austria in relation to peer-to-peer sharing of information between Member States, DG ENV informed on its intention to organise broader meetings (besides the country dialogues).

- EEA/Eionet Evaluation

Several countries informed on country experiences in relation to the dedicated sessions at the latest NFP/Eionet workshop and called for a transparent process regarding the documentation of the outcomes. DG ENV clarified that NFPs will be given the opportunity to comment on the consultants report with the outcomes from the meeting.

The European Parliament designate raised the Board's attention minutes of the 72th Bureau meeting, which includes the Bureau reflections from its special session on the EEA/Eionet evaluation.

The **JRC representative** informed about the following Commission activities:

- European Bio-economy Strategy and Action Plan

The JRC informed on the upcoming JRC report on bio-economy, which should contribute to the building of the overall understanding on how future EU policy can ensure a sustainable bio-economy including the economic, environmental and social dimensions.

The JRC also informed on the launch of a Commission-wide knowledge centre on the bio-economy, which include involvement of all relevant Commission policy DGs (such as ENV, CLIMA, AGRI, GROW, MOVE, ENER and EMPL).

The Executive Director informed on the upcoming report on the Circular Economy in which the link to the bio-economy will be included.

The **DG CLIMA representative** informed about the following Commission activities:

- It is foreseen that the next Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) package will also include information related to the DG CLIMA policy areas; DG CLIMA is also participating in the evaluation of the 7th EAP and the SDGs.



- The Commission adopted proposal on monitoring and reporting of new heavy-duty vehicles<sup>(10)</sup> on 31 May, which foresees a role for EEA in the data reporting from 2019 onwards. The proposal also includes an estimated impact on expenditure for EEA for the period 2019-2020:
  - 2019: 250k€ and 2 Contract Agent (CAs) (150k€)
  - 2020: 175k€ and 2CA (200k€)The hiring of the two Contract Agents would happen during 2019.
- The Commission informed on the status of the trilogies.

The **DG RTD representative** informed about the following Commission activities:

- **PRIMA initiative**  
A director is being appointed for the initiative on a partnership for Research and innovation in the Mediterranean area (PRIMA). The main objective of the ten-year initiative (2018–2028), which is partly funded by EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, is to develop solutions to improve water availability and sustainable agriculture production in a region heavily distressed by climate change, urbanisation and population growth.
- **Innovation deals**  
The innovation deals initiative pilot aims at finding innovative ways of dealing with regulatory barriers to innovation. The first Innovation Deal on 'Sustainable Waste Water Treatment Combining Anaerobic Membrane Technology (AnMbR) and Water Reuse' to address regulatory barriers has been signed.

Spain informed on the main barrier in the country being technical barriers and suggested to use a policy-oriented approach.

Finally, the Portuguese representative asked the Commission to provide the Board with a written update in advance of the meeting and welcomed the use of presentations during the meeting.

## STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

### ITEMS 8–10 FOR GUIDANCE

#### Item 8 Outcome EEA discharge 2015 and follow-up actions on discharge 2014

The Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/08 regarding the Agency's granting of the discharge for the financial year 2015 on 27 April by the European Parliament, which includes the decision on the discharge in respect of the implementation of the EEA budget and the decision on the closure of the EEA accounts.

The Board took note of the EEA discharge related to 2015 and the specific call on the Agency to take all necessary measures to remedy the situation regarding the limited availability of CVs and Declarations of Interest (DoI) from Board members.

The European Parliament designate highlighted the strong support to the EEA, which is expressed in the Discharge Authority's report on the EEA discharge for 2015; and this through the call on the Commission *'to ensure that potential further cost saving measures do not hinder the Agency's ability*

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<sup>10</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring and reporting of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from and fuel consumption of new heavy-duty vehicles, COM(2017) 279 final, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/DOC/?uri=CELEX:52017PC0279&from=EN>, Legislative Financial Statement for the EEA included.



to fulfil its mandate' <sup>(11)</sup>. The European Parliament designate also informed on the EEA being part of a minority among Agencies in relation to the limited availability of CVs and Declarations of Interest, since 84% of the Agencies fulfil this requirement; and asked to reconsider the issue.

