



SOURCE: BEDRICH MOLDAN

**OFFICIAL OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ON THE EEA ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2006**

In accordance with Article 8(5) of the EEA Regulation, the scientific committee is giving its opinion on the Annual Management Plan 2006 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 dated 20 September received in due time before the SC meeting on 13 October 2005.

The committee had as its basis for discussion a detailed document down to individual projects, however without project budget allocation. In addition information on recent consultations with the DG ENV, NFP/Eionet group, management board members, and the bureau was given at the meeting.

The scientific committee:

Welcomed the AMP 2006 as an overall good and well balanced programme

Welcomed the idea to add an introduction, clarifying the cooperation and responsibilities of DG ENV, Eurostat, JRC and EEA in particular in relation to data centres, and the continued role of the EEA on assessments and policy analysis for all topics

Stressed the need to highlight the cross-cutting priorities such as building the infrastructure for spatial environmental data, integrated assessments and work on policy analysis across the topics

Stressed the need to continue work on integrated aggregated and composite indicators in cooperation with the major partners, feeding into Community policy cycle

Welcomed the coordination between EEA, DG ENV and the Commission Research Framework programmes, ensuring better use of environmental knowledge and avoiding duplication

Stressed the need to clarify and refine throughout the programme the interrelation of the pressures from sectors on environment topics (i.e. water and agriculture, air quality and transport), and further develop its work on the "R" response options to better balance work within the DPSIR framework

Invited the Agency to indicate in the objectives the ongoing activities, and map priorities for 2007-2008 in line with the adopted EEA Strategy 2004-2008

Welcomed the priority and the increased effort to develop the data centre concept with improved access and including QA/QC, invited in particular the Agency to develop these centres in a coordinated manner, and stressed the importance of ensuring user-friendly access to the data in the shared information system, serving also the science community

Stressed the importance of working on energy efficiency and renewables and proposed to take into consideration also solar energy, hydrogen and others

Welcomed work to support the post-Kyoto process, and would welcome work on carbon sinks in the post-Kyoto

Welcomed the comprehensive activity on biological diversity, including the spatial aspects and value put on ecosystems, and proposed to mention also work undertaken within the European Platform on Biodiversity and the FP7

Encouraged the Agency to include in the coming years the longer term aspects for biodiversity, the influence from driving forces such as agriculture, transport and trade, and development of drivers/pressure indicators for this area

Welcomed the work on water and agriculture and proposed to highlight connections between agriculture and soil, floods and draughts; adding draughts as an issue of increasing concern

Welcomed the concerted work on marine and fresh water issues, supporting the water policy area and the upcoming Marine Strategy

Welcomed the activities ensuring the connection between the European environmental information and the ongoing activities with neighbouring regions and at global level

Welcomed the work outlined on waste, material flows and sustainable consumption. Invited to maintain the visibility of work on material flows, and on decoupling of economy and environment

Welcomed the important work on assessments of soil, land use and landscape

Encouraged the Agency to include the soonest possible activities regarding the urban environment, including the influence from driving forces and the development of drivers/pressure indicators for this thematic area

Welcomed the role of JRC in data management on soil and stressed the need to involve Eionet in this topic

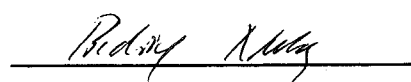
Welcomed the work on scenarios, stressed the importance of further developing methodology for integrated assessments, and also welcomed the continuation and further development of the EEA work on assessment of the policy effectiveness

Recognised that close cooperation with partners was necessary to cover work on chemicals and health as foreseen, and encouraged the planned links to research programmes. Encouraged the EEA to specifically provide input from its experience in policy-effectiveness and impact evaluation

Welcomed the increased emphasis on communication and dissemination of results, as well as improving the user friendly tools for access to data and information

Recognised the usefulness of including a list of acronyms and terminology in the work programme

Copenhagen, 25 October 2005



Prof. Bedrich Moldan
Chairman of the EEA scientific committee