

Annual report 2000

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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

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European Environment Agency
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK-1050 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel: (45) 33 36 71 00
Fax: (45) 33 36 71 99
E-mail: eea@eea.eu.int
Internet: <http://www.eea.eu.int>

Preface

by EEA Executive Director
Domingo Jiménez-Beltrán

Altogether 2000 was a year of sound progress in the work of the Agency:

Two new regular products appeared for the first time and have already become publications of reference.

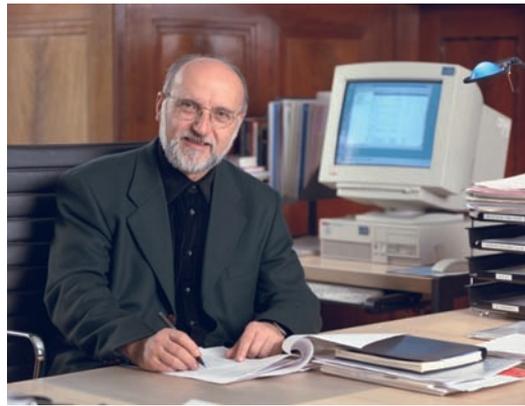
The *Environmental signals 2000* report monitors progress and prospects over a broad range of environmental issues by means of a package of indicators. The aim is to publish a signals report every year, linked to the planned spring discussions on sustainable development in the EU.

Are we moving in the right direction? (often referred to as *TERM 2000* as the report is the first product of the Transport and Environment Monitoring Mechanism) was the first report on sectoral integration and sustainability using a package of indicators. We also plan to update this yearly on the EEA web site and periodically publish an updated report. Hopefully this work on sectoral integration will be extended progressively to other sectors such as agriculture, energy and tourism to monitor their progress and prospects and to make sectors accountable in integration and sustainability terms.

Together with the five-yearly state-and-outlook reports mandated by the Agency regulation, these reports make up the main package of EEA 'periodicals' for the coming years.

The use of the EEA internet site or 'shop window' for the Reference Centre as the main channel for dissemination of products and services is growing rapidly.

The web site allows easier access to the databases backing all the EEA reports and faster and cheaper access to all EEA reports/publications in electronic format; the number of visitors reached 100 000 in November with nearly two million hits. There was also significant progress in the parallel project called EnviroWindows, which pools information of interest from the 'doers' municipalities and business to improve the implementation of environmental policies.



Significant developments took place concerning the basics for data and information processing.

The joint project with Member States and Services of the European Commission to improve environmental monitoring, data collection and assessment through the European environment information and observation network, EIONET, continued apace, reflecting the fact that the EEA is a pioneering **network** organisation using and developing capacities in member countries.

And finally, agreements were signed to extend the remit of the Agency to cover the 13 EU applicant countries.

This will extend the number of member countries of the Agency to 31 and consolidate the Agency's pan-European dimension.

EEA progress was confirmed by the evaluation carried out with the help of external consultants during 2000 that also helped to identify aspects to be improved. Above all is the need to respond better to expectations from key EEA users and stakeholders, in particular the Commission, European Parliament, Council and Member States, as well as interest groups and the public.

So we can and we should do better in 2001. With the Gothenburg summit and associated activities the year is full of challenges for environmental and sustainable development policies and for information to support development and efficient implementation of policies. The Agency is well placed and equipped to play an active role in meeting these challenges.

Domingo Jiménez-Beltrán

Foreword

by the Chairman of the Management Board Kees Zoeteman



As chairman of the Management Board, I look back at 2000 as a fruitful year in all respects. In the first place I welcome the upcoming enlargement of the Agency with several countries from central and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean area, resulting in a total of 31 members in 2001 or early 2002. The Agency is thus the first body of the EU where the process of accession becomes visible. This is a milestone in the short history of the Agency. The necessary restructuring of the work of the Agency and the Management Board to accommodate this expansion process started during 2000 and is rapidly taking shape.

Moreover 2000 was the year of the evaluation of the Agency. A report by Arthur Andersen made it clear that the Agency has successfully fulfilled its difficult task since its start. At the beginning of the new millennium the EEA is a well-established organisation in Europe for the management of environmental information. It plays a key role in the preparation of policy decisions by the Environment DG of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament. Not only on the basis of the EIONET the European Environmental Information and Observation Network and the European Reference Centre for Environmental Information, but also as an Agency capable of assessing the impact of developments on the quality of the environment.

After the pioneering phase the time has come to consolidate this position. The Management Board and the executive director are working to simplify, streamline and implement the European environmental reporting system and to improve the quality, relevance, reliability, timeliness and

accessibility of the information available to policy-makers, environmental managers and the public.

The Agency will in view of its limited resources focus on support to the policy cycle at the European level for its key users: European Commission, European Parliament, Council and Member States. Maintaining and further improving the quality of environmental information provided by the Agency while geographically expanding the coverage will remain the primary focus of the Management Board and the executive director in the coming years. Implementation of the actions resulting from the evaluation, including the Agency's internal processes, resources and organisation will be headed by a Change task force in the coming year. The change will be monitored by the Management Board.

In addition to the focus on improving its future internal organisation and external performance, the Agency will in the new 'enlargement year' secure the necessary minimum capacity to fulfil its tasks. As stated in my foreword in 1999, a deepening of the expertise profile of the Agency is crucial. This will only materialise when further growth of the Agency's budget takes place. The new strategy to seek extra funding, not only from the Environment DG but also from other customers such as other Commission services and from Member States, for activities that are compatible with core tasks, has been successful and will be continued.

The activities of the Agency will continue to be closely linked to the priorities in the work of the Environment DG of the European Commission. This can only be realised through good dialogue and collaboration with the Environment DG. The basis for dialogue will be strengthened by a memorandum of understanding consolidating the cooperation between the Agency and the Environment DG.

The structure of the European topic centres was revised in 2000. Five new topic centres, broader and more integrated than the eight previous ones, will carry forward work in 2001, including work with the new member

countries. These five topic centres provide the Agency with an essential network of expertise improving both efficiency and integration capacity.

In order to be successful the Agency needs to be equipped well so that it can contribute to achieving and safeguarding sustainable

development in an enlarged Europe. Its staff is dedicated to this task. This dedication and expertise is the treasure the Management Board always values most. The Board trusts that the Agency will also contribute significantly in 2001 to the quality of life of the citizens of Europe.

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2000: The year in brief

Information to support European environmental policy

The main goal of the European Environment Agency (EEA) is to provide the European institutions and the public with reliable information on Europe's environment. 2000 was a milestone year with the appearance of the first indicator-based reports, the backbone of the Agency's future reporting strategy.

Other major reports were on the Mediterranean together with the United Nations Environment Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), soils (together with UNEP), trends in greenhouse gas emissions and the use of eco-taxes.

The first indicator reports

The main events of 2000 were the launches of the *Environmental signals 2000* and Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism (TERM) reports. Furthermore, the General Directorate (DG) for the Environment, the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat) and the Agency developed a set of 10 headline indicators for the European Union (EU) that will be published early in 2001.

Environmental signals 2000

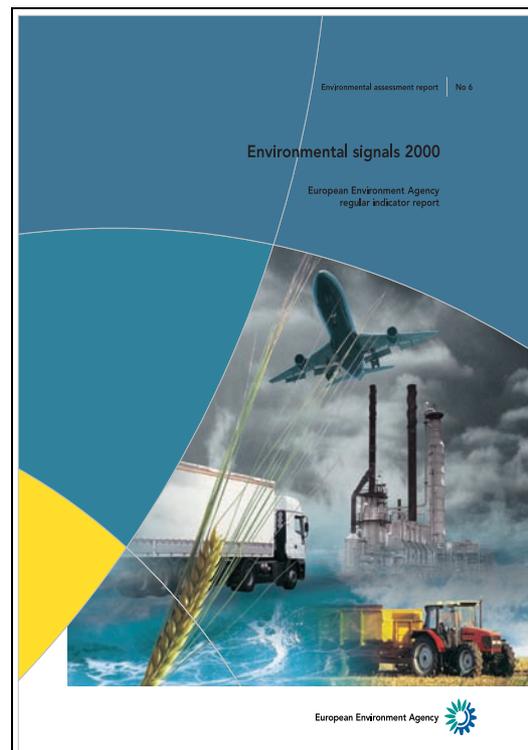
Launched on 3 May in the European Parliament by the Chairman of the Parliament's Environment Committee, Dr Caroline Jackson, Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström and the Agency's Executive Director, *Environmental signals 2000* is seen as the first example of the top of the Agency information pyramid.

The report is the first in a series of indicator-based reports to be produced by the Agency. The series is intended for policy-makers and those seeking to influence policy in Europe. Based on information provided in indicator fact sheets, the aim is to report on progress in a broad range of policy areas.

Are we moving in the right direction?

Indicators on transport and environment integration in the EU

This is the first indicator-based report developed by the Agency together with



Eurostat, the Energy and Transport DG and the Environment DG under TERM for the EU. It has been designed to help EU and Member States to monitor progress with their transport integration strategies, and to identify changes in the key leverage points for policy intervention (such as investments, economic instruments, spatial planning and infrastructure supply).

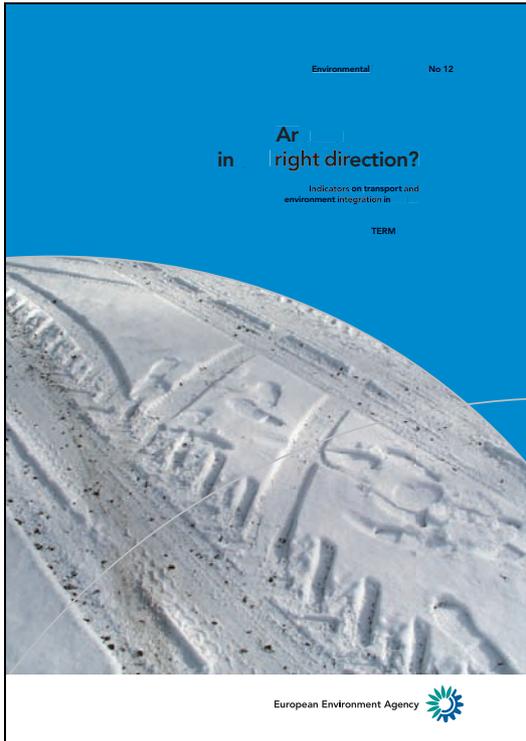
TERM sets the pattern for developing indicators on integration in other sectors, such as energy or agriculture.

Specific policy support

The Agency provided input concerning the role of indicators and streamlining of reporting requirements into the development of the sixth environmental action programme by the Commission.

Active support was given to the Council presidencies during the year, with the Agency providing substantial input to discussions on urban issues (Portugal) and eco-taxes (France).

The Agency also sought to improve its support for the European Parliament by



which will provide improved access to the data underpinning the Agency's reports.

The information centre had about 15–20 contacts a day, a similar level to earlier years.

Support activities

In providing reliable information on the environment, the Agency is dependent on input from many sources at national and international level. The Agency puts a lot of effort into improving the quality and relevance of the data it receives and into streamlining data flows, in order to maximise the benefit and minimise the burden for all involved.

Targeting data requirements and streamlining flows

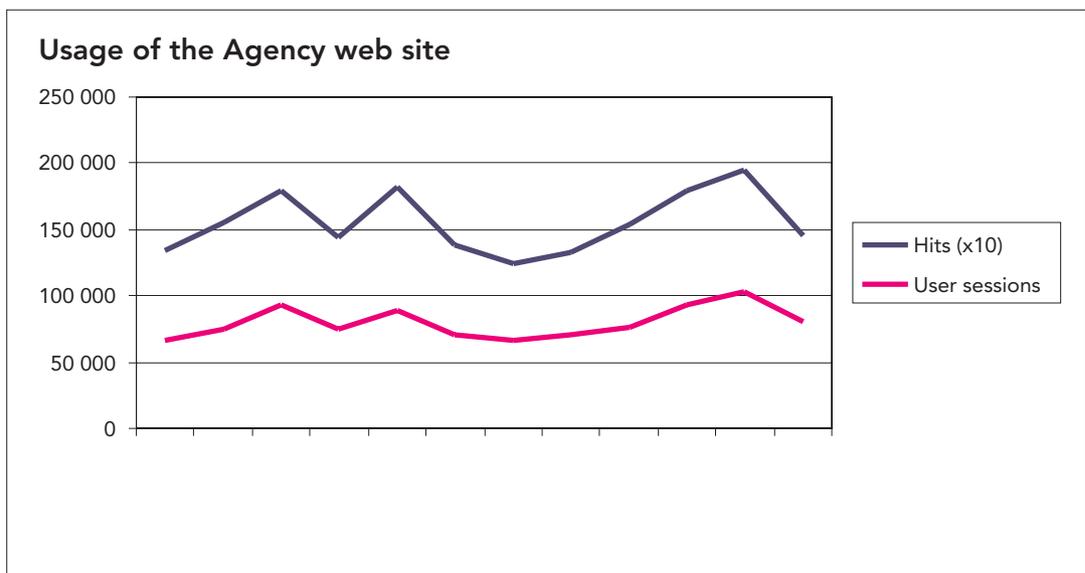
In 2000, major progress was made on tailoring data collection and management by the Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) to the information needs of the Agency's key users. The Agency worked closely together with the focal points in the national administrations and with the European topic centres to define core sets of policy-relevant indicators and derived data requirements for several priority areas: air pollution and climate change, inland waters, marine environment, nationally designated areas for natural protection and waste.

