European Environment Agency

70th Management Board
Doc. EEA/MB/70/02-final
17 June 2014

MINUTES OF THE 69th MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
26 March 2014

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board on 17 June 2014

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 conclusions:	Annex 5
MB seminar minutes:	Annex 6 (to be inserted when available)

TEMS 1-2 FOR DECISION

Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda

The Board adopted the agenda with one change. The information item on the Eionet review, new NRC structure, was moved to the decision section becoming item 18. The final agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/69/01rev.2) is in annex 1 to this minutes.

Information on latest developments regarding Copernicus was given under the Executive Director´s update.

Item 2 Adoption of the 68thManagement Board minutes, 27 November 2013

The Board adopted the minutes of the 68th Management Board meeting held on 27 November 2013 without changes. The final version (Doc. EEA/MB/69/02- 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 62nd Bureau meeting, 11 February 2014

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

Item 4 Update by the Chair (oral)

Under this item the Chair reported on the following:

- meeting with West Balkan Directors attended by Bureau members on 24 March. The meeting showed a vast interest in strengthening cooperation between countries in the region. At the proposal of Austria, this cooperation would be a main priority for discussion in the next EPA meetings (May and September).
  The presentations of the meeting would be circulated to the MB when available;
- successful completion of four MB written procedures on the amended budget 2014, ToRs ETC ULS, Staff implementing rules (1st batch), and Eurostat work programme 2014;
- ongoing MB written procedures: Staff implementing rules (2nd batch);
- update on Common Approach for EU Agencies. Council evolving on conflict of interest (CoI) issues and other horizontal matters. The Chair recommended to keep in touch with horizontal colleagues at national level for follow-up;
- MB Chair post. As announced in December, the Chair's second term will come to an end on 31 August 2014, therefore elections for a new MB Chair would be needed in June. The election process would be launched in April by a letter from the Chairman;
- Vice-Chair/Bureau member: the MB RoP foresee up to 5 Vice-Chairs/Bureau members, therefore there would be elections in June to cover for the 5th Vice-Chair post.

In addition, the Chair informed that a new MB written procedure on the new IPA grant / amended Budget 2014 would be launched in April.

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

On behalf of the SC Chair, the Head of Programme Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA) reported on:

- SC 5 year work programme, approved by the Scientific Committee in February;
- Joint SC-EEA seminar on Environment, Health and Wellbeing (February), with particular focus on H2020 challenge 5. A comprehensive report of the day's events would be available in April and subsequently shared with the MB.

In addition, he said that the next joint EEA-SC seminars would focus on the SOER 2015 Synthesis (May) and on ecosystems (October).

Item 6 Update by the Executive Director

Taking the progress report as read (see Doc. EEA/MB/69/06), the Executive Director highlighted:

- meetings with Commission services on marine topics, greening the semester, the launch of the TERM report, and the EEA MAWP 2014-2016;
- meetings with EP/Environment Committee members (Mr Groote and Mr Gerbrandy), including the presentation of the MAWP 2014-2016 before the Environment Committee;

- meetings with Member States, including a country visit to Malta, and visits of the State Secretary of Slovenia, Minister of Environment of Norway, and Ambassador of Italy in preparation of the Italian Presidency.
- meeting in UNEP.

In addition, the Executive Director said that the EEA had been closely following the developments in the area of Copernicus, and reported on the work done in cooperation DG Environment regarding the delegation agreement. As to Copernicus budget, the Executive Director informed that it had been settled, he foresaw that resources for any additional staff to work in this area would come from this budget, not the general EEA budget.

ITEMS 7-18 FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

Item 7 ETC topic review 2012-2013/2014

The Board agreed with the proposed timetable for the designation of the ETC ULS, and the composition of the Evaluation Committee (see document EEA/MB/69/07).

In addition the Board delegated the designation of the Opening Committee to the Executive Director, and delegated the designation of the Evaluation Committee and Agency staff involved in the pre-screening of proposals to the Chairman of the Management Board.

Item 8 Conclusions MB seminar SOER 2015 - Synthesis report

The MB took note of the tabled conclusions from the MB seminar of the EEA SOER 2015, agreeing to send feedback to the EEA by 15 April 2014.

The seminar minutes would be developed by the facilitators of the meeting and circulated as soon as available.

Item 9 SOER 2015

The Executive Director and HoP IEA gave an update of the progress in the development of the SOER 2015 to date. In addition, the HoP Communications (COM) presented a proposal for the communication strategy of the SOER 2015.

The Board provided guidance on the different parts of the SOER 2015 report and its communication strategy; as regards to the Part C country fiches, the MB reflected on the state of affairs, clarifying that the country to country review was not a peer review but a learning process. In closing, the Chair encouraged MB members to work closely with NFPs and the EEA in this regard.

Item 10 Indicators, joint MB-Dimesa seminar (18 June)

The MB welcomed the proposal for the joint MB-Dimesa seminar on indicators, and provided guidance on how to stimulate cooperation between the two communities, advising the EEA to develop a road map with the different actors. The MB further advised focusing on the two first priorities of the 7th EAP, namely natural capital and resource efficient economy, which are common interest of the EEA and Eurostat. In the background documentation information, on systemic transition should be made available.