France and Germany expressed the opinion that to ensure their country's autonomy, the provision of the Declaration of Interest for publication on the EEA website is to be understood as a voluntary action from the country; and not as a response to a mandatory requirement imposed upon the country by the European Parliament as EEA's Discharge Authority. The French representative informed on the intention to provide the DoI for its member and alternate member on this voluntary basis.

The DG ENV representative informed on the ongoing discussions in relation to decentralised agencies and how a lack of long-term transparency regarding the scrutiny of the Agency's management could impact on how the EEA is perceived by the public, NGOs etc.; and this independently on whether the request has been formulated by the European Parliament.

The Chair proposed to take a decision with regards to the Dols and CVs from Board members.

The Board decided that all Board members are to provide a short CV and a Declaration of Interest (on a voluntary basis), with the purpose of publication on the EEA website.

As an alternative to the DoI, the country's Permanent Representation could provide a statement on the country's position that the appointing country is solely responsible for preventing and managing conflict of interests concerning its member (and alternate member) of the EEA Board and that therefore no DoI are provided for publication on EEA's website. The statements should be published on the EEA website.

#### **Item 9 Eurostat work programme 2018**

Eurostat introduced background document EEA/MB/79/09 and provided a presentation on the Eurostat work programme 2018, examples of outputs generated by Eurostat and the latest news on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.

Following the presentation by the Eurostat representative, the Board engaged in a discussion including the following topics:

- The French representative highlighted that new indicators required to follow-up on EU and UN policies (such as for the monitoring of SDGs and the 7th EAP) should use a harmonised approach regarding the methodology and data sources. It was also raised that political endorsement is still needed for indicators, which can only be produced every 5 or 10 years (such as in relation to natural resources).
- The Eurostat representative clarified that the EU SDG indicators are based on indicators and data sources, and do not require input from the countries. It was also clarified that Eurostat will not become a data-hub for SDGs, as the UN level indicator follow the 'custodian agency' approach. Eurostat also informed on its intention to increase its involvement in the development of Tier 3 methodologies; and on some differences in methodology used for UN-level SDG indicators compared to the country-level indicators.

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<sup>11</sup> EEA Discharge 2015, Section 3 (Motion for a European Parliament Resolution), Procurement and recruitment procedures, Paragraph 3 (page 8/15), [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/116317/12\\_EEA\\_A8-0085\\_2017\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/116317/12_EEA_A8-0085_2017_EN.pdf).



- The Chair of the Scientific Committee emphasised the link to the work of the EEA and its Scientific Committee and welcomed the Eurostat involvement in the EEA-SC seminars as a means of ensuring the continued synergies.
- The European Parliament designate suggested the development of indicators reflecting social impacts of the state of the environment and economy growth/de-growth.

The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the cooperation between EEA and Eurostat; and highlighted the value of combining statistical information from Eurostat with assessment type information for the evaluation of the 7th EAP, examples of EEA assessment contributions are the upcoming publications in the field of environment and wellbeing; and circular economy.

The Board was invited to provide written comments to the draft Eurostat Statistical Work Programme in the field of environment by mid-July.

#### **Item 10 December 2016 Management Board seminar outcomes**

EEA's Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/10, the final report of the Management Board seminar, '*EEA and Eionet – Shaping our future together*', held on 6 December 2016. The Board took note of the document.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Item 11 EEA's Executive Director's contract**

The Board in its capacity of appointing authority for the Executive Director discussed the process and timelines for the extension of the Executive Director's contract.

This was a closed session. The Executive Director was informed on the discussions by the Chair, as agreed by the Board.

#### **STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

##### **ITEMS 12–13 FOR DECISION**

##### **Item 12 ETCs beyond 2018: topic review process and future contractual arrangements**

The EEA Executive Director introduced background documents EEA/MB/79/12A and EEA/MB/79/12A-ADD1 on the ETC topic review process and document EEA/MB/79/12B on the future contractual arrangements for ETCs.

The Chair invited the Management Board to nominate two members for the ETC/ACM extended Review Committee and underlined that countries represented in the ETC/ACM <sup>(12)</sup> should not be a member of the Review Committee.

Spain highlighted the need to ensure future coherence between the different thematic policies covered by the ETC/ACM in case of a split into several ETCs. EEA's Executive Director confirmed that the Review Committee will be mandated to look into this.