Work has continued on building, expanding and accessing the reporting obligations database (ROD) as an important tool for identifying redundancy and duplication in current reporting activities under EU legislation.

holding a seminar for members of the Environment Committee and their assistants on the information services it provides and by appointing a liaison officer.

Access to information — the Agency web site and information centre

On the Agency's web site, user sessions per month passed 100 000 and hits per month approached 2 million. The web site is now the main channel for disseminating Agency reports, as demonstrated by the fact that visits peaked temporarily in May and June after the publication of the *Environmental signals 2000* report. A new data service was launched



A group of member countries and the Agency developed outline proposals for extending EIONET to cover all types of environmental reporting from countries to the international level.

Fewer, more integrated topic centres

Topic centres are designated by the Agency to carry out specific tasks. Seven of the existing eight topic centres came to the end of their agreements with the Agency at the end of 2000. After a review process to consider options to continue and enhance the work carried out by the first topic centres and related Phare topic links, it was decided to concentrate the work on fewer and more integrated centres for the next period. Five topic centres have been defined and will start work in 2001.

- Water
- Air and Climate Change
- Nature Protection and Biodiversity
- Waste and Material Flows
- Terrestrial Environment.

These new topic centres are designed to build on the expertise and experience of their predecessors but also introduce new experts and national partners. This includes several from central European countries that are about to join the Agency and participate fully in the work programme.

Cooperation with partners

The Agency has continued to work closely together with partners within and outside the Community framework — Eurostat, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Phare programme, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO) etc. Major outcomes in 2000 were the continued integration of the Phare countries into the work of the Agency in expectation of many of them joining the Agency in 2001 (Phare), the headline indicators, *Environmental signals 2000* and TERM reports (Eurostat), the Mediterranean report (UNEP/MAP), and the soil report (UNEP).

Developing the Agency

The Agency is still a relatively young organisation developing both in the scope of its mandate and in the way it goes about its work.

A growing mandate: enlargement of the Agency

Negotiations between the European Commission and 13 candidate countries in central Europe and the Mediterranean area on agreements to join the Agency were initiated and successfully concluded in 2000. The new members will join the Agency when the agreements have been ratified nationally and by the EU. This is likely to take place during 2001 for most, if not all, countries, resulting in an Agency of 31 countries stretching from Iceland to the Caucasus and from Lapland to the Mediterranean.

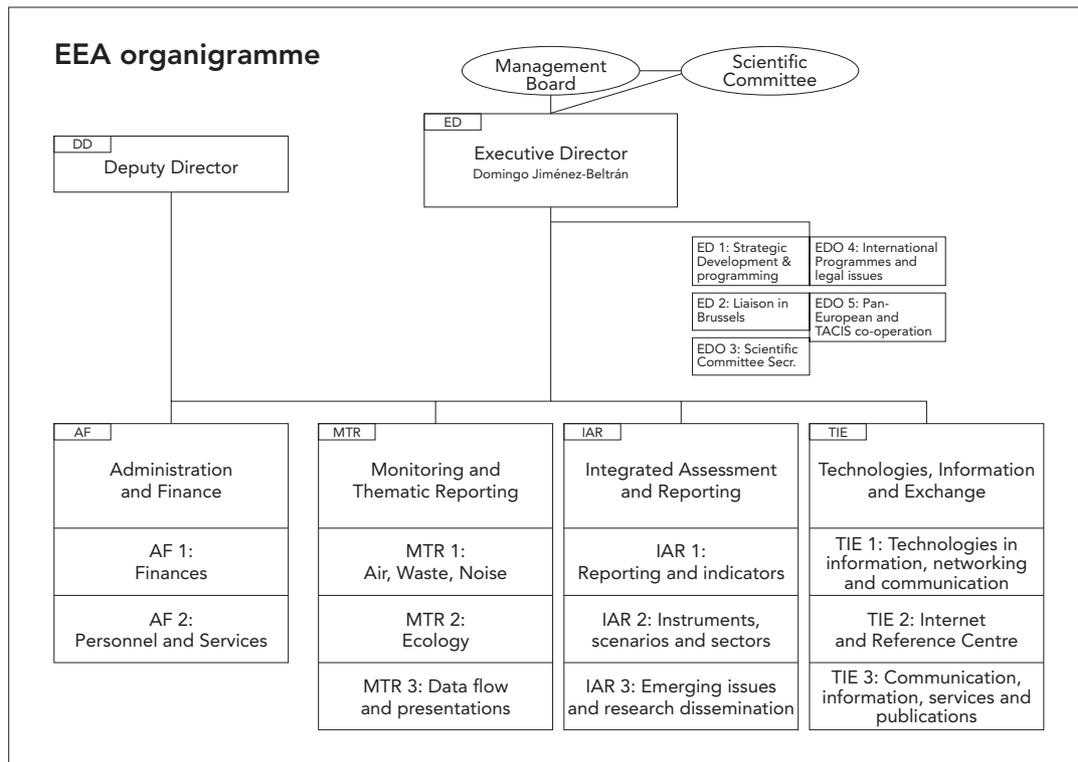
The Agency is the first EU body to be opened to enlargement, and is thus the first tangible evidence for the candidate countries that enlargement is a reality. Enlargement of the Agency has therefore a significance which goes way beyond the environmental field.

Enlargement will give new perspectives for the work of the Agency in the coming years. It will expand the pan-European dimension (50 % increase in area and 45 % increase in population) of the Agency and require it to respond to the different environmental characteristics of the new geographical areas covered and the environmental priorities of the new members. Issues like water stress, transboundary air pollution, and forests and biodiversity, though already relevant for the work of the Agency, are likely to become even more important in the future.

Geographical coverage of the EEA

- EU Member States
- EEA countries
- Accession countries





The countries of the western Balkans are not scheduled for immediate membership though prospects are opening. Cooperation is expected to continue with these countries on the basis of support from the stability pact.

Improving performance

External consultants carried out an evaluation of performance and efficiency of the Agency in the first five years of its existence.

The overall result was a positive evaluation of the Agency, EIONET and the main reports. At the same time, the report of the consultants identified areas where things could be improved. At a seminar in November, the Management Board underlined the need to focus work on supporting environmental policy at the European level and in this context to strengthen the dialogue with key users: European Commission, European Parliament, Council and Member States. Furthermore, the Board emphasised the need to simplify, streamline and implement the European environmental reporting system and to improve the quality of the information produced.

The Agency is now working to implement the recommendations arising from the evaluation process.

Organisation and resources

The deputy director left the Agency in July and the post is at present vacant.

A fourth programme group — administration — was established by combining finance and human resources and some tasks were reassigned.

On the resource side, 2000 was a year of stagnation. The Community budgetary authority allocated a budget of 18.0 MEUR. Together with the contribution from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries, this resulted in an ordinary budget of 18.3 MEUR, approximately the same figure as for 1999.

As in earlier years, valuable funds outside the Agency budget were allocated to specific projects related to the work of the Agency. In this way, the work of the Agency was supported by:

- approximately EUR 3 million provided by the Phare Programme under three umbrella projects (including the ongoing work of Phare topic links, environmental reporting and telematic network development);
- EUR 1.5 million from the Enterprise DG's 'Interchange of data between administrations' programme (IDA) for e-EIONET work; and

- over EUR 1 million for the update of CORINE land cover, the European Commission and member countries matching this investment.

A significant part of the operational expenditure is used to fund the European

topic centres. In 2000, the proportion of the total going to the topic centres was 48 %. This figure has been fairly stable throughout the lifetime of the Agency.

Key figures for budgetary and staff resources are given in the annex to this report.

1. Bringing people and data together

European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) developments

Restructuring of the European Topic Centres (ETCs)

Six of the topic centres came to the end of their three-year agreements with the Agency at the end of 2000. In anticipation of this the Agency established a review process which culminated in a seminar held in February to consider options to continue and enhance the work carried out by the first topic centres and Phare topic links to meet policy information needs better and develop a more integrated approach.

After reviewing various options against main user needs, the seminar proposed and the Board subsequently agreed to:

- combine work on inland waters and marine waters to improve support for the Water Framework Directive through a topic centre on water;
- combine work on air quality and air emissions and expand work in support of EU climate change policy to form a topic centre on air and climate change;
- expand work on nature conservation into more support for the Community Biodiversity Strategy with a topic centre on nature protection and biodiversity;
- expand work on waste into more aspects of material flow and resource management to form a topic centre on waste and material flows;
- carry forward work on soil and land cover into broader aspects of spatial assessment in a topic centre on the terrestrial environment.

Countries were invited to nominate candidates to make proposals to lead these new topic centres. The proposals were considered in October and the Board appointed lead organisations in November for four of the topic centres:

- WRc plc of Medmenham, United Kingdom, for the ETC on Water;
- National Institute for Public Health and Environment of Bilthoven, the

Netherlands, for the ETC on Air and Climate Change;

- Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, France, for the ETC on Nature Protection and Biodiversity; and
- Danish Environment Protection Agency/ City of Copenhagen for the ETC on Waste and Material Flows.

These new ETCs will start work in spring 2001. They are designed to build on the expertise and experience of the first ETCs but also introduce new experts and national partners. This includes several from central European countries that are about to join the Agency and participate fully in the work programme.

The Board also agreed to a second round of tendering for the fifth topic centre on terrestrial environment, which should enable the Board to appoint a lead organisation to start work in summer 2001.

Bridging the gap: getting from best available information to best needed information

Improving the relevance of the information provided by the Agency (the so-called bridging the gap process) provided much of the focus for interactions with Agency national focal points (NFPs) over the past year. A task force of NFPs was established in the summer and met twice in October and December. Bridging the gap will be a priority for the Belgian Presidency in the second half of 2001 and will also feed deliberations on reviewing reporting under the sixth environmental action programme.

Four steps were identified for making progress:

- streamlining and focusing existing data into policy-relevant indicators;
- developing new information needs and assessment tools based on emerging perceptions, priorities and approaches;
- identifying redundant monitoring and data, so releasing resources for addressing new needs;
- improving the data flows and institutional arrangements so as to avoid duplication and maximise timeliness and efficiency of reporting.

Four issues were identified for priority consideration — air, water, waste and biodiversity. The current ETCs made progress on developing core sets of policy-relevant indicators for air pollution and climate change, inland waters, marine environment and waste. The next generation of ETCs will work to refine these indicators in 2001 and also develop core sets for biodiversity and material flows. Linkages will also be clarified between indicators and requirements for data flows from countries, so that priorities for data flows are clearly understood and systems developed to meet new emerging needs.

Work has continued to expand and build the ‘Reporting obligations’ database as one of the tools for identifying redundancy and duplication in current reporting activities. ROD has now been extended to include biodiversity reporting and updated for waste and freshwaters. Detailed analysis of reporting for water and waste are available and will be used in 2001 to support EEA input to the process to review current reporting under the sixth environmental action programme. Similar analyses are ongoing or will begin in 2001 for air issues and biodiversity.

New tools, frameworks and methodologies are being developed to support recently established policy processes, namely, the ‘Clean air for Europe’ programme (CAFE) and the water framework directive, with the aim of delivering cheap and sustainable solutions which can be used by countries and at the European level to support assessment of progress with implementation of these policies.

Institutional cooperation is ongoing between EEA and a number of international bodies. During 2000, the EEA with a group of member countries developed outline proposals for extending EIONET to cover all types of environmental reporting from countries to the international level. The concept, known as Reportnet, is at an early stage of thinking but at its core is the principle of reporting only once, using a single electronic repository (based on Internet) and providing transparency for the public in line with the principles of the Aarhus Convention. Denmark is already piloting Reportnet for its own purposes.

e-EIONET

The basic infrastructure of the electronic network of EIONET (e-EIONET) was completed during the year with Phare programme assistance, with installations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A total of 35 servers are now in place at NFPs, ETCs, and at the Network Management Centre. Each month some 300 000 files are accessed at the central site at EEA, and an additional similar figure can be estimated for the rest of the network. Nearly all EEA/EIONET projects now use EIONET's CIRCA services, used widely in the Community, for group collaboration.

During the year, a new strategic plan for e-EIONET was adopted. Prepared in cooperation with a task force from the member countries and with the assistance of the European Commission's IDA programme, the strategy defines EIONET's future information architecture and the steps for its implementation. The strategy builds on the CIRCA software, but also expands it with new functionalities that are particularly important for EIONET, such as organisational roles and related e-mail functions. In addition, a new data management architecture was adopted, which aims at streamlining the data flows of reported data by building XML-based repositories of national deliveries on EIONET servers. Sharing of such data should reduce the reporting burden experienced by member countries.

