



29 October 2010

## **OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EEA ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2011**

As stipulated in Article 8(5) of the EEA Regulation, the Scientific Committee is consulted on the EEA Annual Work Programme before the Executive Director submits it for approval by the Management Board.

The Scientific Committee has been closely involved in the consultation process on the Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2011 undertaken in recent months and has also been presented with a revised version of AWP 2011 including the consolidated comments received during the consultation period.

At the SC meeting on 6 October 2009 the Scientific Committee agreed on the main points of its opinion presented hereafter that will be forwarded to the EEA Management Board in advance of its meeting of November 2010, when the EEA AWP 2011 shall be adopted.

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The Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency:

- Welcomes the AMP 2011 as an overall good and well-structured work programme, which is in line with the objectives of the current EEA Strategy for the period 2009-2013.
- Highly encourages the Agency to give priority to the areas of integrated assessments and policy evaluation, especially since the SOER 2010 is the flagship EEA output in 2010, and suggests that sufficient resources shall be allocated to this end. This could include the analysis of interactions and possible links between the general economic and financial policies within the specific policies needed to reduce GHG emissions, save energy and make substantial progress towards a “green economy” (as recommended in the EU 2020 strategy).
- Recommends that the Agency particularly strengthens its activities and methodologies in the fields of policy evaluation, policy coherence, as well as policy effectiveness. In this respect, up-to-date assessments of the amount and effects of (sectoral) subsidies on environmental performance are recommended.
- Recognises the attention given to long-term environmental strategies, such as low greenhouse gas strategies as well as ways to halt biodiversity loss, and suggests facilitating the development of more credible and effective long-term European environmental policies in its future work.
- Stresses the need to better integrate geo-referenced socio-economic data with other activities throughout the work programme.
- Encourages the Agency to continue strengthening its science-policy interface and keeping in contact with DG RTD, JRC, Eurostat, and ESA in the use of space technologies in environment monitoring and mapping. It welcomes the work undertaken on scientific warnings about the possible effects of technical

- innovations on the environment and human health, especially the impact of various nano-particles that have found increasing use in the modern society.
- Highlights the importance of tackling ecosystems and human health in the section on climate change impacts, as well as to considering local climate adaptation strategies alongside global and regional actions.
  - Acknowledges the EEA work in cooperation with JRC in the areas of chemicals, environment, and health as very important. These activities should be supplemented with additional funds on the EEA side. The Scientific Committee furthermore suggests including the issue of migration when analysing data in the environment and health area.
  - Welcomes the EEA work on ecosystems services and recommends to give special attention to full GHG accounting and cross-sector perspectives of biofuels/agrofuels as well as link these issues to relevant developments at the global level.
  - Supports the continuation of the work on land use in relation to food/energy and land transformation across Europe and recommends reviewing the different environmental conditions and management regimes across Europe. A specific SC opinion is being prepared on this issue.
  - Notes that it would be useful in the biodiversity section of the AMP 2011 to identify the local agricultural contribution to atmospheric emissions' loading of sensitive ecosystems in order to form a solid basis for appropriate environmental management.
  - Recognises the increasing need to consider accounting of emissions and assessing resulting concentrations loads, e.g. by use of local scale modelling at the city and the regional levels as well as related methodologies and indicators, as cities and regions are important actors in policies and measures aimed at reducing emissions. Methodologies and indicators should become as comparable as possible.
  - Recognises the need to link national accounts & environmental accounts to support sustainable development in Europe and globally.
  - Supports the Agency's involvement in the UNGA Regular Process for the Global Assessment of the Marine Environment and Assessment of Assessments of the state of the marine environment, and suggests considering the lessons learned from this process for its ongoing activities in the marine area. It is important to stress the importance of emissions from ship traffic that still play a very significant role in this context.
  - Suggests to closely integrate its work across the themes of the MAWP 2009-2013 and identify in *future* AWP's the themes not originally foreseen in the MAWP 2009-2013. Future draft AWP's shall include financial estimates at disaggregate levels.

Copenhagen, 29 October 2010

(Signed)

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Chairman, EEA Scientific Committee