



22 October 2007

OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EEA ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2008

In accordance with Article 8(5) of the EEA Regulation, the Scientific Committee is giving its opinion on the Annual Management Plan 2008 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 AWP2008 circulated on 25 September, following a wide consultation process with the Agency's key partners and integration of the comments received. Information about these had been presented to the committee earlier in the year.

At the SC meeting on 05 October 2007 the Scientific Committee discussed the draft AWP (level 2), which is the level that is adopted by the Management Board, and agreed on the main points of the opinion presented hereafter.

The Scientific Committee:

Welcomed the AMP 2008 as an overall good and well structured work programme, which completes the objectives of the current EEA Strategy for the period 2004-2008

Highlighted the importance of ensuring continuity and connections in the thematic areas of work from the AMP2008 to the new EEA Strategy for the period from 2009 to 2013

Noted the positive developments in the potential budget uplift for 2008 and supported the possible start-up projects to that end as presented by the Executive Director

Encouraged the Agency to continue strengthening its outreach and cooperation with the scientific community by involving more actively the committee in its work

Welcomed the Executive Director's proposal to include an introduction, focusing on the operational arrangements within the 'Group of Four' and division of responsibilities among DG ENV, Eurostat, JRC and EEA

Repeatedly recommended to strengthen the soil part in the work programme and bring more clarity on the collaboration and joint work plan with JRC on the topic, linked also to the planned activity on droughts and desertification as possible start-up EEA project in 2008

Stressed the need to specify the methodology development linked to the proposed Potsdam initiative on Biodiversity, put forward by Germany within the G8+5 platform

Welcomed the utilisation of the results of scientific and research projects across Europe and identification of priority issues for cooperation with the research community

Supported the continuation of the work on foresight analysis and forward looking studies

Encourages reporting on user experience with SOER 2005 as input for planning SOER 2010

Recognised the importance of carrying out policy evaluations and policy effectiveness studies and suggests extending them to EU environmental priorities, such as the 2 degree Celsius climate change benchmark and halting biodiversity by 2010

Supported the Agency's contribution to the European Neighbourhood Policy and Horizon 2020 objectives by sharing its experience on Eionet processes

Encouraged the Agency to continue promoting its activities and raising its profile through international media and close contacts with the press across Europe

Copenhagen, 22 October 2007

<Signed>

*Prof. László Somlyódy
Chairman of the EEA Scientific Committee*