



**MINUTES OF THE 66th MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
held on 20 March 2013**

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board on 26 June 2013

SIGNED

Dr Karsten Sach
Chair, EEA Management

Record of proceedings:

The Chair Dr. Karsten Sach opened the meeting by welcoming new Board members and presenting apologies on behalf of those members unable to attend. The tabled documents were acknowledged during the course of the meeting (list included after the agenda in Annex 1).

Final agenda:	Annex 1
Attendance list:	Annex 2
Action list:	Annex 3
Decision list:	Annex 4
MB seminar outcome:	Annex 5

ITEMS 1-2 FOR DECISION

Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda

The Board adopted the agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/66/01rev.1) without changes.

Item 2 Adoption of the 64th and 65th Management Board minutes, 11-12 December 2012

The Board adopted the minutes of the 64th and 65th MB meetings held on 11-12 December 2012 without changes. The final version (Doc. EEA/MB/66/02- final) of the minutes is available on (Forum).

The members also took note of the tabled MB rolling action list.

ITEMS 3-7 FOR INFORMATION

Item 3 Draft minutes of the 59th Bureau meeting, 5 February 2013

The members took note of the draft minutes from the October Bureau meeting that had been sent to them for information.

Item 4 Update by the Chair (oral)

Under this item the Chair informed of the following:

- Hans Bruynnickx's hearing in the ENVI Committee;
- Call for proposals 4 new ETCs (Air and climate change mitigation; Biological diversity; Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; Inland, coastal and marine waters) circulated to MB and SC on 1 February. Deadline for proposals: 30 April 2013;
- Successful completion MB written procedure Staff implementing rules on conduct of administrative inquires and disciplinary procedures launched on 1 February, deadline 15 February;
- Common Approach on Agencies. The roadmap was circulated on 15 January. The Commission would report at the end of the year on progress made on the implementation plan. Moreover, the Chair informed that the Council requests regular updates on actions undertaken by the Agencies;
- SEIS Implementation Outlook;
- National Experts call 2013.

Item 5 Update by the Scientific Committee Vice-Chair (oral)

Under this item, the Scientific Committee (SC) Chair informed that the Committee had held its first meeting with the seven new members on 26 February, followed by a joint EEA-SC seminar on the input to the EEA strategy. SC members focused in particular on strand 2.

In addition, she reported that two SC members had participated in the finalisation and launch of Late Lessons vol.2, and six members had sent expressions of interest to participate in Advisory Boards within the context of Horizon 2020. She also said that the next EEA-SC joint seminars would focus on uncertainty (October 2013) and on the environmental and health aspects of nuclear contamination (February 2013, jointly organised with the JRC).

In connection with the upcoming seminar on uncertainty, the SC Chair said that the Committee is open to develop an opinion/recommendation on uncertainty, should that be the instruction from the MB.

In closing, the MB Chair invited Board members to put forward any requests or suggestions for future SC opinions/recommendations through the MB Secretariat.

Item 6 Update by the Executive Director

Taking the progress report (Doc. EEA/MB/66/06) as read, the Executive Director highlighted the following topics:

- Late lessons;
- Dublin Eye on Earth users conference;

- Bilateral meetings with DG Environment and DG Climate Actions;
- MoU with ESA;
- Guest scientists.

Concerning the proposal for a guest scientist, the Executive Director said it was a first attempt to proceed in line with the MB decision from December 2012. The Board members reflected on the procedure to decide on future guest scientists, as well as on the length and topic of their assignments. In this particular instance, the representative of the European Commission would welcome a comprehensive overview of the work done by the EEA in urban issues. He informed that within the context of the 7th Environment Action Programme (7EAP), a new strand of activities on energy efficient cities had been foreseen. It was therefore very timely to have an overview of the activities done by the EEA on urban issues.

Further to that, the Executive Director informed in more detail about the planned MoU between EEA and ESA, the purpose of which is to improve and enhance cooperation. The framework agreement would bring clarity within their cooperation by looking at the work programmes of EEA and ESA, and setting up clear roles (“who does what”). On a two yearly cycle an action plan of proposed cooperation activities would be approved. The action plan would be linked to each organisation’s objectives for that period. The Executive Director noted that this agreement was not dependant on Copernicus and drew attention to cooperation activities carried out with ESA in past years ([link](#)). The MoU with ESA will provide the Board with clarity around cooperation between EEA and ESA, a structured and more efficient approach to avoiding duplication and creating synergies as well as visible implementation of EEA Regulation (art 15).

The Chair invited the EEA and JRC to provide the Board with a full overview of their activities in urban issues in time for the MB on 26 June. With regard to the policy on guest scientists, he welcomed the administrative steps taken by the EEA, as well as the early warning given to the MB. On behalf of the members, he requested more details in terms of length and project to be done by prospective guest scientists.

With regard to the MoU EEA-ESA, based on conclusion of the agreement by June, the Chair advised to subsequently review the first draft action plan with ESA due to budgetary and organisational implications.