The Board nominated by unanimity the European Parliament designate, Michael Scoullas, as member and Chair, and the Board member for Finland, Laura Höijer, as member of the ETC/ACM Review Committee.

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<sup>12</sup> Greece, Spain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, United Kingdom and Norway.



The Board adopted by unanimity the decision on the ETC topic review process (Decision EEA MB 2017 007 ETC topic review), which includes an in-depth review of the ETC/ACM and the establishment of the ETC/ACM Review Committee.

The Board decided by unanimity that the most appropriate future contracting arrangement with ETCs is the use of grant agreements.

#### **Item 13 Meeting calendar 2018**

The EEA Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/13.

The Board adopted by unanimity the EEA Management Board and Bureau meeting calendar for 2018 with some modifications:

- 81st MB meeting on 6 March (instead of 13 March),
- 82nd MB meeting on 5 June (instead of 12 June); and
- 75th Bureau meeting on 24 April (instead of 15 May).
- The seminar in 2018 will take place on 5 December (back-to-back to the Board meeting).

### **SPECIAL SESSION**

#### **Item 14 Citizen Science: EKC Knowledge and Innovation Project (KIP) on Citizen Science**

The Joint Research Centre of the Commission (JRC) introduced background document EEA/MB/79/14 and provided a presentation on citizen science and this in the context of the European Knowledge Community (EKC) Knowledge Innovation Project on Citizen Science.

The Board engaged in a discussion on citizen science which included: applications on citizen science, the link between citizen science and the in-situ component of Copernicus, the different data quality protocols for data generated through citizen science, the potential to use citizen science data to complement the data reporting from Member States, the role of citizens in policy-making, the use of citizen science data for a sustainable transformation (such as objective information on locations of citizens on the basis of apps on mobile phones) and the educational component of citizen science.

### **OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **ITEMS 15–18 FOR DECISION**

#### **Item 15 Board opinion on annual accounts 2016**

The EEA Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/15 on the annual accounts for the financial year 2016.

The Board adopted by unanimity the EEA annual accounts for 2016 as drafted (Decision EEA MB 2017 008 Annual accounts 2016).

#### **Item 16 Board opinion on Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2016**

The EEA Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/16 on the Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) relevant to 2016. The Chair informed the Board on the section regarding the 'Management Board analysis and assessment'.

The Board adopted by unanimity the EEA Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2016 and the 'Management Board analysis and assessment' as drafted (Decision EEA MB 2017 009 CAAR 2016).



### **Item 17 Election of Management Board Chairperson and Vice-Chair**

The Chair introduced background document EEA/MB/79/17A on the election of the Management Board Chairperson.

The Board elected the Management Board member for Ireland, Laura Burke, by unanimity as Chair of the EEA Management Board for a three-year term of office from 1 September 2017 until 30 August 2020 (Decision EEA MB 2017 010 Election of MB Chair).

The Chair introduced background documents EEA/MB/79/17B and EEA/MB/79/17B-ADD1 on the election of a Vice-Chair for the Board/Bureau member and invited the Board to elect a new Vice-Chair after the opening of one of the five Vice-Chair positions after the election of the new Chair.

The Board elected the Management Board member for Luxembourg, André Weidenhaupt (by 21 out of 25 votes, 1 blanco vote) as Vice-Chair of the EEA Management Board/Bureau member; and this for a three-year term of office from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2020 (Decision EEA MB 2017 013 Election of MB Vice-Chair).

### **Item 18 Adoption of implementing rules to the Staff Regulations**

The EEA Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/18 on the adoption of implementing rules to the Staff Regulations.

The Board adopted by unanimity the two decisions as drafted:

- Policy on protecting the dignity of the person and preventing psychological and sexual harassment' – based on standard model developed for Agencies (Decision EEA/MB/2017/011 – harassment)
- Request for a derogation from the Commission implementing rules concerning evaluation of managerial abilities of middle managers (Decision EEA/MB/2017/012 – derogation)

### **ITEM 19–21 FOR INFORMATION**

#### **Item 19 Timetable for PD 2019–2021 and finalisation of PD 2018–2020**

The EEA Executive Director introduced background document EEA/MB/79/19 and the Management Board took note of the timetable for the finalisation of EEA's Programming Document (PD) for the period 2018–2020 and the drafting process for the PD 2019–2021.

