



OFFICIAL OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EEA ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2007

In accordance with Article 8(5) of the EEA Regulation, the scientific committee is giving its opinion on the Annual Management Plan 2007 before the Executive Director is submitting it to the management board for approval.

The scientific committee's opinion is given on the basis of the draft AWP 2007 circulated for consultation on 28 June at a project level (AWP level 3). At the SC meeting on 11 October 2006 the committee discussed the draft AWP on level 2, which is the level that is adopted by the management board.

Information on the consultations with the DG ENV, European Parliament, JRC, member countries (joint NFP-MB comments) and the bureau was provided at the SC meeting.

The scientific committee:

Welcomed the AMP 2007 as an overall good and well balanced programme, very well put into the context of Agency's mission and in line with the objectives of the EEA Strategy 2004-2008

Recognised the EEA AMP 2007 as an important milestone, supporting the environment and sustainable development policy at an EU level

Welcomed the proposal to add a preface by the Executive Director, addressing the horizontal issue of the cooperation with the research community

Encouraged the Agency to aim at better connection with the scientific community and utilisation of the results of scientific projects across Europe

Welcomed the important work on effectiveness of policies, and proposed to explicitly refer to economic ones

Welcomed the integrated assessments part of the programme, and highlighted the prospect of making the foresight analysis and foreword thinking more explicit

Recommended to strengthen the soil part in the work programme in relation to the EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection

Recognised the importance of Agency's work on renewable energy in all its components, and not to focus just on wind energy

Welcomed the reinforcement of biodiversity strategy in line with target 2010 and proposed to strengthen work on pressure indicators related to biodiversity

Supported the Agency's contribution to the ecosystems topic, connecting to the EC Biodiversity Strategy and the proposal for new Millennium Assessment programme for Europe

Recommended to emphasise that the work on air quality was not focused on ozone only

Advised to strengthen the reference to the work on chemicals and give indication on the linkage to the monitoring data being assembled and policy frameworks such as REACH and the Water Framework Directive, as well as the dialogue with the newly established European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki

Welcomed the work on marine issues and other interrelated aspects to the development of WISE, following the agreement with DG ENV, JRC and Eurostat

Encouraged the Agency, in the light of the adopted SC opinion on aggregate and composite environmental indicators, - to strengthen the mentioning of discussions on methodologies on indicators development within the 'Group of Four'

Supported the proposal to have a special part focusing on EEA operations

Stressed the need to make Eionet and the interactions with the countries on different thematic areas more explicit

Invited the Agency to indicate the main priorities for 2007-2008, and especially in view of the preparation of the next EEA Strategy.

Copenhagen, 03 November 2006

Signed

Prof. László Somlyódy
Chairman of the EEA Scientific Committee