First steps for implementing the new strategy were taken. New data management solutions were piloted at two topic centres. The ‘Reporting obligations’ database was implemented on the web. A workflow pilot was prepared. A new portal toolkit based on open source components was released. The next steps include integration of these developments into a shareable user-friendly data reporting system on the Internet.

Specific topics

Air emissions

The work, supported by ETC Air Emissions, continued to be focused on further improving the priority data flows on greenhouse gas data (United Nations (UN) Convention on Climate Change) and air pollutant data (Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution). Timeliness and quality has improved as well as efficient use of the data for preparing indicators for EEA reports and for direct support to

policymakers, although more streamlining and avoidance of duplication is still required. New indicators were developed on policy-effectiveness (e.g. NO_x from passenger cars). The support to the EU greenhouse gas monitoring mechanism was increased resulting in a timely European Community (EC) greenhouse inventory and an analysis of emission trends for the EU and for each Member State. Furthermore an analysis on trends in emissions of air pollutants, by sector (energy, transport, agriculture, industry, waste) was produced. Cooperation on air pollution with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) resulted in a successful joint workshop described in the UNECE section below.

Air quality

Work focused on indicators, streamlining of reporting and avoiding duplication. Concise core sets of air quality and deposition indicators were delivered for *Environmental signals 2001*, TERM and headline indicators in close coordination with air emissions indicator work. These indicators build on measured values as well as on baseline scenario calculations of urban air quality carried out under the Auto-oil II programme.

In coordination with the Environment DG, four air quality reports (prepared on request of the Commission) are now being combined into one annual report on air quality in Europe. In addition to that, the Council received in October a summary report on ozone last summer.

An important development is the increasing cooperation between the EU and the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) in conjunction with the development of CAFE programme. EEA and its European Topic Centres on Air Emissions (ETC/AE) and Air Quality (ETC/AQ), continued and reinforced the collaboration with the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of long range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (EMEP), the monitoring and assessment programme of the Convention. In May 2001, EEA and ETC/AE organised a joint workshop on EIONET air emissions with the EMEP task force on Emission Inventories and Projections. This joint three-day meeting held in Rome, attracted almost 150 participants and was considered a success, enhancing streamlining in reporting emissions and avoiding duplication.

ETC/AQ, in intensive cooperation with the Phare Topic Link on Air Quality, and in dialogue with a growing number of European countries and the Environment DG, continued the further development of the European air quality monitoring network Euroairnet, the European air quality information system (Airbase) and the model documentation system. Improved internet access to Airbase (AirView) and an updated data exchange module were realised with financial support from the European Commission interchange of data between administrations (IDA) programme.

In a pilot project carried out by a consortium including ETC/AQ and ETC/AE partners, led by a multidisciplinary EEA team, scenario studies used in the *Environment in the EU at the turn of the century* report in the field of air pollution and climate change were evaluated. Recommendations for integrated assessment in one common framework were made. This is a good starting point for the new ETC Air/Climate Change

Inland waters

During 2000, major progress was made in the development and implementation of Eurowaternet and the associated database Waterbase maintained by ETC/Inland Waters. Eurowaternet builds upon existing monitoring activities in countries. It is designed to give a representative assessment of water types and variations in human pressures within a country and also across Europe. Water quality data are transferred on an annual basis from the countries to Waterbase, which contains validated data that will be made accessible via the EEA web site.

Waterbase/rivers currently has data on 3007 river stations covering 15 EEA and 12 Phare countries. There are 282 102 chemical records related to these stations. Waterbase/lakes contains 1 178 lakes or reservoirs covering 13 EEA and 8 Phare countries. Waterbase/groundwater holds information on water quality in 254 important groundwater bodies from 17 countries.

Development and progressive implementation of Eurowaternet and the adoption of the Community water framework directive with its requirements for monitoring and reporting have opened up a debate in Europe on how to streamline water monitoring in order to serve several needs for information. In September 2000 a workshop was held jointly between the NFP/

EIONET group and the European Commission National Expert Group on the Water Framework Directive to present and agree proposals for the streamlining of the reporting and use of information on water at the European level. The proposal is for Member States to use Eurowaternet to submit a significant part of the information required by the water framework directive. The workshop recommended that the Agency and the Commission jointly develop an implementation plan in 2001.

Marine and coastal environment

Beside ongoing reporting activities, the Agency and its European Topic Centre on Marine and Coastal Environment (ETC/MC) focused work in 2000 on strategic activities for marine and coastal data flow and assessments.

The strategic activities aimed at continued improvement of cooperation with regional marine conventions.

A joint EEA-UNEP/MAP workshop with EIONET and the programme for the assessment and control of pollution in the Mediterranean region (Medpol) participants was held in Athens to improve the data flow for the Mediterranean Sea.

Within the Marine Inter-Regional Forum (IRF), which is coordinated by the ETC, three working groups on indicators, Geographic Information System (GIS) and data flow all met twice during 2000 and agreed on common approaches and strategies. The IRF Steering Group developed a set of recommendations on marine data flow, indicators and the use of GIS for all marine organisations involved in the IRF.

In its position as part of the European Commission delegation at marine conventions meetings, the Agency worked towards inclusion of its needs into the work programme of the Helsinki Commission (Helcom) and the Oslo-Paris Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR). The approach towards a new assessment procedure with annual indicator updates is now being further developed by these conventions.

The reporting activities aimed at the testing and development of marine and coastal indicators and thematic reports.

For the report on Europe's biodiversity, seven chapters on marine biodiversity in the Arctic Sea, Wider Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Caspian Sea have been produced.

A topic report on European marine eutrophication, including thematic maps on nutrient concentration in European coastal waters, has been finalised for publication.

Indicators on inputs and concentration of hazardous substances in coastal waters have been developed and tested on the basis of data collected in Marinebase and will be published in environmental signals reports. Indicators on oil spills have been developed for publication in TERM. Initial developments of some further biological marine indicators (zoobenthos, phytoplankton) were made. The development and testing of marine and coastal indicators is documented in three technical reports.

A series of detailed thematic maps on hazardous substances and nutrients along European coasts has been developed on the basis of data collected in Marinebase.

Nature conservation

EEA has reached an agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Council of Europe on distributing responsibilities on collection of data on areas designated for nature protection at national and international level. The resulting combined data sets are called the 'Common database on designated areas' (CDDA).

UNEP-WCMC has the responsibility for collecting data on internationally designated areas from the international convention secretariats and on maintaining a global database of major nationally designated areas. The Council of Europe provides its own data on European diploma sites and biogenetic reserves.

On behalf of the Agency, in 2000 the ETC on Nature Conservation started the collection of data on areas designated nationally for nature protection. Initially, the focus is on EEA member countries, but will gradually expand across Europe in the coming years. A report on the different designation types used nationally has been prepared and will be accessible in 2001.

So far countries have only been asked to supply limited information such as name of area, country, centre point coordinates, area, designation year and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) category. EEA will discuss possibilities with countries for later inclusion of more information such as digitised boundaries and selected ecological information.

Data on designated areas is being used for many purposes. At present they are mostly used for analysis of protected areas in countries or regions compared to Natura 2000 proposed sites, of changes in land use or land take or in spatial analyses at European level, addressing issues such as the proximity of protected areas to infrastructure developments, the potential influence from fragmentation and the relation to main habitat types.

Waste

The work of the Topic Centre on Waste has focused on specific waste streams such as biodegradable waste, construction/demolition waste and residues from coal-fired stations, for which data availability and comparability have been examined. In order to support the implementation of the landfill directive, strategies and instruments for biodegradable waste applicable in EEA countries have been analysed.

Special attention was given to a one waste stream — waste from electric/electronic equipment (WEEE) — for which a EU directive is currently being negotiated. Work on WEEE focused on analysis of the existing situation in Europe and the prediction of future trends, as well as on the dangerous substances emitted into the environment.

Basic tasks from previous years on comparability of classification systems and quantities of waste and on updating/maintenance of the Wastebase have been continued, in particular for hazardous waste. Furthermore, work has continued on electronic catalogues for waste management plans/strategies and instruments/facilities. Wastebase has been developed as an Internet application and at the end of 2000 was under review by EIONET partners. At the beginning of 2001 it will be made accessible to the public via the EEA and ETC/W web sites.

Soil

Thematic work carried out in 2000 was mainly related to the preparation of a general assessment of soil conditions in Europe, which included the development of policy-relevant indicators and the analysis of problem areas (the so-called 'hot spots'). A summary of this assessment, addressed to policy-makers and the public, was included in the 2000 EEA-UNEP message, launched in December at the fourth conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CoP4 of the UNCCD). More details on the findings of the assessment are reported in Chapter 2.

The former Topic Centre on Soil closed in December 1999, following a Management Board decision in November 1999. Work continued however in 2000 on an interim basis, pending the results of the wider review of the future development of ETCs and of the EEA performance evaluation. A contract was awarded to the Austrian Federal Environment Agency to continue the development of indicators on soil contamination. The objective of the work is to provide the EEA with a methodology for the identification and calculation of policy-relevant indicators on soil contamination (diffuse and local), building upon the experience and expertise of the former ETC/S. These activities are an integral part of the implementation of the European monitoring and assessment framework for soil.

Major achievements in 2000 were the preparation of the EIONET workshop on indicators for soil contamination, Vienna, 18–19 January 2001, and the contribution to the upcoming *Environmental signals 2001*.

Cooperation with partners:

Statistical Office of the European Community

The revised memorandum of understanding (1999) guided interactions between EEA and Eurostat in 2000. Cooperation focused on improved data flows within the EU for the OECD/Eurostat joint questionnaire, common indicators and assessments for environmental themes and sectoral integration linked to EU policy priorities, and specific action to streamline and improve future information collection for waste, air emissions and water resources, use and treatment.

Priority data sets were identified in the 2000 joint questionnaire linked to indicator needs and to avoid duplication of reporting. A joint letter was sent to Member States in April asking them to focus on these priorities when completing the questionnaires, and in doing so contribute to better quality and timelier data flows. At the Eurostat Environmental Statistics plenary meeting in September, Member States called for further work on prioritisation and closer cooperation between the EIONET and the European Statistical System on data flows for the 2002 joint questionnaire. In particular, the EEA and ETCs will review the needs for data on air quality and water quality against their reporting systems to see how data can be provided from them in the most efficient way.

For indicators, the main highlights in 2000 were publication of the TERM 2000 report and statistical compendium (see chapter 2) and cooperation on production of headline indicators (see chapter 3). EEA also contributed to a strategy paper by Eurostat on implications for the statistical system of the sectoral integration process. Both organisations also worked closely on a common approach to the development of a reporting system to support reporting of progress under the sixth environmental action programme, which builds on work already done on indicators and the emphasis in the sixth programme on analysis and information to support assessment of policy effectiveness.

The 2001 work programme of the new ETC on Waste and Material Flows includes a framework for a joint work programme developed in 2000 that links EEA and Eurostat activities in a concrete way and in line with the memorandum of understanding (MoU). Key areas of cooperation will continue to be on data validation, indicators and implementation of the waste statistics regulation. For water, the EEA and ETC/IW participated in task forces established by Eurostat to review data needs for water resources, use and treatment linked to the objectives of the water framework directive adopted in October 2000. The work of these task forces will feed directly into the 2002 joint questionnaire revision and into discussions with the Environment DG on implementation of a monitoring to reporting system for the framework directive. For air emissions, data from EEA databases were used to pre-fill the 2000 joint questionnaire tables and for producing indicators in the

Eurostat/Energy and Transport DG's *Energy environment statistics pocketbook*. Cooperation has also continued on the development of emissions data linked to economic nomenclatures (NACE) and on preparations for the 'European pollutant emissions register' expected to come on-stream in 2003.

Joint Research Centre

The new memorandum of understanding, signed in 1999, and the joint work plan for 1999–2000 were systematically implemented and reviewed during the year through two joint high-level meetings supplemented by many bilateral working contacts. Progress has been noteworthy in the following thematic areas:

- the development of policy-relevant indicators in the fields of nature protection & biodiversity assessment, land cover & use, soil, marine & coastal areas, urban areas;
- spatial data and GIS information management support including the characterisation of a European river basins map to support monitoring and reporting under the water framework directive and the EU strategy on biodiversity;
- the 'Clean air for Europe' programme — joint support to the Environment DG.

Cooperation is developing in the fields of chemicals, carbon sinks, the dissemination of research results, information quality assurance, prospective analysis and uncertainty sensitivity analysis. These are areas that are expected to feature more prominently in future joint work programmes.

An important theme during the year has been to improve the link between the JRC's mission as scientific reference to the EC and the Agency's role of provider of reliable and objective information to support policy-making. This has led to a number of key developments:

- systematic participation of the JRC in each of the new five ETCs;
- development of joint support to the Environment DG (e.g. CAFE programme, EU greenhouse gas monitoring mechanism, water framework directive);
- joint cooperation with the Research DG to promote the development of research support in some specific topics (e.g. integrated assessment, chemicals, climate change (carbon sinks), remote sensing).

Building on these approaches, a new joint work programme is now being developed taking into account in particular the priorities of the new sixth environment action programme and EU sustainability strategy, as well as the opportunities in the newly evolving sixth research framework programme. A report on progress in the collaboration over the past two years is also under preparation.