The Executive Director also raised the attention to the fact that the PD 2019-2021 will extend beyond the period for the current Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014-2020.

The Chair recalled the earlier discussions in the Board and Bureau on negative priorities from 2018 onwards in light of the continued resource constraints, while recognising the Commission's proposal to allocate additional resources to EEA for tasks resulting from the monitoring and reporting fitness check.

The Management Board took note of the timetables for the processes for the EEA Programming Documents.

#### **Item 20 Overview of audits**

The EEA introduced background document EEA/MB/79/20. The Internal Audit Capability informed the Board on the following:

- the visit of a high-level representative of the European Court of Auditors, Dean Phil Wynn Owen, on 5 May,



- the ongoing risk assessment by the Internal Audit Service (IAS), which will form the basis for defining the audit topics for the period 2018-2020,
- the preliminary findings from the European Court of Auditors (ECA),
- a progress update in relation to the IAC work plan for 2017.

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

#### **Item 21     Priorities Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

The Estonian representative provided a presentation on the Estonian priorities for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the second half of 2017 (in Trio with Bulgaria and Austria). The overarching Presidency priorities are: open and innovative European economy, safe and secure Europe, digital Europe and the free movement of data, and inclusive and sustainable Europe. The Estonian representative also informed on the activities in the field of environment, which are organised around the three main priorities: climate change, circular economy and eco-innovation.

The main meetings highlighted by the Estonian representative were:

- 13-14 July: Informal ENVI Council in Tallinn
- 13 October: ENVI Council meeting in Luxembourg
- 24-26 October: Conference 'Nature based solutions'
- 19 December: ENVI Council meeting in Brussels

The Executive Director welcomed the presentation and expressed the Agency's commitment to support the Presidency.

#### **Item 22     Feedback from Management Board members**

Portugal informed on the upcoming 10-year celebration of the International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP) in early September in Lisbon.

The Executive Director informed the Bureau about the European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum (EEEN) on *Evaluating Innovation in Environmental Protection & Sustainability*, which will be hosted by the Scottish EPA and will take place on 23-24 November 2017 and for which contributions can be provided to the EEEN network by 31 July 2017<sup>(13)</sup>.

The Executive Director (ED) also informed on the appointment as one of the five external evaluators for the external review panel for the OPS6, the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF), in Washington.

*The meeting closed at 16h25.*

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/policy/events/eeen2017>.



**Annex 1      Agenda of 79th Management Board meeting,  
Tuesday, 13 June 2017, 9.30-17.00, EEA premises**

**FOR DECISION**

1. Adoption draft agenda
2. Adoption 78th Management Board minutes, 14 March 2017

**FOR INFORMATION**

3. Draft minutes 72nd Bureau, 16 May 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 incl. evaluation of EEA/Eionet Regulation

**STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

**FOR GUIDANCE**

8. Outcome EEA discharge 2015 and follow-up actions on discharge 2014
9. Eurostat work programme 2018
10. December 2016 Management Board seminar outcomes

**CLOSED SESSION**

11. EEA's Executive Director's contract

**STRATEGIC ORIENTATION**

**FOR DECISION**

12. ETCs beyond 2018: topic review process and future contractual arrangements
13. Meeting calendar 2018

**SPECIAL SESSION**

14. Citizen Science: EKC Knowledge and Innovation Project (KIP) on Citizen Science

**OPERATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**FOR DECISION**

15. Board opinion on annual accounts 2016
16. Board opinion on Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2016
17. Election of Management Board Chairperson and Vice-Chair/Bureau member
18. Adoption of implementing rules to the Staff Regulations

**FOR INFORMATION**

19. Timetable for PD 2019–2021 and finalisation of PD 2018–2020
20. Overview of audits
21. Priorities Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
22. Feedback from Management Board members