ITEMS 7-15 FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

Item 7 ETC Topic review 2012-2013 – CLOSED SESSION

The discussions under this item were taken in closed session without broadcast.

The Board provided guidance on the future EEA/ETC work in the areas of waste+, and spatial data integration and analysis. The Board requested the EEA to put forward a proposal for consideration of the Bureau at its meeting in May. The Bureau guidance would then be incorporated into the proposal to be discussed at the next MB meeting on 26 June 2013.

With regard to the future EEA/ETC work in the area of waste+, the EEA would further develop the proposal with a view of agreeing on it through MB written procedure.

Concerning the timetable for the evaluation of bids for the 4 ETCs, the MB delegated the appointment of the Opening Committee to the Executive Director. The MB also agreed on the general composition of the Evaluation Committee and delegated the appointment of the Evaluation Committee to the MB Chair.

In closing, the Chair invited Board members to send feedback by Friday 5 April on future EEA/ETC work in the areas of spatial data integration and analysis. The feedback would include concrete questions to be addressed in the note for discussion at the next Bureau and MB. In addition, Board members were invited to provide input for the Terms of Reference for the future EEA/ ETC work in the areas of waste+ also by Friday 5 April.

Item 8 Approval of the EEA five-year Evaluation report and development of MB response

The MB approved the EEA five-year Evaluation report by COWI, as a contractual deliverable. In addition, the MB agreed on the final version of the MB response to the evaluation report.

In closing, the Chair and Executive Director expressed their appreciation for the independent work carried out by COWI, and to the members of the Evaluation Steering Committee and EEA staff involved in the process.

The EEA five-year Evaluation final report by COWI, Management Board response, EEA management feedback and SC opinion can be found on the EEA website, under the Governance section ([here](#)).

Item 9 Adoption of EEA Data Policy

The MB reflected document presented for adoption, providing further guidance for the finalisation of the data policy. Further to that, the members adopted the EEA Data Policy as set out in the tabled document incorporating their feedback ([link](#)).

The EEA Data Policy has been published on the EEA website under the Corporate documents section ([here](#)) .

Item 10 Approval amendment EEA Budget 2013

The Board approved the first amendment of the EEA Budget 2013, as set out in document EEA/MB/66/10.

Item 11 Update on MASPP (Multiannual Staff Policy Plan) and Budget 2014

The Board took note of the update (see document EEA/BU/60/11), providing guidance on next steps. In particular, the MB advised to wait for formal feedback from the Commission services on the MASPP, inviting the Executive Director to reflect on negative priorities.

Item 12 Conclusions of the MB seminar on EEA strategy, 19 March 2013

With reference to tabled document EEA/MB/66/12 outlining the main conclusions of the seminar on the next strategy ([link](#)), the Chair clarified that the paper was not a negotiated procedure, but based on the Board discussions the day before.

Further to that, the Chair stressed the importance of moving forward with the strategy discussions, in order to be able to decide upon its basic elements at the 67th MB (26 June 2013). In his view, that should be the target of the Board's attention as these elements, when decided, would remain for 5 years.

In the discussion that followed, the Board members reflected on the different strategy elements, such as strengthening the core competences of the EEA to allow new dialogues, strengthening Eionet and other networks, as well as paying careful attention

to priority setting in times of zero growth. Furthermore, focusing on the use of performance indicators was seen as a strong element to be included in the strategy.

In closing, the Chair invited the MB to send feedback on the tabled conclusions until the end of March. Moreover, he thanked all EEA staff involved in the seminar for their work.

Item 13 SOER 2015

The representative of the EEA gave an overview the SOER 2015 [Project Plan \(here\)](#), and reported that this plan had been shared simultaneously with Management Board, Scientific Committee and National Focal Points (NFPs) in March. He highlighted that the SOER 2015 Synthesis report relates to the new general union Environment Action Programme ([link](#)), Part A continues assessing global megatrends, Part B consolidates EEA thematic information, and Part C builds on country information (as discussed with NFPs).

Furthermore, it was proposed – in addition to the two stakeholder workshops proposed in the Project Plan to harvest input – to also focus a Management Board seminar to guide reflections in the SOER 2015. For this, a dedicated Management Board seminar in June 2014 was suggested and discussed. The Management Board felt that such seminar was desirable, however it advised to schedule this already for March 2014 as [this](#) would allow ample time for substantive discussions and further consultations.

The representative of the EEA stressed the overall aim to have SOER 2015 ready for publication and dissemination early in 2015 (i.e. ideally in Quarter 1). In addition, the representative of the European Commission (EC) strongly advised an early release of the report, with previews of main findings already in late 2014. In his view, timing is of essence in the context of a new Commission and Parliament.

The discussion on whether to hold a joint EEA-Dimesa meeting back-to-back with the MB seminar and meeting was postponed to June 2013 when the draft meeting dates would be known.

