Framing an EEA Scientific Committee 5-year work programme 2014-2018

Introduction and context

This document presents ideas for a Scientific Committee (SC) 5-year work programme which would actively support the implementation of the Multi-Annual work Programme (MAWP) 2014-2018 and further strengthen the science-policy interface aspects of EEA work.

It proposes possible key areas of work and focuses on three dimensions: the roles of the Scientific Committee as a whole; the interests of clusters of the SC and EEA staff; and the motivations of individual members.

It builds on the SC seminar on the MAWP from February 2013 and the recent joint EEA - Scientific Committee Seminar *"Towards a SC five-year Work Programme"* which took place in Copenhagen, 2 October 2013.

The approach is to be pragmatic given available SC-EEA resources, to respect the SC formal roles as described in the EEA Regulation, to prioritise areas of novel and common interests such as long-term transitions (the focus of the October workshop), strategic challenges (February workshop focus) and the European Environment Academy (new MAWP initiative).

The ideas contained in this document will be briefly presented by the chair of the scientific committee to the EEA Management Board on 27 November 2013 and depending on MB input will be jointly developed by the SC and EEA in more operational details during the first quarter of 2014.

Proposed structure of SC work programme

The work programme would be organised in five areas of work:

1. Providing **input on EEA work in line with the EEA Regulation**: e.g. opinions on MAWP and Annual Management Plans (AMPs), opinions on scientific questions from the Management Board (MB) or Executive Director (ED).
2. **Linking more strongly with EEA staff, European topic centres, MB and Eionet** in line with Management Board guidance from 2012[1]
3. Contributing to developing the **knowledge base for long-term transitions** in the context of policy implementation priorities (SA1 of the MAWP), systemic challenges (SA2) and co-creation of knowledge (SA3)
4. Supporting the development and implementation of the European Environment Academy (**EEAcademy**)
5. Contributing to **bridging the EEA with the broader scientific community, other scientific bodies of the EU, DG RTD environment directorate and Horizon 2020**

These five areas are presented in the following Table 1.

[1] Doc. EEA/MB/62/10

Table 1: Four potential areas of work of EEA Scientific Committee

	Area of work	Description	Who	Comments
1	**Providing input on EEA work according to regulation, incl. MAWP and AMPs**	• Contribution to consultations on MAWP/AMP	Individuals	
		• Input on MAWP/AMP through opinions	Committee	
		• Yearly follow-up of uptake of input by EEA in particular AMPs	Committee	New, where the aim is to motivate both sides
2	**Linking more strongly with EEA staff, European topic centres, MB and EIONET**	• Support to staff recruitment through participation in selection committees	Individuals	Need a broader set of SC members participating
		• Development of staff relations/competences through bilateral/cluster interactions on issues of MAWP relevance and mutual interest	Individuals sub-groups	All these clusters/bilaterals would be framed in the context of area of work 3. Examples of clusters are given in Table 2 below
		• Participation in EEA topical workshops and conferences and EIONET workshops	Individuals	Need more visibility on coming workshops and where SC members can contribute
		• SC support to topic centre scoping, selection, programming, and evaluation	Individuals	
		• Development of relations with ETCs as appropriate through bilateral/cluster interactions on issues of MAWP relevance and mutual interest	Individuals sub-groups	
3	**Contributing to developing the knowledge base for long-term transitions**	• SC support to EEA MAWP activities on developing the knowledge base for long-term transitions that embraces relevant aspects across SA1-SA3	Committee, sub-groups, individuals	New: see description and rationale below
		• Joint EEA/SC seminars on hot and/or emerging issues in the context of long-term transitions	Committee	Seminar topics selected to contribute to the long term transitions work
4	**Supporting the development and implementation of the EEAcademy**	• Support to framing the project scope	Committee	Strongly linked to areas of work 2 and 3
		• Participation to implementation of EEAcademy, e.g. lecture series	Individuals	
		• Connecting EEAcademy with scientific networks	Individuals	
5	**Bridging the EEA with the broader scientific community, scientific bodies, DG RTD and Horizon 2020**	• Providing a bridge between EEA and research networks of SC members	Individuals	
		• Interacting and cooperating with other scientific bodies, incl. other EU scientific committees	Committee Individuals	
		• Promoting visibility of EEA within the scientific community and among users	Individuals	

Table 2: Examples of clusters for Areas of work 2 & 3 (indicative, themes and individuals to be defined jointly by SC members and EEA staff)

Theme *To be completed*	**MAWP ref** *To be completed*	**SC members** *To be completed*	**EEA Programme** *To be completed*
Chemicals/health/well-being	SA2.2	Philippe, Greet, Gigi,	IEA
Ecosystems	SA1.7	Angel, Jean Louis, Sybille, Richard, Eckart, Jouni	NSV
Climate/air	SA 1.3, 1.4, 1.1	Jouni, Ole, Anil, Vincent, Richard, Peter,Jouni	ACC
Water	SA 1.5	Richard, Mogens, Angel,	
IT	SA3.2, SA3.3	Jiri, Vincent,	SES
Megatrends & transitions	SA2.3	Angel, Anil, Sybille, Ulrike, Owen, Peter	
Sustainability assessment & SOER + 7EAP	SA2.4	Angel, Anil, Greet, Sybille, Peter, Mogens	
Resource efficient economy	SA2.1	Peter, Anil, Jiri,…	
Communication on LT transitions, Engaging with public and citizen science	SA3.4, SA 3.1	Ulrike, Greet, Jiri, Ole, Eckaert, …	COM, ???
Uncertainty, complexity		Vincent, Anil, Sybille, Gigi, Richard,	IEA, all???
Externalities???		Jean-Louis, Anil, …	
Industrial pollution, risks???			
…			

Rationale and ideas for Area of work 3:

This area of work would constitute a novelty compared to past activities of the SC. The Late Lessons 3 process (LL3) could be used as the vehicle for such an initiative. But contrary to Late Lessons 1 & Late Lessons 2 which were looking back to draw lessons, LL3 would look forward building on inter-alia the concluding chapter of LL2 and using the SC seminar quadrant of issues (see Figure 1 below) to guide the scope of what we could cover.

The SC as a whole could be involved in the strategic design of LL3 activities, individual members could be involved in outputs. This LL3 process could be called something like *"2050: a transitional approach to Europe's environmental agenda"* and its time-frame would be matching that of the MAWP, i.e. the next 5 years. Outputs and outcomes of LL3 will be varied, yet the exact list still needs to be defined. The Executive director and the senior management team (SMT) are supportive of this approach and SC role.

All SC members' competences and areas of interest could be brought into play making this a true SC project. The year 2014 could be used to scope the activities in this area of work with the SC and design seminars and SC meeting sessions with this in mind. Implementation would then take place in 2015-2018.

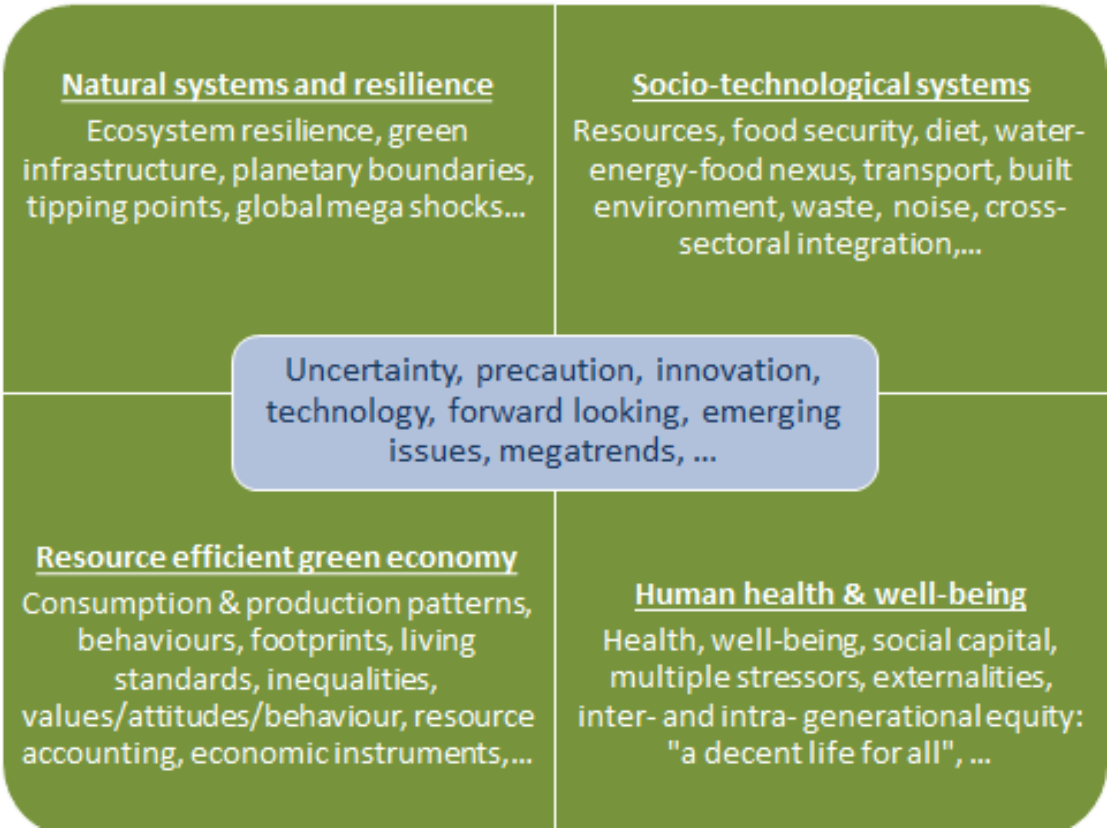

Figure 1: The Quadrant of issues, a non-exhaustive list of key topics in relation to transitions