Annex 2 Attendance list - 79th Management Board meeting

Copenhagen, 13 June 2017

<b>COUNTRY/AFFILIATION</b>		<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	-	Elisabeth FREYTAG-RIGLER	Chair of the EEA Management Board	<i>Signed</i>
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<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>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<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	
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Filip NEDELKOV PENCHEV	Executive Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<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	
<b>CYPRUS</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Costas HADJIPANAYIOTOU	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Eirini KONSTANTINOOU	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Nasia DIKIGOROPOULOU	NFP	
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Michal PASTVINSKÝ	Ministry of the Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Markéta KUČEROVÁ	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<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	
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Meelis MÜNT	Estonian Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Kerli KIILI	Estonian Ministry of the Environment	
<b>FINLAND</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Laura HÖIJER	Ministry of the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Pekka HARJU-AUTTI	Ministry of the Environment	

<b>COUNTRY/AFFILIATION</b>		<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<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	
<b>GERMANY</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Julia WERNER	European Union - Strategic and Legal Aspects	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Holger MÜRLE	Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety	
<b>GREECE</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Maria PEPPA	Ministry of Environment and Energy	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Nicholas MANTZARIS	Ministry of Environment and Energy	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Evangelia STAMOULI	Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU	<i>Signed</i>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Teréz Krisztina SZABÓ	Ministry of Agriculture	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Mariann NEMES	Eionet National Focal Point	
<b>ICELAND</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Herdís Helga SCHOPKA	Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Land and Natural Heritage	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
<b>IRELAND</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Laura BURKE	Environmental Protection Agency	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Brian CARROLL	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	<i>Signed</i>
<b>ITALY</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Giovanni BRUNELLI	MATTM	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Felice CAPPELLUTI	MATTM	<i>Signed</i>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Alda OZOLA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Kristaps TREIMANIS	Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre	
<b>LIECHTENSTEIN</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Helmut KINDLE	National Office of Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Aldona MARGERIENĖ	Environmental Protection Agency	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Vytautas NARUŠEVIČIUS	Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>

<b>COUNTRY/AFFILIATION</b>		<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	<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	
<b>MALTA</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Michelle PICCININO	Environment Resources Authority	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Marguerite CAMILLERI	Environment Resources Authority	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Nadine MERDIECA	Environment Resources Authority	<i>Signed</i>
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Hannie VLUG	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Jetske VERKERK	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	<i>Signed</i>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Bjørn BJØRNSTAD	Norwegian Environment Agency	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Ingunn LIMSTRAND	Norwegian Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
<b>POLAND</b>	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Anna Katarzyna WIECH	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Małgorzata BEDNAREK	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Nuno LACASTA	Portuguese Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>			
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Doina CATRINOIU	National Environment Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Gabriela VASILIU-ISAC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes	
<b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Norbert KURILLA	Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Joško KNEZ	Slovenian Environment Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Silvo ŽLEBIR	Slovenian Environment Agency	
<b>SPAIN</b>	<i>Member:</i>			
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Elisa RIVERA MENDOZA	Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente	<i>Signed</i>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Björn RISINGER	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Martin ERIKSSON	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<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)	

<b>COUNTRY/AFFILIATION</b>		<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
	<i>Expert:</i>	Nicolas PERRITAZ	Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)	<i>Signed</i>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Mustafa ÖZTÜRK	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Mehmet Mustafa SATILMIŞ	Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection	
	<i>Expert:</i>	Mahmut DAĞAŞAN	Environmental Impact Assessment, Permit and Inspection	<i>Signed</i>
	<i>Expert:</i>	Fatma Nur CEBECİOĞLU	NFP	<i>Signed</i>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<i>Member:</i>	Robert BRADBURNE	Defra	
	<i>Alternate:</i>	Vicky BEAUMONT-BROWN	Eionet National Focal Point	<i>Signed</i>
<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION</b>		Gilles GANTELET	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
		Jacques DELSALLE	DG ENV	<i>Signed</i>
		David WILKINSON	JRC	<i>Signed</i>
		Peeter PÄRT	JRC	<i>Signed</i>
		Marcel JORTAY	Eurostat	
		Anton STEURER	Eurostat	<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>
<b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>		Peter HENNICKE	Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie	<i>Signed</i>
		Michael SCOULLOS	University of Athens	<i>Signed</i>
		Ludo HOLSBECK	Flemish Government	
<b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>		Per MICKWITZ	Chair of EEA Scientific Committee	<i>Signed</i>
		Mikael SKOU ANDERSEN	Aarhus University	