Council of Europe

Cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE) on nature conservation, biodiversity and landscape led in 2000 to the setting up of a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations. The EEA Management Board approved this on 11 June 2000. The approval by the Council of Europe is expected early in 2001. The cooperation includes work supporting the Bern Convention and its Emerald network, which will complement Natura 2000 in non-EU countries, on the European Landscape Convention (adopted 2000) and on the pan-European biological and landscape strategy (PEBLDS), where CoE together with UNEP's Regional Office has the joint secretariat. In practice the work in 2000 concerned designated areas, the European nature information system (EUNIS) habitats classification, species information such as the red list of European vertebrates, and contributions to PEBLDS.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Cooperation focused on four main areas during the year: environmental outlooks, sectoral indicators, data collection and a joint database on environmental instruments. On the first topic the Agency continued to contribute to the OECD's *Environmental Outlook* due for publication in spring 2001. Experiences continue to be exchanged in the areas of environmental outlooks and sectoral indicators with a view to improving consistency of assessment and reporting. The joint OECD–Eurostat questionnaire continues to be an important tool for data collection in common areas of need and reduce the reporting burden on member countries. New discussions were started aimed at improving this further as part of the overall effort of the Agency to streamline the reporting of environmental data from countries (see the section on ROD and REM). Concerning the joint database on environmental instruments, by the end of the year an agreement was reached and work

began feeding the database. This will take the best part of 2001 to complete before it is available for open access as part of the EEA's reference centre.

Phare

The cooperation established in 1996 between the EEA and the Phare countries under Phare programme assistance reached a crucial turning point last year. The main reason was the opening and successful conclusion of the negotiations for EEA membership with ten Phare candidate countries plus Cyprus, Malta and Turkey. In parallel, two Phare projects were in place and operational in 2000 in order to support cooperation with the Agency and ensure preparation for Agency membership. Concerning the three non-accession Phare countries, namely Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the cooperation with the Agency was maintained throughout 2000 thanks to a support project funded by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

With Phare programme assistance all planned activities were fully operational last year and some of them will continue in 2001. The work carried out followed the main activity areas of the Agency work programme with the focus on further consolidating and expanding work with the 13 Phare countries.

The EIONET telematic network was already in place and operational for all 10 Phare accession countries. The extension to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was finalised last year. This uniform and fast communication system has already facilitated the exchange of data and information among all countries involved and significantly contributed to the strengthening of cooperation between all partner institutions involved in the work of the network. Further development of the national networks also progressed, together with the establishment of specialised interest groups to facilitate topic information exchange.

Reporting activities carried out in 2000 were focused on the preparatory work for extending both environmental signals and TERM reports from 2001 onwards to the accession countries. The Phare projects in place last year assisted this process together with the work on indicators carried out by Phare topic links. The internet versions of the national state of environment reports

were also under revision and update with Phare support. Finally, a considerable effort was put into the preparation of the European biodiversity report in terms of Phare countries' coverage and production of maps and diagrams.

Technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (Tacis)/pan-European cooperation

The cooperation between the EEA and the new independent States (NIS) is focused on:

- securing the monitoring to reporting networks in these countries;
- strengthening and streamlining existing capacities in order to support improvements in the reliability and consistency of environmental monitoring, reporting and assessment in the countries and at the pan-European level;
- enhancing public access to environmental information in these countries as well as delivering environmental information required for international activities.

Following the workshop with the Russian Federation's State Committee for Environmental Protection held in November 1999 on the harmonisation of biological data from Russian protected areas, two concrete cooperation projects were launched. These were implemented during the year, to be finalised in spring 2001, and will contribute to the EEA reports on biodiversity in Europe.

During the year the Agency contributed to the development of the work on environmental monitoring in the NIS in cooperation with UNECE. Following the recommendations of the pan-European governmental meeting 'Development of environmental monitoring systems in the European region' held in Moscow in December 1999, UNECE established an Ad-hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring (WGEM), chaired by the Russian Federation, and adopted a work programme. The overall objective of the working group is to strengthen cooperation on environmental monitoring and information in Europe and the group is mandated to carry out its work in close cooperation with the EEA. The focus of the work is on the NIS and joining their cooperation on environmental monitoring and reporting with other European countries and the EEA. It covers the following main tasks:

- support to the development of the Kiev assessment report;
- an in-depth study of the monitoring situation in the area of inland waters;
- tools and guidelines for monitoring and reporting;
- a study to define the possible contributions from remote sensing to support the strengthening of environmental monitoring in the NIS.

With the Tacis project 'Strengthening environmental information and observation capacity in NIS', EUR 1.5 million has been allocated to support this cooperation and the contributions from the NIS to the preparations of the Kiev report.

EEA prepared and submitted a proposal to the Environment DG for possible funding to cover EEA costs to ensure the counterpart cooperation needed for a proper implementation of the Tacis project, the preparations of the Kiev report and the extension of the work towards the NIS (for the period 2001-2002). These resources will ensure a full participation of the Agency in the WGEM and contribute towards improving environmental assessment and reporting at the pan-European level and, in particular, to the preparations for the ministerial conference in Kiev in 2003.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Agency participates in the 'Environment for Europe' process under the auspices of UNECE. The main activities during the year have been to initiate the development of the third pan-European environmental assessment (the 2002 Kiev Signals report) and to support the development of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring (WGEM) following an initiative of the Russian Federation at the 1998 ministerial conference at Aarhus, Denmark. The aim of this group is to assess and identify problems of environmental monitoring and reporting especially in the NIS with the aim of developing recommendations for the UNECE Committee of Environmental Policy. The Agency's work has focused on helping to develop the WGEM work programme, exchanging experiences on monitoring and reporting with some of the NIS and participating in preparation meetings. The WGEM is also beginning to support the work to help provide information from the NIS for the Kiev report.

The EEA and its ETCs on air emissions (ETC/AE) and air quality (ETC/AQ) continued and reinforced their cooperation with CLRTAP/EMEP and several of its task forces. In May 2001 for the first time EEA/ETC-AE organised a fully joint workshop with UNECE/EMEP on emission inventories and projections through a combination of the annual meetings of the UNECE task force and of EIONET. This joint three day meeting, held in Rome, attracted almost 150 participants and was considered a success enhancing streamlining of reporting of emissions and avoiding duplication.

United Nations Environment Programme

With the long-term aim of harmonising the contents and production of the European part of UNEP's 'Global Environmental Outlook' series, practical work has taken place to use the outcomes of EEA's assessments (*Environment in the European Union at the turn of the century* and *Environmental signals 2000*) for the preparation of UNEP's next 'Global Environmental Outlook' (GEO-3) report for publication in 2002. While UNEP is responsible for actually writing the European chapter for GEO-3, EEA is acting as a GEO-3 collaborating centre for western Europe, drafting the issue descriptions and providing the information on which the assessment will be based. Furthermore the EEA has been involved in the development of the scenarios chapter in GEO-3. Further collaboration will continue in this area, together with the Commission and other partners, to support the development of a coordinated approach to scenarios. In parallel to the work on the GEO-3 report, the third EEA/UNEP joint message has been issued on the topic of soil degradation in Europe (see chapter 2).

The memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the EEA is being reviewed with a view to updating it. Special account will be taken of EEA enlargement to maximise existing cooperation in these countries and cooperation with the NIS to support the 2002 Kiev environmental signals report, which will have pan-European coverage.

United Nations Environment Programme/ Mediterranean Action Plan

The concretisation of the partnership between the EEA and UNEP, as coordinating body of the Mediterranean action plan (MAP) took place at the beginning of 2000 with the publication of a joint report *State and*

pressures of the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment (see chapter 2).

The Agency and UNEP/MAP saw this report both as a contribution to and a milestone towards an overall assessment of the environmental situation of the whole Mediterranean basin, in support of the activities and political agenda dealing with environment/development issues. The production of such an assessment has in the meantime been decided by the MAP contracting parties, for publication in 2002, with the participation of the Agency.

During 2000, which saw intensive work by the various groups of the UNEP/MAP Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSO), the EEA, in consultation with the Environment DG, contributed to the work on indicators for sustainable development in the Mediterranean area. A first set of indicators is downloadable from the internet (<http://www.planbleu.org>). The format and structure of the indicator fact sheets are similar those developed by the EEA.

Many specific activities with UNEP/MAP, in cooperation with various regional activity centres, were also carried out during 2000. They concerned:

- nature issues (harmonising habitats classifications);
- the sustainable use of water; desertification issues (indicator development under Annex IV to the convention); coastal land use (proposed joint initiative to expand Lacoast project to Mediterranean);
- the first survey on cleaner technologies in the Mediterranean basin; EEA participation in the committee of experts of the regional activity centre for cleaner technologies;
- compiling the reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention: EEA technical report No 45, *Guidelines of the EC reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in force*;
- workshops on the environmental effects of the 2010 Mediterranean free-trade area (Barcelona Declaration or EuroMed partnership-MEDA). Under MEDA, the EEA participated in the implementation of the Regional Programme for Cooperation of Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Institutes (Medstat) environment project, whose objective is the transfer of EU know-how in statistical surveys to Mediterranean countries, through training sessions or specific projects.

With EEA enlargement, the Agency will share 12 countries in the Mediterranean area with UNEP/MAP. This calls for streamlining the monitoring to reporting process. First meetings took place in 2000, for instance with Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, to address this important issue, which requires the harmonisation of monitoring to reporting activities and objectives between EEA and UNEP/MAP.

World Health Organization

During the year, health and environment issues continued to increase in importance in public and political debates. This is resulting in increasing requests for reliable information on environment and health issues, from the effects of traffic-related air pollution and chemicals in the environment, to the quality of water and food and the environmental behaviour of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). In addition, following the inclusion of health considerations in the Amsterdam Treaty, health and environment has now been identified as one of the four main priorities in the new sixth environment action programme. EEA–WHO cooperation during the year has therefore focused on supporting these developments with the aim of aligning monitoring and reporting systems in order to deliver common information to policy-makers. Combined approaches in the following key areas were prioritised:

- establishing common environment and health indicators;
- transport, environment and health (to support the WHO charter on transport and the environment, and the inclusion of health in TERM, the transport and environment sectoral reporting mechanism);
- children, environment and health (focusing on improving the reporting of impacts on this key vulnerable group not usually resolved in regular reporting systems);
- monitoring of water (in the context of the water framework directive and the new protocol on water and health to the Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes).

All these areas are also part of the follow-up activities to the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in June 1999 in London. As a key element of this, the EEA has continued to support and participate in the European Environment and Health Committee, which has included participation in its two main committee meetings during the year, in Chisinau, Moldova in June and Dublin at the end of the year.

2. Reports

Reporting activities in general

In 2000, the Agency published a total of 42 reports (i.e. not including summaries, different language versions, etc.). The vast majority were published in both paper and web versions. The total is made up of 2 assessment, 7 issue, 15 topic, 14 technical and 4 general/promotional reports. The total is somewhat lower than the year before (>50), reflecting a desire from the Management Board to improve the focus of the reporting activities of the Agency. In 2000, the Agency developed a reporting strategy (see below) to meet this challenge in the coming years.

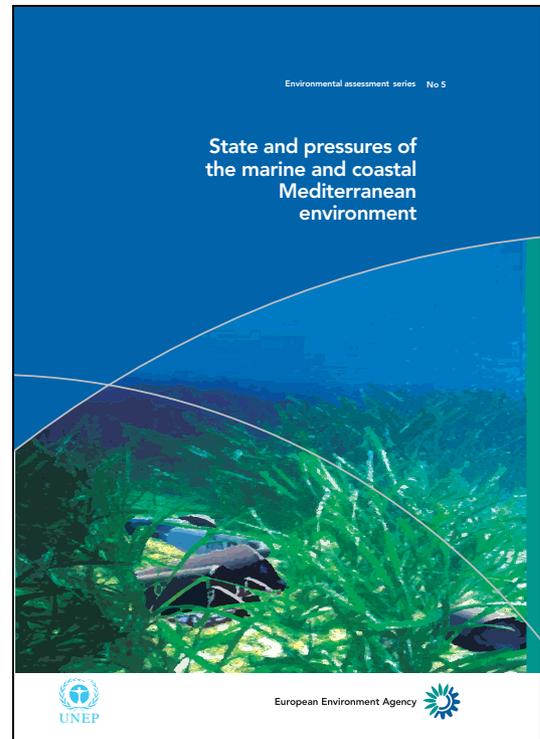
Seven publications were provided in most or all languages of the Agency. These were typically summaries of major reports — such as the *Environmental signals 2000* and *TERM 2000* reports — or of general products, such as the annual work programme and annual report.

The reporting strategy

In March, the Management Board adopted a strategy for improving the link between the main reports and policy events and for connecting EEA reports with each other in a building block structure. The *Environmental signals 2000* and the *TERM 2000* report are clear examples where the design of reports is being influenced by their envisaged role in policy events. The environmental signals report intended for the Gothenburg European summit will provide an overview of progress in sectoral integration and links in with the coming sixth environmental action programme, while the *TERM* report sets the pattern for regular reporting on progress in sector-environment integration.

The greenhouse gas emission trend report, mentioned below, while serving its own purpose and clients, is at the same time a building block for the environmental signals report. With the further structuring of indicators and data flows, it will be possible to apply the building block principle to more issue and topic reports.

Report highlights in 2000



State and pressures on the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment

This report, prepared by the EEA and its European Topic Centre on the Marine and Coastal Environment in cooperation with the Mediterranean action plan, presents an overview of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

The open waters of the sea are generally in good condition and most of the diverse ecosystems appear to be healthy. The sea is characterised by a high diversity of marine species and is recognised as one of the richest biotopes in the world with about 8–9 % of the global seas' species.

However, the presence of so many people along the coastal zones of the sea — either as tourists or inhabitants — puts continuous pressure on the region, so that only a small percentage of the coastal area is in good condition, with an even smaller part adequately protected. Population increases in the countries bordering the sea, from 450 million people in 1997 to a projected 520–570 million in 2030, as well as tourism growth

from 135 million visits in 1990 to as many as 235–350 million in 2025, will create strong competition for space, territory and resources between mankind and nature. On the present evidence, nature will not be the winner.

Stronger international cooperation under the Barcelona Convention and through the European Communities is needed if any headway is to be made in ensuring the viable future of this important sea.

Environmental signals 2000

Launched on 3 May in the European Parliament by the Chairman of the Parliament’s Environment Committee, Dr Caroline Jackson, Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström and the executive director of the Agency, *Environmental signals 2000* is seen as the top of the Agency information pyramid.

The report is the first in a series of regular indicator-based reports to be produced by the Agency. The series is intended for policy-makers and those seeking to influence policy in Europe. Based on information provided in indicator fact sheets, the aim is to report on progress in a number of policy areas.

Most of the indicators are presented on an international level, showing totals for EU or Agency member countries. This is especially relevant where international agreements exist on continental or global problems (as in

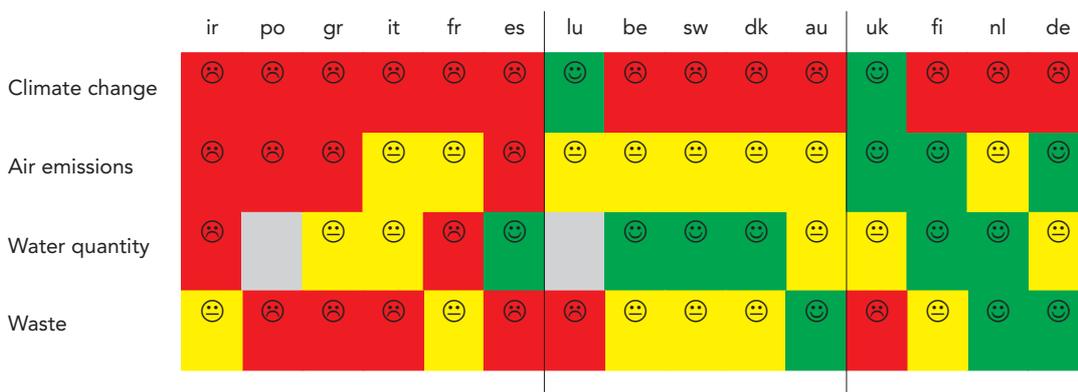
the case of greenhouse gas emissions) or general environmental processes occur (like the infringement of wetlands by infrastructure projects). For those indicators where national breakdowns are relevant these are provided as much as possible.

In some chapters, indicators that show a general development, for instance in energy supply, are supplemented by a sub-indicator highlighting specific trends that need special attention, often by their rate of change. Although the absolute magnitude of these developments may be small in comparison with the total, they may represent significant new developments. Examples of these ‘significant signals’ are the quick growth in organic agriculture and the slow growth in renewable energies.

In addition each chapter contains a box describing a new and interesting response on environmental degradation. Each of these ‘success stories’ may be small and its individual effect is not visible in European statistics but the overall effect of these and many other non-quoted actions of households, industries and administrations, are causing the positive trends that many of the indicators in this report show.

On the basis of the indicators, a first attempt has been made to compare the performance of Member States compared to policy targets on certain key issues where enough data was available to enable a comparison.

Country performance on selected indicators



The indicators used in this report give a clear signal to Ireland and the southern European countries that more needs to be done.

The assessment is based on a combination of degree of change during the covered by the indicators in *Environmental signals 2000* and the distance to targets of international conventions or (proposed) EC legislation. For water quality and waste some indicators were scored according to the distance to the average of all countries in the year for which data were available.

- 😊 positive trend
- 😐 some positive development or mixed trends
- 😞 unfavourable trend

Note: that the scoring and aggregation is preliminary and will be improved for future editions of indicator reports.

In the next editions of the indicator reports, such use of indicators for comparing (benchmarking) country or sector performance, as well as of ‘significant signals’ will be further explored.

Are we moving in the right direction?
Indicators on transport and environment integration in the EU — the TERM 2000 report
 At its meeting in Cardiff in June 1998 the European Council called for its respective Councils to develop strategies to integrate the environment into their policies and to develop indicator sets to support assessment of progress towards sustainable development. As well as describing processes made in individual sectors, sectoral indicators also allow comparison between sectors.

This is the first sector-orientated indicator-based report published by the Agency. It was developed together with Eurostat, the Energy and Transport DG and the the Environment DG under the Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism for the EU. It has been designed to help EU and Member States to monitor progress with their

transport integration strategies, and to identify changes in the key leverage points for policy intervention (such as investments, economic instruments, spatial planning and infrastructure supply).

The report shows that although environmental regulations (such as vehicle and fuel-quality standards) have led to progress in certain areas, these are not sufficient to meet international and national environmental targets. Greater policy impetus is needed to redress current trends in environmental impacts from transport and to reduce the coupling between transport demand and economic growth. The concepts of demand management, accessibility and eco-efficiency are however not yet sufficiently reflected in EU transport policies and targets.

Although this first TERM report focuses mainly on EU developments, important lessons can also be learnt by comparing national performance, as this can yield interesting information regarding the effectiveness of various policy measures. It is therefore intended to develop TERM into a

Qualitative evaluation of key indicator trends

Integration question	Key indicators	Integration objectives	Evaluation of indicator trends															
			A	B	D	DK	E	F	FIN	GR	I	IRL	L	NL	P	S	UK	EU
1	Emissions of: CO ₂ NMVOCs NO _x	Meet international emission reduction targets	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
2	Passenger transport	De-link economic activity and passenger-transport demand	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
		Improve shares of rail, public transport walking, cycling	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
	Freight transport	De-link economic activity and freight transport demand	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
		Improve shares of rail, inland waterways, short-sea shipping	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
3	Average journey length for work, shopping, education, leisure	Improve access to basic services by environment-friendly modes	?	?	😊	😊	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
4	Investments in transport infrastructure	Prioritise development of environmentally friendly transport systems	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
5	Real changes in the price of transport	Promote rail and public transport through the price instrument	?	?	?	😊	?	?	😊	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	Degree of internalisation of external costs (1)	Full recovery of environmental and accident costs	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
6	Energy intensity	Reduce energy use per transport unit	?	?	😊	😊	?	😊	?	?	😊	?	?	😊	?	😊	😊	?
7	Implementation of integrated transport strategies (1)	Integrate environment and safety concerns in transport strategies	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊

😊 positive trend (moving towards objective)
 😊 some positive development (but insufficient to meet objective);
 😊 unfavourable trend (large distance from objective);
 ? quantitative data not available or insufficient
 (1) no time series available; evaluation reflects current situation, not a trend

This evaluation is mainly made on the basis of the indicator trends. As there is an inevitable time lag between policy development, implementation, and the appearance of effects in the indicator trends, a ‘negative’ trend does not necessarily mean that no positive policy developments are taking place to change these parameters. Monitoring these key indicators is the first step towards managing current and future policy measures. For example, tracking user prices, as is done in the UK and Denmark, is essential to manage measures to promote fair and efficient pricing.

benchmarking tool for this purpose. A first attempt at comparing national performance is presented in the following table, which gives a qualitative evaluation of a limited number of key indicator trends with respect to a number of 'integration' objectives.

There are several common features at Member State level. For example, transport demand, energy consumption and CO₂ emissions are increasing in most countries. The modal mix is increasingly biased towards road transport, and air transport is also expanding rapidly, to the detriment of more environment-friendly modes. There are, however, substantial differences in approach to delivering transport systems that better address sustainability concerns. For example, Nordic countries make much more use of taxes, pricing mechanisms and land-use planning than countries in southern Europe. Some countries, such as Austria, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden, have developed environmental action plans and set national targets for the transport sector.

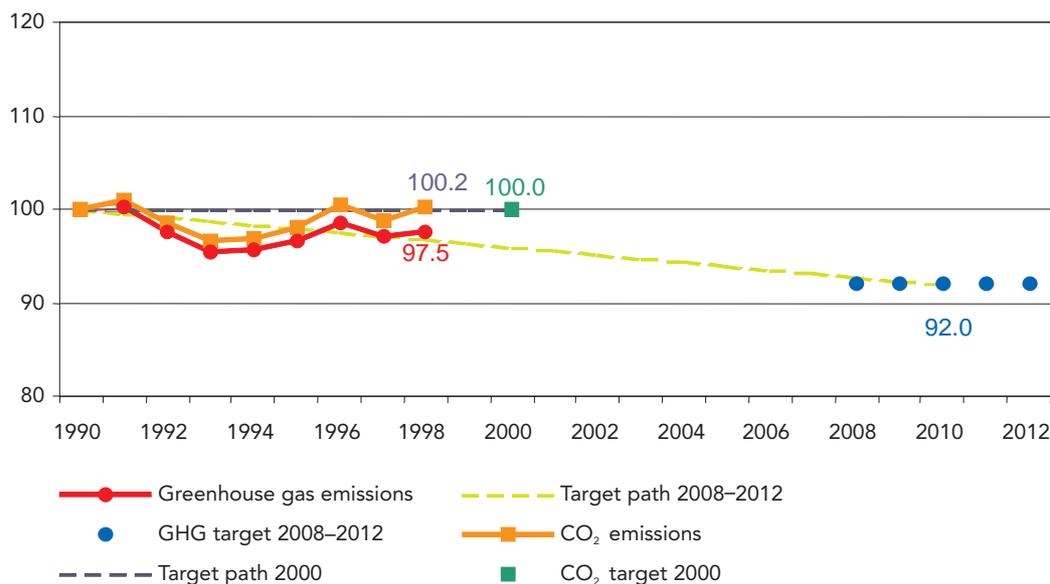
Some have also established conditions for carrying out strategic environmental assessments of certain transport policies, plans and programmes. This enhances the integration of environmental issues and ensures the involvement of environmental authorities and the public in decision-making.

European Community and Member States greenhouse gas emission trends 1990–1998

This report, published just before the climate meeting in The Hague in November, evaluates progress towards meeting commitments under the UN Climate Change Convention and Kyoto Protocol.

In 1998, the European Union as a whole was only slightly off target. However, actually achieving the targets for 2008–2012 will require major efforts, as gross domestic product (GDP) and energy consumption are expected to grow in the coming years. Emission trends are shown in the figure below.

EU15 Greenhouse gas emissions compared with targets for 2000 and 2008–2012



The report also assesses progress in the individual Member States, and for the different sectors and greenhouse gases.

The following table gives an assessment of progress at Member State level.

Progress of EU15 and of the individual Member States in 1998

	CO ₂ emission target path for 2000	Greenhouse gas emission target path for 2008–2012
EU15	☹	☹
Austria	⊗	⊗
Belgium	⊗	⊗
Denmark	⊗	⊗
Finland	No target	⊗
France	No target	☹
Germany	No target	☺
Greece	⊗	⊗
Ireland	⊗	⊗
Italy	⊗	⊗
Luxembourg	☺	☺
Netherlands	⊗	⊗
Portugal	No target	⊗
Spain	⊗	⊗
Sweden	⊗	☹
United Kingdom	☺	☺

Only in Germany, Luxembourg and the UK have emissions been reduced substantially. These reductions are mainly due to increased energy efficiency and the economic restructuring of the new Länder in Germany and the switch from coal to gas in the UK.

Environmental taxes — recent developments in tools for integration

The larger EU Member States are now joining the ranks of countries exploiting the potential of ‘green’ taxes. Germany and Italy have introduced CO₂ taxes in the framework of ecological tax reform, and France and the UK are implementing CO₂ taxes in 2001.

Also, an extension of environmental tax bases is taking place in most Member States. As a result, the majority of EU Member States will apply CO₂ taxes and have introduced some form of ecological tax reform by 2001.

EU countries are thus making increasing use of ‘green’ taxes, and at an accelerating rate towards the end of the 1990s. However, very little progress has been made at EU level in adopting environmental taxes over the past decade, mainly due to the obstacle of unanimity voting on fiscal matters.

Evidence of the effectiveness of environmental taxes is set out in the report, which cites evaluations made by Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK as to the positive results achieved. Well-known success stories — water pollution taxes (e.g. in France, Germany, the Netherlands),

the Swedish NO_x charge and the tax differentiation between leaded and unleaded petrol — are supplemented by more recent positive evaluations carried out on the Danish waste tax, the Danish, Finnish and Swedish CO₂ taxes, the UK fuel duty ‘escalator’, and the Danish tax on sulphur in fuels.

Although 75 % of environmental tax revenue comes from energy products, the short-term impact of energy taxes on energy use is usually limited. On transport, while environmental taxes may influence car ownership, car use does not appear to be affected.

Using data from Eurostat, the report finds that the environmental tax share of total tax revenue in the EU is rising slowly but surely through time, from 5.84 % in 1980 to 6.17 % in 1990 and 6.71 % in 1997. A very high proportion (95 %) of this revenue comes from just two sectors — energy and transport — with less than 5 % coming from taxes on emissions, chemical substances, products, waste and natural resources. But although the pollution/resources tax share is modest, it is showing the fastest growth, increasing by 50 % in the 1990–97 period.

Down to earth: soil degradation and sustainable development in Europe

The report was released in Bonn during the fourth annual meeting of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The

32-page report outlines and quantifies the threats to Europe’s soils and proposes solutions.

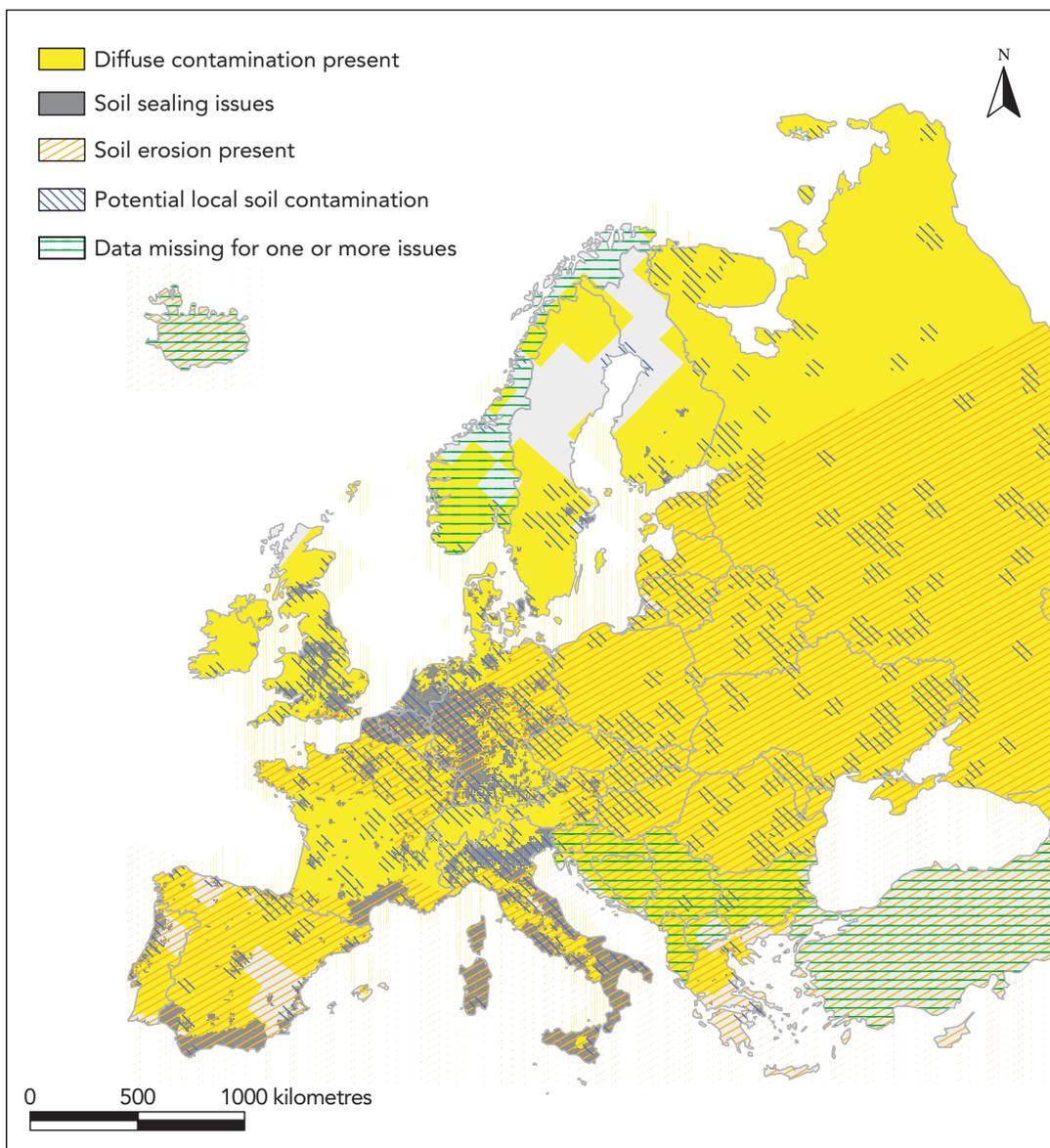
Soils are being overstressed by Europe’s dense settlement patterns and intensive economic activities and by acidification, erosion, contamination, and changes in climate. Growing demand for food production, living space, leisure and tourism facilities, infrastructure and industrial production increases the pressure.

In some parts of Europe, the degradation is so severe that it has reduced the soil’s

capacity to support human communities and ecosystems and resulted in desertification. Because it can take hundreds or thousands of years to regenerate most soils, the damage occurring today is for all purposes irreversible.

There is an urgent need for an agreed European soil monitoring and assessment framework. Closer collaboration among administrations would be needed for this in order to improve access to information, enhance data comparability and avoid duplication.

Summary map of problem areas in Europe



3. Specific policy support activities

Developing a coherent indicator framework

The Agency has continued to develop a consistent and comprehensive structure for its work on indicators, aiming to bring together the information needs under the EU sustainable development strategy, the sixth environmental action programme and sectoral integration activities (the so-called Cardiff process) into one coherent framework. Headline indicators (see below), environmental indicators (as in the *Environmental signals 2000* report) and sectoral integration indicators (as in TERM 2000) are all part of this overall package.

A pattern is emerging where the headline indicators focus on providing policy-makers and the public with an overview of progress on central environmental policies as a vital component of sustainable development. The signals reports aim to give broader and more in-depth information on environmental matters and a horizontal view of sectoral integration issues, while the TERM and similar reports give more in depth information on the individual sectors.

Headline indicators

Through cooperation between the Environment DG, Eurostat and the EEA, a brochure with 10 environmental headline indicators for the EU has been produced. The report will be published in early 2001.

The shared production of indicators by Eurostat and the EEA for this project provides a blueprint for future cooperation on indicators: sharing responsibilities for the regular production of a collection of indicators, using the same fact sheet model. Although the EU environmental headline indicators were originally intended to be shared with the countries, few countries have adopted them so far.

Sectors

General

The integration process has been enhanced by the Amsterdam Treaty and by the post-Cardiff process. The EEA is therefore

increasingly paying attention to sectors as target groups; monitoring of impacts of sector policies and activities being its main activity in this area.

Sectors formed an inherent part of the main reports EEA issued in 2000, i.e. *Environmental signals 2000* and the *Environmental taxes* report. *Environmental signals 2001* will cover energy, transport, agriculture and tourism.

A common framework for indicator-based reporting on sector-environment integration is under development. This methodological framework aims to support this 'post-Cardiff' monitoring and reporting process.

Using this framework, EEA will, over the next year, gradually extend its sector reporting activities to a number of key sectors. The 2000 status of sector reporting is described below.

Transport

The first indicator-based sector report, *Are we moving in the right direction. Indicators on transport and environment integration in the EU (TERM 2000)*, was published and widely disseminated. It is complemented by a Statistical Compendium (published by Eurostat). The Transport Council has invited the Commission and the EEA to continue the TERM work on a regular basis. *TERM 2001* is currently being prepared (publication expected in autumn 2001), as well as a report devoted to the accession countries (expected publication early 2002). A contract has been concluded with the Environment DG for the co-financing of *TERM 2001*. Key presentations of the report were given by Domingo Jiménez-Beltrán at the OECD conference of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (Vienna, October 2000), and for the socialist group in the European Parliament Transport Committee on 8 November.

A technical report, *Freight transport and the environment in mountainous areas — Case studies in Alpine region and Pyrenees*, was developed on the request of the Energy and Transport DG. It supports this DG's evaluation of the Austrian ecopoint system (a

system devised to reduce NO_x emissions from freight transit traffic through Austria).

A workshop on internalising externalities from transport was held on 22 November, involving 15 of the EU's leading economic experts on transport and environment issues, from the Commission (the Environment DG and Energy and Transport DG), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, universities and consultancy firms. The workshop resulted in some concrete recommendations for the improvement of the related TERM indicators.

Energy

Work to apply the TERM model to the energy sector is ongoing. A comprehensive list of indicators has been developed, which will form the core of EEA's energy and environment indicator-based report, which is currently being prepared and will be finalised by the end of 2001.

The EEA is also providing input to the Eurostat pocketbook on sustainable energy indicators, amongst other things conceptual input and data on emissions.

EEA is finalising a report on renewable energies success stories. The report will contain a presentation of 20 representative successful renewable energy initiatives and will put an emphasis on the factors which led to success in each individual case and consequently to the success of renewable energies in some Member States. The report will be published by mid-2001.

Agriculture

EEA is participating in a interservice working group consisting of the Environment DG, the Agriculture DG, the Health and Consumer Protection DG, Eurostat, and the JRC, that is further developing the agri-environmental indicators to follow integration of the environment in the common agricultural policy. A communication is being prepared on the statistical data needs for agri-environmental indicators. At the same time, work has been done to further define indicators, among others in the framework of *Environmental signals 2001*.

A joint publication, *From land cover to landscape diversity in the European Union*, was produced in May 2000 with the Agriculture DG. This publication is the result of close collaboration between three Services of the European Commission — the Agriculture

DG, Eurostat, Joint Research Centre (Ispra) — and the European Environment Agency. It presents work carried out by the different teams based on the Corine land cover inventory. The different articles seek to systematically explore the potential and limits of this tool as a contribution to the development of landscape indicators.

Negotiations with the Agriculture DG are being conducted to strengthen the EEA's agriculture capacities and to start the preparation of an indicator-based report by 2003.

Tourism

In 1999, while discussing the Commission's communication 'Enhancing tourism's potential for employment' the Council of Ministers (Internal Market) recalled the importance of better integrating the needs of the tourism sector into other Community policies and invited the Commission and the Member States to work together on a number of priority issues, including promoting environmental protection and sustainable development in tourism. An EU working group was set up in 2000 to produce key policy recommendations addressing these issues in 2001. The principles and scope were reinforced during the EU Ministerial Conference under the French Presidency on 22 November 2000. The EEA was invited to participate in this working group and to deliver a short assessment of tourism and environment issues in Europe.

Although tourism has not so far been identified as such in the Cardiff process, the ambition of the European Environment Agency would be to lay the grounds for a 'tourism and environment reporting mechanism' at the European level for publication in 2002. To initiate this objective, a chapter on tourism is included in the EEA report *Environmental signals 2001*.

Urban issues

During 2000, the EEA started to work on the 'Urban communication platform', as a general tool for dissemination of data and information on urban issues. This tool is proposed to be an open, public, internet-based platform using EnviroWindows. Basically it will offer cities and other partners a source of information and a 'meeting point', as well as the other facilities of EnviroWindows — server space, helpdesk facility already in place, interest groups.

The 'Urban communication platform' was launched at the Hanover 2000 Conference — third Conference of the Sustainable Cities and Towns — as a tool to support 'European Common Indicators — Towards a local sustainability profile', a project initiated by the Environment DG in March–April 1999. The Agency is participating in the development of this project in a working group within the Expert Group on the Urban Environment.

To support the reporting aspect of the common Indicators, cooperation with UNEP GRID-Arendal CEROI project was developed, to help adapt to the European common indicators context.

Throughout the year two parallel lines of progress were considered: one on indicator development, refining the definition of indicators and connecting them with other indicators based exercises, another on the development and test of the 'dissemination/reporting tool'. A report was prepared aimed at clarifying and supporting local authorities in benchmarking exercises, *Environmental benchmarking for local authorities — From concept to practice*, as well as a report reflecting on methodological approaches and results on spatial data and information handling at local level.

Networking activities proceeded, with the establishment of connections with other partners dealing with urban environment issues, including the Territorial Development Unit of OECD, Metrex (European Network of Metropolitan Areas), and the European Academy for the Urban Environment, among others.

European institutions

Most of the Agency's activities are directly or indirectly aimed at supporting the work of its key users — the European Commission, the Parliament, the Council and the Member States — in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy at the European level. While continuing to work closely together and improving cooperation with the Commission (mainly the Environment DG, but increasingly also with other DGs), the Agency is constantly seeking ways to improve support for the other institutions. In the following, some specific activities in relation to other key users are highlighted.

European Parliament

The European Parliament produced three own-initiative reports on the implementation of directives in the field of the environment in 2000. The Agency did not supply specific input to these reports, but two of them — on the nitrates and habitats directives — used Agency reports describing the state of and trends in the environmental problems addressed by the legislation.

In October, the Agency held a seminar for members of the European Parliament Environment Committee and their assistants, demonstrating in a practical way what information the Agency holds and how to access it.

Also in October, the Agency gave a presentation of the findings of the TERM report for members of the Parliament Transport Committee.

In order to improve support for the work of the European Parliament, in 2000 the Agency appointed a liaison officer with overall responsibility for contacts to the institution.

The Council

Portuguese Presidency

EEA was involved in several initiatives under the scope of the Portuguese Presidency during the first half of 2000. The Agency produced a paper for the Informal Council of Ministers held in Porto in April, which focused on the Urban Environment. Furthermore, the Agency participated in a meeting of the Environmental Policy Review Group on the development of headline indicators, which took place in Cascais in April 2000, and a meeting of the European environmental advisory councils, held in Sesimbra in June 2000 under the theme tourism and environment.

French Presidency

The French Presidency in the second half of the year gave high priority to the question of environmental taxes. The Agency responded by updating the three-year-old report on the use of environmental taxes in Europe. The executive director gave a presentation of the report's findings at the informal meeting of Ministers of the Environment from 14 to 16 July 2000 in Paris.

Later, at the conference 'Green tax reforms in Europe' on 10 and 11 October 2000 in

Paris, the executive director presented a paper on procedures for exchange of information between countries.

International conventions

United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD).

EEA and the UNCCD are working together on a three-year-project called Desertification Information System to Support National Action Programmes in the Mediterranean (DIS-MED), for the development of an information system to support the implementation of the convention in the Mediterranean. The project includes southern European countries (France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey) and northern African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). The aim of the project is to facilitate the exchange of information in the area and to help countries to get the institutional and technical framework right. About thirty people from eight countries, NGOs and representatives of the European Commission attended the start-up workshop, which was held in Copenhagen on 27 to 29 September 2000. On this occasion the EEA executive director and UNCCD executive secretary met to discuss further collaboration.

Collaboration with UNCCD also included: EEA contribution to a workshop on Soil degradation in central and eastern Europe to support the preparation of a new UNCCD implementation annex for central and eastern Europe (Brussels, May 2000); participation in a workshop on synergies among the three global conventions (FAO Rome, February 2000) and participation in CoP4 (Bonn, December 2000).

The Convention on Biological Diversity — The European Community European Community Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity (EC CHM)

Supported with funds from the IDA-programme, EEA is developing the European Community Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity for the Commission (the Environment DG) in order to fulfil the Community's obligation as signatory party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). A consultancy contract is managed by EEA and collaboration is maintained with national CHM responsible bodies that form a CBD network, which is often different from the EEA national focal points or national reference centres. In May 2000, the first

version of the EC CHM was launched by the Commission in Nairobi at the Conference of the Parties (CoP5). EEA was present together with the consultants.

The EC CHM is maintained by EEA and is accessible from the EEA web site under 'Services' <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/>.

The average number of monthly hits for the EC CHM at EEA in 2000 was 25 000.

Methodologies and tools

Information tools for environmental policy under conditions of complexity

For many environmental problems, ranging from getting rid of oil platforms to climate change, facts are uncertain, values are disputed, stakes are high and decisions urgent. 'Stakeholder involvement' is the key activity proposed in *Information tools for environmental policy under conditions of complexity* to deal with these problems. The report maintains that experts cannot arrive at environmental solutions by dealing with them in a traditional problem-solving manner, due to the complexity of these problems.

Advocating that a 'post-normal science' approach be adopted, the report introduces a number of alternative approaches to framing and solving problems. Common to these is a diversity of aspects and indicators, the use of multiple criteria and stakeholder involvement. As sustainability is not a purely physical property of simple technological systems, work is now needed to put into practice the perspectives of this report.

Cloudy crystal balls — An assessment of recent European and global scenario studies and models

The need for this report was identified during a special session of the European Forum for Integrated Environmental Assessment (EFIEA), held at the EEA in December 1999. This workshop was organised to review the EEA's state of the art on integrated environmental assessment with particular emphasis on the outlooks presented in the report *Environment in the European Union at the turn of the century* published in 1999.

This is the first expert corner report to be published under the EEA series 'Prospects and Scenarios'. The report presents a comprehensive inventory of existing

scenarios studies relevant for Europe in the context of sustainable development, including European and global models. It

also provides a review of a selected number of scenarios and pinpoints their strengths and weaknesses.

4. Making environmental information accessible

Reference centre

The revamped EEA web site, launched on 30 October 1999, got off to a good start with the number of users almost doubling in the first months, breaking the

1 000 000 hits/month threshold in January 2000. In 2000 the increase continued and almost 2 000 000 hits were registered in May, after which the figure declined gradually during the summer months, then increased again and once more approached 2 000 000 hits in December. The number of so-called 'user sessions' in one month reached 100 000 for the first time in December 2000.

The high number of users in May can certainly be attributed to the launch of the *Environmental signals 2000* report and the *TERM* report. For both, the web version was especially promoted.

Throughout the year, all new EEA reports were added in electronic form to the web site, often before being distributed in a paper version, and the web site can now, in terms of number of copies accessed, be considered as the main distribution channel of EEA

reports. The reports now available on the web site, often with summaries in many language versions, are arranged by 25 environmental themes, helping the user to find his or her way to information of interest.

During 2000 the Agency has made several strategic decisions concerning EnviroWindows: the EIONET extension for business and local authorities.

Information centre

The EEA information centre is the link between the Agency and the general public as well as an internal information provider for Agency staff. The centre deals with general internal and external requests for information, dissemination of EEA publications and channelling of EEA and external publications through the library to and from staff.

The centre receives between 250 and 350 external information requests a month and 15 to 20 internal requests. The total is fairly stable from year to year. The following table gives an overview of the type of requests received.

	1998	1999	2000	Total
EEA publications	1347	1933	2177	5457
Environmental Information:				
Water	583	668	200	1451
Air	263	363	125	751
Terrestrial	94	107	205	406
Legislation	0	0	296	296
Funding/vacancies/EU system/etc.	667	565	1168	2400
Total	2954	3636	4171	10761

Types of enquiries received by the EEA Information Centre between 1998–2000

Over the period, 85 % of the requests came from inside the member countries of the Agency. 6 % originated from the rest of Europe, and 9 % from outside Europe.

Raising public awareness — the Princes' Award Foundation

The Princes' Award Foundation is enlarging its scope from solely awarding the best audio-visual production on environmental issues, to becoming the European award organization

for sustainable development under the heading 'European awards for sustainability'.

To live up to its title, the foundation is now developing twelve 'royal award platforms' to be hosted by twelve cities across Europe. Some of the key award concepts developed in 2000 include, the Youth and Environmental Innovation Award in Stockholm; the Children's Illustration Award, and the Life Quality and Environment Award both to be hosted by Copenhagen; the Green Food Award in Wageningen and the Environmental Film Award in Berlin.

Each award platform aims to:

- increase public awareness;
- encourage dialogue between the doers: companies and cities;
- engage stakeholders in debate;
- change behaviour;
- recognise excellence; and
- reward the best.

The foundation is creating a European City Network comprising 12 to 15 cities to act as hosts to the thematic royal awards. Additionally, the foundation has created a European film festival network involving seven European Film Festivals from Slovakia, Italy, Portugal, Germany, France, Czech Republic and Russia. All the festivals have received a PAF certificate of recognition in honour of their contribution and dedication to environmental awareness raising through film.

Data and information management

One new major IT project, supported by the DG Enterprise IDA project was launched in January 2000. The aim of the project, called 'Transparent environmental reporting system for administrations' (TERESA), is to support the development of applications for data flows within the EIONET electronic network (e-EIONET) and access to these data within the reference centre for the sake of transparency and further exploitation. Four out of seven subprojects were kicked off in 2000 while the remaining three will start in 2001.

The four projects are 1) improved data exchange software modules for air emission and 2) air quality, 3) consolidated database for all data in the water area and 4) web access to ROD. All projects resulted in delivery of new improved products during the year. The DEMs are further improvements of existing DEMs for air emissions and air quality data and the third project on data exchange and management project, Waterbase, resulted in a database built in accordance with the generic infrastructure that has been approved for the e-EIONET. The development of the consolidated water database will continue in 2001 when also the two air DEMs will be integrated with the 'Generic technical platform'.

Data services

In one of the last days of the year a new data service was launched, combining the services to visualise EEA's geo-referenced datasets

(Natlan) and the presentation of the indicator data (data warehouse). The technical platform for the data warehouse was improved with a better user interface, new functionalities and closer integration of the warehouse maintenance tools with EEA office applications.

Only a minor part of the warehouse is publicly available but plans have now been developed to make all datasets, on which there are no access constraints set by the owners, publicly available within a period of one year. The data service will thereby evolve into a part of the permanent up-to-date online reporting system under development, where the presentation of indicators on the EEA web site will be linked to access to the underlying data sources. Intensive technical work towards the online reporting system was initiated, as the product is seen as one of the main products of the 2001 work programme.

ROD

A number of new web information services were developed during the year. A web version of the 'Reporting obligations' database (ROD), until now only available off-line, was developed within the TERESA project and delivered for evaluation within EIONET at the end of the year. This web application is the first application based on extensible mark-up language (XML) technology, now approved as one of the cornerstones of the e-EIONET technical infrastructure. The content of ROD was a subject to a thorough analysis of air, water and waste obligations. ROD is a major reporting reference tool for the member countries on which they can build national extensions to monitor international reporting activities.

SERIS

Another XML application developed in 2000 was the new State of the Environment Report Information Service (SERIS). SERIS, providing an overview of national reports, has been on the EEA web site for some years but as an isolated product with its own updating procedure. Through XML, national data for SERIS can be maintained in the 'Directory of information resources' (DIR) together with other EEA/EIONET meta-information, guaranteeing a better and more streamlined update, without changing the appreciated SERIS user interface.

5. The Agency of the future

Enlargement

Negotiations between the European Commission and 13 candidate countries in central Europe and the Mediterranean area on agreements to join the Agency were initiated and successfully concluded in 2000. The new members will join the Agency when the agreements have been ratified nationally and by the Council. This is likely to take place during 2001 for most, if not all, countries. The new member countries are: Bulgaria, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, The Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey.

The Agency is the first EU body to be opened to enlargement, and is thus the first tangible evidence for the candidate countries that enlargement is a reality. Enlargement of the Agency has therefore a significance which goes way beyond the environmental field.

The Phare programme has allocated 1.1 MEUR to support the transition period until membership status is effectively in place. This will cover in principle the EEA efforts in the field of reporting, EIONET extension and information dissemination. Moreover the gradual extension of the work of the new ETCs to the new members is foreseen within this budget. A three-year action programme for ensuring the full participation of the new countries in the Agency work programme will also be a main output of the project. The project is expected to become operational early 2001.

Proposals for assuring the EEA's preparatory work in relation to Cyprus, Malta and Turkey were also prepared and submitted through the Environment DG for possible European Commission funding. The proposals focus in this case on the establishment of EIONET and on an assessment of the available environmental information in these countries, as the basis for future reporting. The proposals are foreseen to cover the whole year 2001 and are essential for ensuring a good start for these new members for which no previous cooperation mechanism was in place (in contrast to the case with the Phare countries).

Evaluation

Council Regulation No. 933/1999, amending the Agency's founding Regulation No 1210/90, included a requirement that the Agency conduct an evaluation of its performance and efficiency and submit a report to the Management Board, Commission, Council and European Parliament.

The Agency addressed this requirement through an evaluation carried out by consultants Arthur Andersen, completed in October, and a Board seminar held in November to consider the consultant's report and the Agency's response.

The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the Agency's performance during the period of the first multiannual work programme (1994–1999) in order to enhance and improve future performance, as well as to underpin major decisions in the Agency's further development.

In considering the consultant's report, the Agency response and the outcome of the seminar, the Board recognised that the evaluation comes at a key moment in the development of the Agency. Policy needs are evolving with the sixth environmental action programme and the emerging sustainable development strategy. The Agency is expanding with 13 new members. Finally, the reform of the Commission is changing ways of working for the Agency as well.

The Board welcomed the report, the overall positive evaluation of the Agency, EIONET and the main reports, and the main recommendations as presented by the consultants at the seminar. The Board also made a number of recommendations to the Agency:

- to complete the review of strategy by early 2001 in consultation with the various stakeholders;
- to focus on support to the policy cycle at European level for key users: European Commission, European Parliament, Council and Member States;
- to focus the review of strategy on requirements to simplify, streamline and implement the European environmental

reporting system (through improved collaboration with countries, Commission services and international conventions and more use of Internet-based tools) and to improve the quality of the information produced to better serve policy-making at the European level;

- to focus the development of information on needs and strengthen the dialogue with users to better define the requirements and specific questions to be addressed in the work of the Agency;
- to maintain a balance between products (printed reports, web site) and services including direct support to policy-making,

covering also prospective analysis. Products and services should merge into a seamless reporting system with more targeted, concise products and keep clear boundaries on ad hoc support.

The Board proposed that the Scientific Committee perform systematic quality control of the main EEA products according to a procedure to be developed in consultation with the executive director. The Scientific Committee should deliver a yearly report on the results of this quality control to the Board.

Glossary

Accession countries	Countries preparing for accession to the European Union
Agency (the)	European Environment Agency (URL: http://www.eea.eu.int/)
Agriculture DG	URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/agriculture/index_en.htm
Airbase	European Air Quality Information System (URL: http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/metadetails.xml?table=AirBase)
AirView	AIR quality Visualisation Instrument for Europe on the Web (URL: http://www.etcaq.rivm.nl/databases/airview.html)
Amsterdam Treaty	The European Council met on 17 June 1997 in Amsterdam and the Treaty was signed on 2 October 1999. The aim was to create the political and institutional conditions to enable the European Union to meet the challenges of the future.
Auto-oil II	Programme for the implementation of car technology with the aim of reducing sulphur and other polluting emissions within year 2005 on the basis of the new objectives for air quality and of the cost-efficiency criteria
CAFE	Clean Air for Europe Programme
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy
Cardiff European Council	URL: http://presid.fco.gov.uk/meetings/cardiff/
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CIRCA	Collaborative software used by Eurostat and several DGs.
CLRTAP	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
CoE	Council of Europe (URL: http://www.coe.int)
Commission	European Commission (URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm)
Community	European Community
CoP	Conference of the parties to a convention
CORINE	Coordination of the INformation on the Environment (work started under Decision 85/338/EEC; environment information pilot project continued in EEA)
Council	EU Council of Ministers (URL: http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm)
Data Warehouse	URL: http://www.eea.eu.int/frdb.htm

DEM	Data Exchange Module
Environment DG	URL: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/index_en.htm
DGTREN	Directorate-General Transport and Energy (URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html)
DIS-MED	Desertification Information System to Support National Action Programmes in the Mediterranean
EC	European Community
EC-CHM	the European Community Clearing-House Mechanism
EEA	European Environment Agency (URL: http://www.eea.eu.int/)
EFIEA	European Forum on Integrated Environmental Assessment. A concerted action supported by the RTD Programme Environment and Climate, Human Dimensions of Environmental Change of the European Commission, the Environment DG (contract no. ENV4-CT97-0450. In order to have integrated environmental assessment bear its best possible fruits, cross-fertilisation of the various approaches practiced in this field and community building are needed. The network of EFIEA serves such a goal (URL: http://www.efiea.org/)
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network (URL: http://www.eionet.eu.int/)
e-EIONET	The electronic network that supports the functioning of the organisational EIONET
EMEP	Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (URL: http://www.unece.org/env/emep_h.htm)
EnviroWindows	URL: http://service.eea.eu.int/enviowindows/index.shtml
ETC	European Topic Centre - Contracted by the EEA to lead the development in European environmental information on a given topic. (URL: http://www.eionet.eu.int/)
ETC/AE	European Topic Centre on Air Emissions (URL: http://www.aeat.co.uk/netcen/corinair/corinair.html)
ETC/Air and Climate Change	In its 27th meeting on 29 November 2000, the EEA Management Board designated the lead organizations for four new European Topic Centres (ETC) for the next three years. The designated leader is RIVM (Netherlands) (URL: http://www.rivm.nl/)
ETC/AQ	European Topic Centre on Air Quality (URL: http://www.etcaq.rivm.nl/)
ETC/CDS	European Topic Centre on Catalogue of Data Sources (URL: http://etc-cds.eionet.eu.int/)

ETC/IW	European Topic Centre on Inland Waters (URL: http://www.eionet.eu.int/)
ETC/LC	European Topic Centre on Landcover (URL: http://www.mdc.kiruna.se/projects/etc/)
ETC/MC	European Topic Centre on Marine and Coastal Environment (URL: http://estaxp.santateresa.enea.it/www/etc/etc-mc.html)
ETC/NC	European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation (URL: http://www.mnhn.fr/ctn/)
ETC/Nature Protection and Biodiversity	In its 27th meeting on 29 November 2000, the EEA Management Board designated the lead organizations for four new European Topic Centres (ETC) for the next three years. The designated leader is MNHN (France) (URL: http://www.mnhn.fr/)
ETC/S	European Topic Centre on Soil (URL: http://www.eionet.eu.int/)
ETC/Waste	European Topic Centre Waste (URL: http://www.eionet.eu.int/)
ETC/Waste and Material Flows	In its 27th meeting on 29 November 2000, the EEA Management Board designated the lead organizations for four new European Topic Centres (ETC) for the next three years. The designated leader is Danish EPA/EPA City of Copenhagen (Denmark) (URLs: http://www.mst.dk/ ; http://www.kk.dk/)
ETC/Water	In its 27th meeting on 29 November 2000, the EEA Management Board designated the lead organizations for four new European Topic Centres (ETC) for the next three years. The designated leader is WRc plc (UK) (URL: http://www.wrcplc.co.uk/)
EU	European Union
EUNIS	European Nature Information System: the ETC/NC managed system of databases containing the information on species, habitats and sites which is being used for assistance to the Commission on NATURA2000 specifically and for EEA reporting needs in general
EUR	European Union Currency (EURO)
EuroMed	The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership develops and finances programmes in the audio-visual and cultural field through the MEDA mechanism (URL http://www.euromed.net/)
Euroairnet	European air quality monitoring network
European Parliament	URL: http://www.europarl.eu.int/
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Community (URL: http://www.europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/serven/home.htm)
Eurowaternet	monitoring network designed to collect data on the status and trends of Europe's inland water resources in terms of quality and quantity and to analyse how this reflects pressures on the environment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (URL: http://www.fao.org/)

GEO-3	Third Global Environmental Outlook project by UNDP
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
IDA	Interchange of Data between Administrations - operated by DG Enterprise of the European Commission (URL: http://www.ispo.cec.be/ida/ida.html)
Interest Groups	Collective collaboration areas for projects protected by user names and passwords.
IRF	Marine Inter-Regional Forum
IUCN	World Conservation Union. (URL: http://www.iucn.org)
JRC	Joint Research Centre of the European Communities - composed of 8 Research Institutes. They are located in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. (URL: http://www.jrc.org/jrc/index.asp)
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in December 1997 by the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. It set limits on the greenhouse gas emissions of industrialised countries and introduced mechanisms to facilitate the cost-effective implementation of the Protocol itself
LRTAP	Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution
MAB	Multiannual Budget
Management Board	The EEA's Management Board.
MAP	UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan
MEDA Programme	The MEDA programme is the principal financial instrument of the European Union (EU) for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority (URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/med_mideast/intro/)
Medpol	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region
Medstat	Regional Programme for Cooperation of Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Institutes (URL: www.euromed.net/economic-chapter/Medstat/default.htm)
Member countries	Member countries of the EEA — the EU 15 Member States + Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
Member States	Countries of the European Union

MoU	Memorandum of understanding — the Agency has MoUs with several organisations to secure efficient cooperation
NACE	emission data linked to economic nomenclature
Natlan	NATure and LANdcover is a frame for making widely public maps and analyses concerning nature and landcover, which have been produced or used for EEA work.
Natura 2000	European ecological network of special areas of conservation, called to integrate nature protection requirements into other EU policies such as agriculture, regional development and transport (URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm).
NIS	Newly Independent States
NFP	National Focal Point (URL: http://www.eionet.eu.int/)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (URL: http://www.oecd.org/)
OSPAR	Oslo-Paris Commission for the protection of the marine environment in the Northeast Atlantic
PAF	The Princes' Award Foundation — European Awards for Sustainability (URL: http://www.princeaward.dk/)
Pan-European	Europe from the Atlantic to the Ural Mountains and from the Arctic to the Mediterranean Sea
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biodiversity Landscape Development Strategy
Phare	An EU initiative for economic integration with central and eastern European Countries. The 13 countries are: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYROM, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia. (URL: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/PHARE/index.htm)
REC	Reporting on Environmental Conventions. It covers 64 international conventions for which the EU is a signatory
REM	Reporting on Environmental policies and Measures. The project focuses on developing guidance and new frameworks to help countries provide information on policy effectiveness where required under EU legislation
ROD	Reporting obligations database
SERIS	State of the Environment Reports Information System
Sixth environmental action programme	'Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice — the sixth environmental action programme of the European Community, 2001–2010 (URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm)

Tacis	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States, a European Union initiative. The 13 partner countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
TERESA	Transparent Environmental REporting System for Administrations
TERM	Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism
UN	United Nations (URL: http://www.un.org/)
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (URL: http://www.unccd.int/main.php)
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (URL: http://www.unece.org/)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (URL: http://www.unep.org/)
UNEP-WCMC	The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre provides information for policy and action to conserve the living world (URL: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/)
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (URL: http://www.unfccc.de/)
Warehouse	Data Warehouse (URL: http://www.eea.eu.int/frdb.htm)
Wastebase	electronic catalogue of waste management facilities, plans, competent authorities etc
Water Framework Directive	Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (URL: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/lif/dat/2000/en_300L0060.html)
Waterbase	electronic catalogue of water management facilities, plans, competent authorities, etc
WEEE	waste from electric/electronic equipment
WGEM	Working Group on Environmental Monitoring
WHO	World Health Organization (URL: http://www.who.int/)
XML	eXtensible Markup Language

Annex: Key figures for budgetary and staff resources

Income 1998–2001

Table 1

	(million EUR)			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
EU	16.5	18.0	18.0	19.0
EFTA	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Miscellaneous revenues	0.1	0.1		0.3
Total	16.9	18.4	18.3	19.6

Expenditure (E) 1998 & 1999, budget (B), 2000 & 2001, and multiannual budget (MAB), 2002 and 2003

Table 2

	(million EUR)					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	E	E	B	B	MAB	MAB
Staff & administration (titles 1 and 2)	9.1	9.25	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.5
Operational expenditure (title 3)	7.8	9.25	8.2	10.6	11.6	12.5
Total	16.9	18.5	18.3	19.6	22.0	23.0

Operational expenditure (Title 3) and related staff allocations (staff months) for 1999–2001 by programme area and project group

Table 3

Programme area and project group	1999		2000		2001	
	1 000 EUR ¹	Months ²	1 000 EUR ¹	Months	1 000 EUR	Months
1. Topic databases and reporting	2 755	48.0	2 415	52.5	2 390	62.5
1.1. Socio-economic data	30	5.0	40	4.5	0	5.5
1.2. Pressures	820	12.0	755	12.0	780	20.0
1.3. State and quality	1 905	31.0	1 620	36.0	1 610	37.0
2. Integrated assessments	1 335	78.0	1 280	100.0	1 800	113.0
2.1. Environmental Issues	765	24.0	915	34.5	1 100	50.5
2.2. Regional assessments	180	24.0	120	19.5	150	16.5
2.3. Sectors and instruments	330	28.0	200	35.0	450	36.0
2.4. Research dissemination, emerging issues	60	2.0	45	11.0	100	10.0
3. Periodical reporting	620	63.0	365	44.5	750	52.0
3.1. The five year report	120	22.0	50	11.0	50	8.0
3.2. Regular indicator-based report	500	41.0	315	33.5	700	44.0
4. Reporting system support	1 190	116.0	1 090	154.5	1 170	171.0
4.1. Scenarios, methodologies, guidelines	410	24.0	420	26.5	510	34.5
4.2. Data and information management	260	37.0	190	39.0	120	39.0
4.3. Public access to information	520	22.0	480	36.0	540	52.0
4.4. Institutional networking	0	35.0	0	49.5	0	45.5
5. Service and network infrastructure	1 900	83.0	1 750	103.0	1 770	98.5
5.1. Information and networking technology	910	40.0	830	36.0	780	38.0
5.2. Information capacities and services	990	43.0	920	67.0	940	60.5
Total allocated to projects	7 800	388.0	6 900	454.0	7 830	497.0
Expert meetings, translations	1 000	—	1 100	—	832	—
Total	8 800	388.0	8 200	454.0	8 662	497.0

Footnotes:

¹the figures for 1999 and 2000 are based on commitments (budget). ²only grades A and B

Table 4 Staff development, 1995–2000 (December), by category

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
A (academic staff)	16	21	25	27	30	28
B (technical assistants)	4	10	12	16	16	17
C (secretarial staff)	9	14	19	20	22	20
D (service staff)	1	2	2	2	3	3
National experts	4	7	5	8	8	8
Total	34	54	63	73	79	76

Table 5 Staff by category and sex on 31 December 2000

Category	Female	Male
A	8	20
B	6	11
C	20	0
D	1	2
National experts	2	6
Total	37	39

Table 6 Staff by category and nationality on 31 December 2000

Category	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	I	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS
A	3	3	2	1	2	2	2	3		1	2	1	5	1
B	2	5	1		1	1		1	1	1		2	2	
C		8	1	1	2	2	1			2			3	
D		3												
National experts			2	1		2		2		1				
Total	5	19	6	3	5	7	3	6	1	5	2	3	10	1