Item 14 Accounts 2012 and discharge process 2011

Further to the information provided in document EEA/MB/66/14, the Executive Director gave an overview of the closing of the accounts 2012, and informed the MB on the recent developments following the vote at the hearing of the European Parliament's Budget Control Committee on 19 March 2013. The Committee had voted to postpone the discharge of the EEA for the year 2011. The next step would be the vote by the European Parliament in plenary session, expected to take place in mid-April.

The MB took note of the discharge process and of the closing of the accounts 2012.

Item 15 Timetable for the development of EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2012, and delegation to the Bureau

In line with the procedure followed in previous years, the Management Board delegated to the Bureau the review and adoption of the Annual Report 2012 and Annual Activity Report 2012. The two reports will be produced separately, as requested by the Court of Auditors.

The Executive Director pointed out that the Common Approach may foresee one single report in the future, however she stressed the benefits of the two reports as being a good communication tool.

The representative of the European Commission informed that the Secretariat General would issue a recommendation on how to proceed in November 2013.

ITEMS 16-19 – FOR INFORMATION

Item 16 Overview of audits

The MB took note of the update on recent audits (Doc.EEA/MB/66/16).

Further to that, the representative of the European Commission said that the Common Approach on Agencies endorsed the Management Boards of Agencies to follow-up on the recommendations of the Court of Auditors (CoA), and how they are implemented. He felt the CoA recommendations from 2011 had not been fully implemented and asked the Executive Director for clarification. The Executive Director gave an overview of the actions taken, specifically on grant management. Moreover, she reported that actions would be taken later in the year with regard to business continuity.

In closing, the Chair invited the EEA to provide a more comprehensive update on actions taken following the recommendations of CoA and/or IAS (Internal Audit Service), for the next MB meeting on 26 June 2013.

Item 17 Timetable of major MB-related processes

The MB took note of the timetable, inviting the EEA to update it with projects to be developed into 2014.

Item 18 EEA Publication Plan 2013

The Board took note of the EEA publication plan for 2013.

In the discussion that followed, the MB requested a discussion under the guidance section at the MB in November, in order to look at the publication plans for 2014. A first discussion would take place at the Bureau meeting in October 2013.

Item 19 Feedback from members of the Management Board

The Executive Director thanked the MB members for their cooperation during her 10 years as EEA Executive Director. Her second term would come to an end on 31 May 2013, thus this being her last Board meeting. She acknowledged the demands of the governing cycle, congratulating the MB members for the way meetings are run.

In her closing remarks, she said “*the EEA is exemplary, as well as its MB. Thanks for 10 years of service*”.

The Chair and MB members thanked Prof Jacqueline McGlade for her 10 years of service to the EEA and to the environment. The Chair pointed out, as an example of performance indicator, that the Evaluation shows the EEA is successful far beyond EU.

The meeting closed at 16.50

Annex 1 Final Agenda of the 66th Management Board meeting

FOR DECISION

1. Adoption of the draft agenda
2. Adoption of the 64th and 65th Management Board minutes, 11-12 December 2012

FOR INFORMATION

3. Draft minutes of the 59th Bureau meeting, 5 February 2013
4. Update by the MB Chair
5. Update by the SC Chair
6. Update by the Executive Director

FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

7. ETC topic review 2012-2013
8. Approval of the EEA five-year Evaluation report and development of MB response
9. Adoption EEA Data Policy
10. Approval amendment EEA Budget 2013
11. Update on MASPP (Multiannual Staff Policy Plan) and Budget 2013
12. Conclusions of the MB seminar on EEA strategy, 19 March 2013
13. SOER 2015
14. Accounts 2012 and discharge process 2011
15. Timetable for the development of EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2012, and delegation to the Bureau

FOR INFORMATION

16. Overview of audits
17. Timetable of major MB-related processes
18. EEA publication plan 2013
19. Feedback from members of the Management Board

[Tabled documents](#)

ANNEX 3 – Action List

ACTIONS	Status 19 April 2013
To publish on Forum the final minutes of the 64 th & 65 th Management Board	Ongoing
Board members to put forward requests/suggestions for future SC opinions/recommendations through the MB secretariat (i.e opinion/recommendation on uncertainty)	To do
The EEA and the JRC to provide the MB with a full overview of their activities on urban issues in time for the next MB	To do
MB members to send feedback by 5 April on future EEA/ETC ToR in the area of waste+, and future EEA/ETC work in the areas of spatial data integration and analysis	Done
The EEA to further develop the proposal for future EEA/ETC work in waste+ with a view of agreeing on it through MB written procedure	Ongoing
The EEA to put forward a proposal on the future EEA/ETC work in the areas of spatial data integration and analysis for consideration of the Bureau in May. Bureau guidance to be incorporated into the proposal for the MB in June	Ongoing
MB members to send feedback on the tabled seminar conclusions by the end of March	Done
To schedule a MB seminar on SOER2015 in March 2014	To do
To come back to the discussion on the next joint EEA-Dimesa meeting at the June MB	To do
The EEA to provide, for the June MB , a comprehensive update on actions taken following CoA/IAS recommendations	To do
To develop the timetable of management processes beyond 2013	To do
For the MB in November to have a guidance item on the publication plan for 2014	To do