**Annex 3**      **List of decisions and guidance**  
79th Management Board meeting, 13 June 2017

Decision EEA/MB/2017/006

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1      Adoption of the agenda	The Board adopted the agenda with some modifications.	The modifications were the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusion of a new item 21 on Priorities Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union</li> <li>- Item 17 to be changed to ‘Election of Management Board Chairperson and Vice-Chair’ in case of election of a Vice-Chair as new Chair of the Board</li> </ul>
2      Adoption 78th Management Board minutes, 14 March 2017	The Board adopted the minutes as drafted.	The minutes will be published on the EEA website and the Forum.
3      Draft minutes 72nd Bureau, 16 May 2017		No comments were formulated by the Bureau in advance or during the meeting.
8      Outcome EEA discharge 2015	The Board took note of the EEA discharge related to 2015 and the specific call on the Agency to take all necessary measures to remedy the situation regarding the limited availability of CVs and Declarations of Interest (DoI) from Board members. The Board decided that all Board members are to provide a short CV and a Declaration of Interest (on a voluntary basis), with the purpose of publication on the EEA website.	As an alternative to the DoI, the country’s Permanent Representation could provide a statement on the country’s position that the appointing country is solely responsible for preventing and managing conflict of interests concerning its member (and alternate member) of the EEA Board and that therefore no DoI are provided for publication on EEA’s website.  The CVs, DoIs and statements will be published on the EEA website.
9      Eurostat work programme 2018	The Board welcomed the presentation of the draft work programme for 2018.	The Board was invited to provide written comments to the draft Eurostat Statistical Work Programme in the field of environment by mid-July.
10     December 2016 Management Board seminar outcomes	The Board took note of the final report on the Management Board Seminar on ‘EEA and Eionet Shaping our future together’ of 6th December 2016.	
12     ETCs beyond 2018: topic review process and future contractual arrangements	The Board decided on an in-depth review of the ETC/ACM and the establishment of the ETC/ACM Review Committee. (Decision EEA/MB/2017/007 – ETC topic review). The Board decided that the most appropriate future contracting arrangement with ETCs is the use of grant agreements.	



Agenda item	Outcome	Comments
13 Meeting calendar 2018	The Board adopted the meeting calendar 2018 for the Management Board (MB) and Bureau with some modifications.	The following modifications were made: 81st MB meeting on 6 March (instead of 13 March), 82nd MB meeting on 5 June (instead of 12 June) and 75th Bureau meeting on 24 April (instead of 15 May). The seminar in 2018 will take place on 5 December (back-to-back to the Board meeting).
15 Annual accounts 2016	The Board adopted the EEA annual accounts for 2016 as drafted (Decision EEA/MB/2017/008)	
16 CAAR 2016	The Board adopted the EEA Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2016 and the 'Management Board analysis and assessment' as drafted (Decision EEA/MB/2017/009)	
17 Election of Management Board Chairperson	The Board elected Laura Burke (Ireland) by unanimity as Chair of the EEA Management Board for a three-year term of office from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2020. (Decision EEA/MB/2017/010)	
and Vice-Chair	The Board elected André Weidenhaupt (Luxembourg) with 21 out of 25 votes as Vice-Chair of the EEA Management Board / Bureau member for a three-year term of office from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2020. (Decision EEA MB 2017 013 Election of MB Vice-Chair)	
18 Adoption of implementing rules to the Staff Regulations	The Board adopted the 2 decisions as drafted. Policy on protecting the dignity of the person and preventing psychological and sexual harassment' – based on standard model developed for Agencies (Decision EEA/MB/2017/011 – harassment) Request for a derogation from the Commission implementing rules concerning evaluation of managerial abilities of middle managers (Decision EEA/MB/2017/012 - derogation)	
19 Timetable for PD 2019–2021 and finalisation of PD 2018–2020	The Management Board took note of the timetables for the processes for the EEA Programming Documents.	
20 Overview of audits	The Board took note of the overview of audits presented by EEA's Internal Audit Capability.	

Approved by the Chair of the Management Board  
on 13 June 2017

*Signed*

Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler