



22 October 2008

**OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ON THE EEA MULTI-ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2009-2013
AND THE ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009**

In accordance with Article 8, paragraphs 4-5 of the EEA Regulation^{*}, the Scientific Committee is giving its opinion on the Multi-annual Work Programme (MAWP) 2009-2013 and the Annual Management Plan 2009 before the Executive Director submits it to the Management Board for approval.

The Scientific Committee's opinion is given on the basis of the draft MAWP 2009-13 circulated in advance of the October SC meeting, following a wide consultation process with the Agency's key partners and integration of the comments received. Information about these developments was presented to the committee on a regular basis.

At its 43rd SC meeting on 8 October 2008, the Scientific Committee discussed the draft MAWP2009-13 and its implications for the AMP 2009 and agreed on the main points of the opinion presented hereafter.

Following the careful planning process of the Multi-Annual Working Programme 2009-2013 over the past two years, the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency

Welcomes the MAWP's vision establishing EEA '*as Europe's leading body for the provision of timely, relevant and accessible environmental data, information, knowledge and assessments*' in the period 2009-2013

Welcomes the MAWP 2009-2013 as an overall good, ambitious, well-written and well-balanced document. The MAWP provides a strategic overview while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to new challenges

Notes the positive developments in the potential budget uplift for AMP 2009 and the anticipated 10 new scientific posts to support the EEA work in key environmental themes. Sufficient resources are a prerequisite for high quality and timely products

^{*} Council Regulation (EEC) No.1210/90 of 7 May 1990, amended by Council Regulations (EC) No.933/1999 of 29 April 1999 and No.1641/2003 of 22 July 2003

Agrees that the development and production of the next five-year “The European Environment – State and Outlook report (SOER) 2010” will be a major milestone of the MAWP

Suggests – as in its opinion on the MAWP 1999-2003 – to rectify the lack of social science data as part of its overall data development strategy

Reiterates that the impact of Europe on the environment of other parts of the world should not be neglected. More specifically, recognises the value of referring to the life-cycle impacts of Europe’s consumption and production on other parts of the world and emissions’ savings on imported items to Europe

Recognises the need to continue carrying out policy evaluations and policy effectiveness studies and to develop high quality methodological foundations for this work. The addition of a new cross-cutting issue should be considered

The Scientific Committee encourages strengthening of the science-policy interface in executing the agency’s work.

Supports that research activities are embedded in the document across different thematic areas and underlines the need to harness more strongly and systematically the academic results from scientific research under EU framework and national research programmes

Recognises the reference to the EU need for environmental information and considers the link to the potential 7th Environmental Action Programme as very important

Reiterates the need to support Environment and Health in a broader context, including air quality as well as chemicals and new technologies.

Supports addressing sustainable mobility in the transport section and points to the potentially negative impact of the development of transport networks on local biodiversity and the increased risk of forest fires due to changes in land use

Supports the further SC involvement in the work on foresight analysis, outlooks and forward looking studies and suggests that the EEA focuses more strongly on the challenges to the long-term European environment

Supports the outlined Agency’s cooperation and partnerships with international organisations, especially with regard to the European Neighbourhood Policy, Eureka 2012 and Horizon 2020

Encourages the Agency together with the other ‘Group of Four’ partners (DG Environment, Eurostat and JRC) to continue promoting the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) concept and recognises the leading role for EEA in this endeavour

Advises to strengthen mentioning of the cooperation with WHO, DG SANCO, OECD, and other Agencies’ and Community Bodies’ Scientific Committees

Emphasises the importance of the collaboration with JRC on soils and forests and the planned joint development of soil function mapping

Advises in the Communication Section to add the value of improved communication of uncertainties and to expand multilingual communication as necessary to reach some categories of general audiences (e.g. lay persons and students)

The Scientific Committee appreciates the ambitious MAWP 2009-2013 and AMP 2009, and the well-designed preparation process followed.

Copenhagen, 22 October 2008

(Signed)

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Chairman of the EEA Scientific Committee