DECISIONS taken at the 66th Management Board meeting, 20 March 2013, EEA

Agenda item	Decisions	Comments
Item 1. Adoption of agenda	Adopted	-
Item 2. Adoption of the 64 th and 65 th Management Board minutes, 11-12 December 2012	Adopted	.-
Item 7. ETC topic review 2012-2013	<p>The Board agreed on the proposed actions for the composition and appointment of the Evaluation Committee.</p> <p>Gave guidance on the future EEA/ETC work in the areas of spatial data integration and analysis and asked the EEA to present a proposal for further consideration to the next Bureau and MB.</p> <p>EEA to further specify the proposal for a future EEA/ETC work in the areas of waste+with a view to agreeing on it in written procedure of the MB.</p>	<p>Agreed on the timetable for the evaluation of bids concerning 4 ETCs; delegated the appointment of the Opening Committee to the Executive Director; agreed on the general composition of the Evaluation Committee; delegated the appointment of the Evaluation Committee to the MB Chair.</p> <p>Board members to send feedback by Friday 5 April on future EEA/ETC work in the areas of spatial data integration and analysis. The feedback would include concrete questions to be addressed in the note for discussion at the next Bureau and MB.</p> <p>Board members to provide input for the Terms of Reference for the future EEA/ ETC work in the areas of waste+by Friday 5 April. The EEA to develop a concrete proposal for the EEA/ETC with a view to agreeing on it in written procedure of the MB. Further to clarify on how to move forward the discussions on resource efficiency, SCP and green economy, taking into account the discussions at the MB seminar and 66th MB.</p>
Item 8. Approval of the EEA five-year Evaluation report and development of MB response	<p>Approved the EEA five-year Evaluation report by COWI.</p> <p>Agreed on the MB response to the evaluation report</p>	Approved the EEA five-year Evaluation report as a contractual deliverable.
Item 9. Adoption EEA Data Policy	Adopted the EEA Data Policy	The EEA Data Policy was adopted incorporating the guidance received at the meeting.
Item 10. Approval amendment EEA Budget 2012	Approved	-

Item 11. Update on MASPP and Budget 2014	Took note of the update and provided guidance on the overall process	The Board recommended a further discussion at the Bureau in May, once the formal outcome of the discussions with the Commission services on the MASPP is known.
Item 12. Conclusions MB seminar on EEA Strategy, 19 March 2013	The Board provided guidance on next steps for the development of the EEA Strategy 2014-2018	MB members to send feedback on the tabled seminar conclusions by the end of March.
Item 13. SOER 2015	Took note of the project plan for the development of SOER 2015, and provided guidance on next steps.	The Board agreed to dedicate the MB seminar in March 2014 to SOER 2015.
Item 14. Accounts 2012 and discharge process 2011	Took note of the update	-
Item 15 Timetable for the development of EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2012, and delegation to the Bureau	The Board agreed on the proposed timetable for the development of the Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2012. The Board delegated the approval of the two reports to the Bureau.	The approval of the AR and AAR 2012 by the Bureau would take place at the 60 th Bureau meeting on 16 May 2013.

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board
on 20 March 2013

SIGNED

Dr. Karsten Sach
Chairman EEA Management Board

ANNEX 5

Item 12
66th Management Board
Doc. EEA/MB/66/12rev.1
18 November 2013

Subject: Outcomes of the MB seminar on EEA Strategy, 19 March 2013

FOR GUIDANCE

A concise summary of the outcomes of the Management Board seminar is presented below, together with summaries of the three working groups. The Board is requested to take note of the outcomes of the seminar and to give guidance on the next steps in the preparation of the EEA Strategy 2014-18 and multiannual work programme.

1. Objective, approach, context

The objective of the EEA Management Board seminar was to give directional guidance on the draft Strategy 2014-2018 based on papers produced by the EEA – a draft strategy proposal anchored around 3 strands; 2-3 key strategic questions within each strand; a reference booklet of supplementary material; and, proposals for ETCs in the areas of “Waste+” and spatial information and analysis.

The approach of the seminar was to work in three groups, corresponding to the three strands, to further inform implementation, assess systemic challenges, and invest in information systems, communication and networking. Working groups reported back in plenary followed by reflections from Karl Falkenberg, Walter Radermacher, Karsten Sach and Jacqueline McGlade and in a round-room discussion.

Four additional factors **provided** a backdrop for the seminar’s considerations: the recommendations of the Evaluation of the EEA (COWI, 2013); the expected EEA support in the Commission proposal for a new general Union Environment Action Programme (EAP); the future of “non-core” budget activities (e.g. West Balkans, Neighbourhood, Copernicus); and, the picture of expected decreasing resources over the strategy period.

2. Strategic reflections across strands

These can be summarised around the three dimensions of SEIS: content, infrastructure, cooperation.

In line with the new EAP proposal, strands 1, 2 and 3 were confirmed as mutually reinforcing each other rather than independent entities. Thus, in addition to continuing to focus on individual priority data flows, more and higher quality usable datasets for multiple purposes across many networks, are essential for better informed policy implementation, including through environmental and ecosystem accounting and indicators. Such datasets can reinforce assessments of systemic challenges, while improved systemic assessments can support policy-makers in designing/revising policies and

implementing existing legislation. These considerations should inform the prioritisation and design of activities in upcoming work programmes.

On infrastructure, strengthening the synergies and links between the SEIS-Inspire-Copernicus nexus was identified as highly relevant for the upcoming 5-year period, guided among others by: the opportunities to bridge gaps in countries' monitoring and information systems; the data, indicators and assessments responsibilities of the EEA; the six actions of the Commission Staff document of 2013 on SEIS implementation outlook; and the Strategic Information and Infrastructure Frameworks (SIIFs) of the 2012 Commission Communication on implementation.

Cooperation via multiple networks, partnerships, shared learning and common goals at regional and global levels to help secure content and infrastructure was identified as the overall strategic vision for enabling the Agency to work smarter and thereby offset, either partly or wholly, the effect of expected resource decreases. This would include, for example broadening and deepening Eionet, strengthening links with EPAs, having a common environmental information approach across MDIAK across European bodies and with countries, and deeper interactions on areas of common interest across the MDIAK chain as well as an active, targeted communication towards stakeholders.

A clear message on priorities will need to emerge in the strategy, although detailed decisions can be left to the Annual Management Plan exercise. The 7EAP provides guidance for priority setting.

Strand 1 summary: see Annex 1 for details

Overall the group recognised and endorsed the directions proposed for the EEA and stressed that efficiency gains can be realised in adapting the set of processes underpinning the implementation support activities and delivery. This support covers the information base as well as the measures and their effects – the knowledge – and interlinks strongly with the systemic aspects articulated in Strand 2 (strengthening the core while facing new challenges). The improvements should be generated from further optimising reporting and data flows, streamlining investments and methods (e.g. indicators) and mutualising further capacities and resources – a common cause of action following SEIS principles. This is crucial at times of new needs for data and reporting (e.g. around industrial emissions) as well as new legislation, in combination with constraints on resources in countries and their deployment. To this effect, more support should be operationalised between countries and EEA and among countries within Eionet expertise and outreach. With regards to the spread of effort, it is assumed that existing activities should be continued as part of the core, subject in their detailed focus and execution to the resource allocations during the programming period. In this context, topics such as soil degradation, sectoral impacts (including the impacts of specific industrial sectors) and urban issues should be given more emphasis. Finally, strengthening EEA capacities in the area of ex-post policy effectiveness evaluation was considered important in this context.

Strand 2 summary: see Annex 2 for details

The working group benefited substantially from the outcome of the Scientific Committee seminar of 27 February that focused on strand 2. This identified four clusters of issues that can be used as foci for addressing systemic challenges: resilience, efficiency, well-being, and behaviour. These correspond closely to the 3 priority objectives of the new EAP proposal. Subsequent discussions identified the Agency as having a clear lead role on resilience, with cooperation being a key approach to address socio-economic phenomena around efficiency and behaviour, and a more open question on well-being. Several tools and approaches were identified (see picture in Annex 2) while in addition discussions highlighted capacity building with countries on, inter-alia, accounting and new indicators to facilitate enhanced integration, and the definition, measurement and practices of green economy. While addressing systemic challenges the EEA should continue to act in a solution-oriented manner, linking its outputs and communication efforts to policy and societal developments. The support of ETCs on sustainable materials management and spatial information was confirmed as well as innovative ways to harness knowledge to support policy (e.g. Late Lessons report).

Strand 3 summary: see Annex 3 for details

The working group confirmed the validity of the EEA Regulation, the benefits of strengthening Eionet (bringing Copernicus into the network) and the mantra “cooperate or die”. The benefits of country visits were emphasised especially in areas needing development – e.g. noise, chemicals, soil, industrial emissions. Also the EEA’s involvement in global and regional conventions will lead to reporting obligations in line with EU priorities – e.g. the chemicals conventions of Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam. The group also highlighted that the strategy should be considered as a guide for those countries interested in taking it up. The SEIS principle of “report once, use many times”, was considered relevant beyond data to encompass for example monitoring and assessments within a regional dimension e.g. Baltic, in line with EU regional strategies. The concept of a European Ecological Area was floated as a way to guide the deployment of SEIS to support systemic challenges and meet upcoming policy targets. Citizens should be recognised as users and potential producers in the next 5-year strategy. Active delivery and communication with all stakeholders remain important to support dialogue and co-creation of knowledge as well as for developing environmental literacy and sustaining public support for environmental solutions.

Copernicus-Inspire and ETCs

The significance of Copernicus and Inspire to the work of the EEA was clearly recognised. Before proceeding further and strengthening links to on-going developments, important clarifications are needed especially concerning the financial and institutional arrangements.

For the ETCs, the importance of the topics was confirmed. The discussions focused on the broad strands of activity and the balance of efforts between EEA and ETCs in each area. For ETC “Waste+” the proposals were broadly endorsed with questions outstanding on relations to the resource efficiency roadmap and green/circular economy concepts and the ETC title.

For the ETC Spatial Information and Analysis, the priority and challenges of spatial data integration were discussed. The user requirements and balance of work between the EEA core activity and ETC were not sufficiently clear to be able to make a decision on this ETC without further clarification. The links to other thematic areas also needed to be elaborated.

Attachments: Annexes 1-3: Summaries of Groups A, B & C respectively

Annex 1: Summary of Group A

Chair: Vanya Grigorova ; Co-chair & Rapporteur: Philippe D'Hondt

The focus of this group was on Strand 1.

1) Concerning areas requiring strengthening:

- Participants agreed fully on the focus to support policy implementation as summarised in the 5 bullet points in the table on page 10 of the seminar booklet.
- Comments made were not on the content, but more on the processes.
- The process of cooperation between EU and other organisations (produce data once - but multiple use).
- The need to improve capacity building (reference was made to incomplete data sets e.g. priority flows).
- The group added that implementation, should be supported both by technical information (i.e. Data) and by monitoring the effect of measures (i.e. Policy effects) – i.e. the knowledge base.
- It was also stressed that the strategy should take on board the recommendation from the 5-years evaluation especially Recommendation 1: Strengthen dialogue with stakeholders (e.g. EEA should organise more country visits, learning top /down and bottom-up).
- The strategy should also contribute to better understanding and explaining the inter-linkage between different sectors and themes in view of enforced policy coherence.
- Under the heading “what topics are missing or should get more emphasis” the following items were identified:
 - Urban environment issues
 - Soil degradation and landscape
 - Ex-post policy effectiveness analysis
 - Existing datasets should be used for better/deeper analysis of the impact of certain industrial (sub) sectors (e. steel industry) in order to better understand effect of measure/trends/ investments.

2) With regard to areas which should continue:

- The cooperation with the west Balkans and neighbourhood cooperation should continue. The level of cooperation and the amount of efforts will however depend on the continuity of extra funding.
- As far as Copernicus is concerned the group was of the opinion that, in so far as it is possible from an administrative point of view, the EEA should stay involved in the programme and be responsible for the coordination of some of the services (also with regard to the budgetary advantages this could offer).

The EEA can play a role in:

- Better specifying the demand side (since Copernicus is supply oriented)
- Standardizing and validating the information needed
- 3) & 4) Refocusing of areas / areas to be addressed through partnership with others.

With regard to:

- Regional and international cooperation

- Communication activities
- Citizen science & alike,

the group was of the opinion that these activities should be continued as long as these support and reinforce the activities as set out in strands 1 & 2.

In that respect the activities mentioned above should be subject to an evaluation and recommendation on a case-by-case basis.

Concerning European Topic Centres:

- ETC “Waste+”: This ETC was supported and is considered to be necessary, but aspects of dematerialisation/prevention/secondary materials/nutrient recovery (example phosphate) must be stressed. Proposed name of ETC: Waste and material resource efficiency.
 - ETC spatial data integration: the group did not reach a unanimous view. There were some very strong pleas in favour (with ETC: cost efficiency guaranteed; without ETC: high cost/no efficiency) but some doubts remained. A better match between the outline of work for the future ETC and what remains to be done by the EEA needs to be made.
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Annex 2: Summary of Group B

Chair: Elisabeth Freytag; Co-chair & Rapporteur: Nuno Lacasta

The focus of this group was on strand 2.

Summary

The working group benefited substantially from the outcome of the Scientific Committee seminar of 27 February that focused on strand 2. It identified four clusters of issues that can be used as foci for addressing systemic challenges: resilience, efficiency, well-being, and behaviour. These correspond closely to the 3 priority objectives of the 7EAP proposal and the group felt that such correspondence is crucial. Subsequent discussions identified the Agency having a clear lead role on resilience, while (resource) efficiency, behaviour and well-being obviously require intense partnerships and cooperation with other organisations. Several tools and approaches were identified in this regard. Discussions also highlighted the importance of capacity building with countries on, inter-alia, accounting and indicators to facilitate enhanced integration, and the definition, measurement and practices of green economy. While addressing systemic challenges, the EEA should continue to act in a solution-oriented manner, linking its outputs and communication efforts to policy and societal developments. The support for ETCs on "Waste+" (perhaps to be named "sustainable materials management") and the need for ETC focus on spatial information were addressed as well as innovative ways to harness knowledge to support policy (e.g. Late Lessons report). Finally, the group recognized the importance of EEA involvement with the Copernicus project.

The group's task was further facilitated by 3 specific requests from the MB chair: 1) clear views on themes for the EEA to work on, recalling strand 2 on systemic challenges; 2) views on Copernicus and the EEA; and 3) views on the ETCs.

1. Systemic challenges themes for the EEA: "Doing better with less"

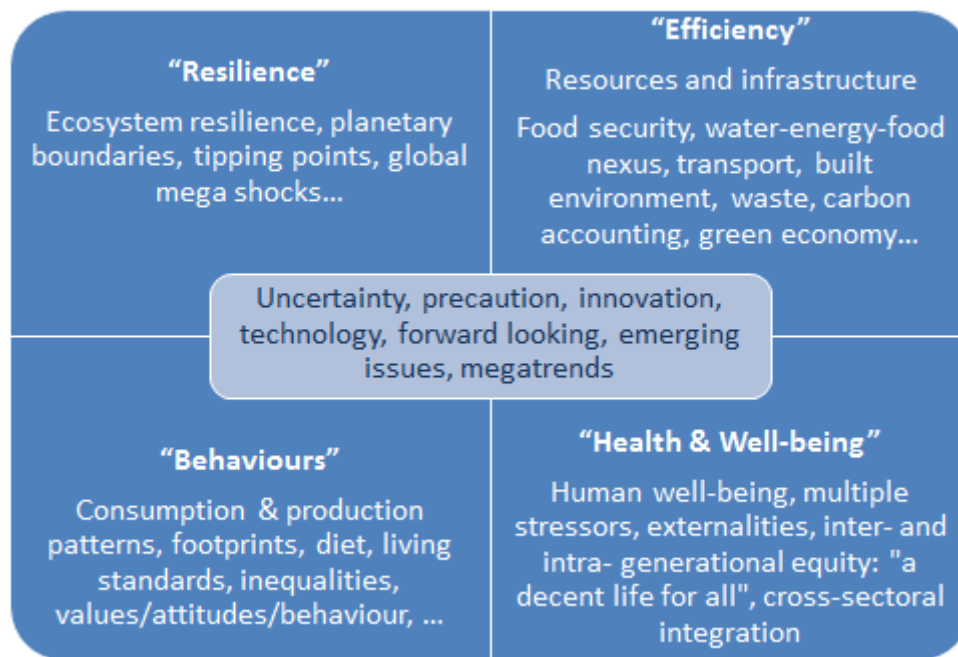
In a resource constrained context, need to have a clear view of products the EEA puts out. Also, need to substantially enhance cooperation and collaboration with other organisations and with member countries so as to maximize outputs and indeed project the EEA's profile.

Participants highlighted the perennial importance of closer cooperation and synergies between the EEA and member countries by, in particular, enhancing support to member countries through the Eionet network. Ideas such as summer schools, country visits were raised.

The EEA's core tasks of data gathering and monitoring need strengthening. Issues of data quality and use were mentioned, as poor quality naturally raised the uncertainty of assessments/analyses. The role of Eionet is of course pivotal but also new forms and tool were mentioned i.e. Copernicus and even citizen monitoring.

The group considered it useful that the EEA continues looking into systemic challenges. The SOER is a flagship product and should remain so (as well as by-products). Need however to focus on clear and rather few themes and in particular prioritise specific outputs. Need to distinguish between "must have" and "nice to have" outputs.

Bridge the EEA work to the 7EAP - the link with this is crucial. The 7EAP narrative on preserving natural capital, resource efficiency/green economy and improving data/knowledge is the appropriate guidance. The diagram below (drawn from the scientific committee's seminar) reflects that interplay:



Irrespective of key systemic challenges themes, participants mentioned that some themes are of a cross-cutting nature, such as addressing uncertainty and further working on the precautionary principle. Also, the green economy work was deemed cross-cutting. Worth highlighting is the reference to Environment and health, as participants recognised this theme as an important one and as a theme that the EEA should play a role in.

Also key is realising that with less resources we need "smart" approaches: foster partnerships and cooperation with and between organisations (EC DGs, Eurostat, OECD, UN...), and crucially with Member States/countries. Capacity building and cross-fertilisation for and with Member States/countries was highlighted by participants.

2. Copernicus

The group recognised the importance of continued engagement between the EEA and Copernicus. This involvement should include accessing and using data (and perhaps even providing data flowing from EIONET), but also in contributing to and participating in Copernicus governance. In short, Copernicus can/should play an important role in EEA activities going forward, and also may help with additional resources. Synergies are evident.

3. European Topic Centres

The group was rather clear on the support for a new "Waste+" ETC. There was general agreement that its name should change, perhaps along the lines of "sustainable materials management". On the spatial ETC, the theme's importance was duly recognised by participants, but it was also highlighted that at this stage it is still rather unclear whether a new ETC is needed.

Participants suggested instead that a look into the existing ETC on spatial issues might be more appropriate. In that regard it was mentioned that its mandate can be extended for a couple more years and then reviewed in light of expanding its role to cover the issues under discussion with regard to this topic.

Annex 3: Summary of Group C

Chair & Rapporteur: Andrzej Jagusiewicz

Co-chair: Koen de Snoo

The focus of the discussion of this working group was on strand 3, considered as “the life-blood of the system”.

Areas requiring strengthening

Before considering new elements into the next 5-year work programme of the EEA, the tasks covered by the EEA Regulation i.e. Art.2 and 3 should be duly addressed, in particular for topics such as chemicals and soil which are currently not well covered by the EEA work programme. Strengthening of these areas involving Eionet is needed and the revision of partnerships or technical arrangements with other stakeholders will be required. Duplication with other international organisations/Agencies should be avoided (e.g. WHO).

New elements for areas requiring strengthening resulting from the proposed 7EAP as well as other strategic documents (for instance, recent developments in context of Industrial Emission Directive) will need to be considered for the 5-year planning. This will as well define the future work of ETCs. The Eionet Priority Data Flows will need to be updated within the next strategy period to respond to the needs that will come forward from the work programme 2014-2018 (to be agreed) i.e. as part of the 7EAP related priority areas and the reviewed set of indicators. The importance of high quality data underpinning knowledge, and knowledge about the quality of data was underlined.

In line with the recommendation of the 5-year evaluation of the EEA, further strengthening and expansion of Eionet collaboration is needed and should be considered as first priority for EEA as a networking organisation. A seminar in 2013 with Eionet to discuss the re-enforcement of the network is strongly supported. This should include as well a reflection on the way how EEA and Eionet will work together with other networks.

The group considered it important to stress the need for presence of EEA staff in the countries e.g. through country visits. The enhanced interactions between the national and the European will result in mutual benefits for both levels, including efficiency gains in delivering the tasks that will be included in the work programme.

The EPA network is in some cases doing parallel work with Eionet; hence closer linking with Eionet would be beneficial. The level of outcome of the regular meetings could be upgraded. A regular reporting from the EPA network meetings to the EEA Bureau or Management Board could be considered useful. Better interaction between both networks should be further explored.

SEIS should remain central in the next 5-year work programme for securing and for further development of the EEA and Eionet data and information flows. The working group supported the proposed actions for SEIS as reflected in the SEIS implementation outlook.

The EEA can bring added-value as an information provider for regional assessments such as bio-geographical regions, river catchments, mountains, cities in the next 5-year work programme. The organisation of regional visits is encouraged, complementing the country visits in a cost efficient manner.

Areas requiring support outside the core budget

The group expressed clear support to continue including the West Balkan countries in all EEA information and reporting activities. Furthermore, the group also expressed support to continue the collaboration with the EU Neighbourhood countries, including country visits, to be supported by the necessary funding mechanisms.

Continuing with Copernicus as part of the EEA work programme is considered logical and should be seen as an opportunity. Careful analysis of the risks together with the opportunities is needed. Risks could include creating an imbalance in resource allocation within the EEA work programme, as well as the potential exclusion of EEA member countries in services. Some elements related to the upcoming Copernicus Regulation and related funding are still unclear and as soon as this missing information becomes available, the role of the EEA in the new Copernicus programme should be further discussed at the EEA Bureau meeting and put forward for decision at the next Management Board meeting.

As part of the streamlining process, as recommended in the action list of the SEIS implementation outlook, the EEA should consider to also look into streamlining of monitoring as part of its possible role within the Copernicus programme.

The next 5-year strategy should secure that all EEA member countries can be covered by activities, including Copernicus related activities such as Corine land cover which would become part of the Copernicus land monitoring services. An example is the case of Switzerland which should not appear as a white spot on the map in EEA products and services, as it was the case for instance in the 2012 water reports.

The potential opportunities that Copernicus is providing to EEA and Eionet should not be underestimated when addressing the risks of including Copernicus in the core activities of the EEA. This includes amongst others the challenges to deal with big data, spatial data infrastructure developments related to Inspire, streamlining of national monitoring. On this last point, the principle of monitor once, and use for multiple purposes should be pursued.

Areas to be refocused in light of resource constraints / Areas to be addressed through partnership with others

The importance of citizens as users and potential producers of data and information should be reflected in the next strategy. The EEA should build on previous experience and lessons learned how to get these stakeholders involved.

On regional and international cooperation, it remains important for the EEA to cover and secure Europe's input into the global reporting. The EEA profiled itself during the past 5-years as a world-class leader in the provision of high quality data and information about Europe's environment.

Participations in meetings with regional and global conventions e.g. Alpine, Carpathians, Basel, etc. could be explored, when in line with EU policy priorities, as an efficient way forward to address some of the topics which are currently not well covered by the EEA and Eionet. Closer involvement of Eionet partners could offer as well a strong potential.

Finally, the role that an ETC could play to work together with the countries and the European level on the inter-linkages between SEIS, Inspire and Copernicus should be brought into the discussion of the new ETCs.