The EEA would further discuss the proposal with Eurostat taking into account MB guidance; the outcome of the discussion would be presented to the Bureau for guidance at the May meeting.

Item 11 Scientific Committee call 2014

With regard to the SC call 2014, the Executive Director reported that the EEA was currently developing a proposal taking into account the turnover of SC members in 2014 and 2016 and needs in line with the MAWP 2014-2016.

In closing, the Chair recommended not waiting for a huge call in 2016, rather a call in 2014 in view of replacing the two departing SC members; he would favour a proposal for reflection at the Bureau on areas of expertise, and further consultation with the SC Chair and SC members in advance of the MB in June. Members were asked for written proposals within the next two weeks.

Item 12 Update Draft Budget 2015, AWP 2015 highlights, and Multiannual Staff Policy Plan (MASPP)

The Board took note of the state of play of the draft budget 2015 and MASPP, as set out in document EEA/MB/69/12, and provided guidance on the highlights of the Annual Work Programme 2015.

Item 13 Endorsement of Internal Audit Service (IAS) strategic plan 2014-2016

The Board endorsed the IAS strategic plan for 2014-2016, as requested by the Internal Audit service (for more information see document EEA/MB/69/13).

Item 14 Accounts 2013 and discharge process 2012

The HoP Administrative Services (ADS) reported that the Accounts 2013 had not received any preliminary findings from the Court of Auditors. The next step would be the MB approval of the Accounts 2013 in June 2014.

With reference to the Discharge 2012, he informed that process was running smoothly, although the issue of Board members´ CVs had arisen again.

Concerning the CVs of MB members, the Chair reminded everybody that experts in horizontal issues in the Member States (MS) had taken the view that it is the responsibility of the MS to ensure at national level that the Board member and alternate do not have conflict of interests.

The MB took note of the accounts 2013 and provided guidance on the discharge process 2012.

Item 15 Development of Policy for the management and prevention of conflict of interests

The Board endorsed the proposal for the development of an EEA Policy for the management and prevention of conflict of interests, as set out in document EEA/MB/69/15.

The EEA would aim at having finalised the exercise in time for MB approval on 17 June 2014.

Item 16 Observer from non-EU Member State in the Bureau

The Board members endorsed the MB member from Norway as the Observer from non-EU Member State in the Bureau.

The Observer status in the Bureau would be effective as of 8 May 2014 (63rd Bureau), for a period of two years.

Item 17 Procedure and timetable for the development of EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2013

The Board endorsed the procedure and timetable for the development of the EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2013, and delegated the approval of the Annual Report 2013 to the Bureau.

In line with the procedure followed in previous years, the Annual report 2013 and Environmental statement 2014, and the Annual Activity report 2013 will be produced as separate documents as requested by the Court of Auditors.

Item 18 Eionet review, new NRC structure

The MB approved the new NRC structure as outlined in document EEA/MB/69/18.

It was agreed that the NRC structure would be considered as a living structure to be reviewed in the future, if need be.

With regard to NRC and related expert meetings, Board members invited the EEA to consider an advance planning of back-to-back workshops to minimise the impact that attendance to these meetings have on national resources.

ITEMS 19-22 – FOR INFORMATION

Item 19 Overview of audits

The MB took note of the update on recent audits (Doc. EEA/MB/69/19).

Item 20 Timetable of major MB-related processes

The Board took note of the major MB-related processes for 2014. An update reflecting the Board discussions on the SOER 2015 to the end of the year, and possibly an early overview of 2015, would be developed for the MB in June.

Item 21 EEA Publication Plan 2014

The MB took note of the publication plan for 2014 as set out in document EEA/MB/69/21.

Item 22 Feedback from MB members

Under this item, Neven Voća (MB Croatia) thanked everybody for their attendance to the events organised in Zagreb, he also thanked the EEA staff that had co-organised the week's events.

The MB Chair thanked Mr. Voća for hosting the events in Zagreb, and for the countless hospitality and swift organisation of the meetings.

The meeting closed at 13.30

ANNEX 1 – Final agenda 69th Management Board
Wednesday, 26 March 2014, Zagreb (Croatia)

FOR DECISION

1. Adoption of the draft agenda
2. Adoption of the 68th Management Board minutes, 27 November 2013

FOR INFORMATION

3. Draft minutes of the 62nd Bureau meeting, 11 February 2014
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 2012-2013/2014
8. Conclusions MB seminar SOER 2015 – Synthesis report (*title tbc)*
9. SOER 2015
10. Indicators, joint MB-Dimesa seminar (18 June 2014)
11. Scientific Committee call 2014
12. Update Draft Budget 2015, AWP 2015 highlights, and Multiannual Staff Policy Plan (MASPP)
13. Endorsement of Internal Audit Service (IAS) strategic plan 2014-2016
14. Accounts 2013 and discharge process 2012
15. Development of Policy for the management and prevention of conflict of interests
16. Observer from non-EU Member State in the Bureau
17. Procedure and timetable for the development of EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2013, and delegation to the Bureau
18. Eionet review, new NRC structure

FOR INFORMATION

19. Overview of audits
20. Timetable of major MB-related processes
21. EEA publication plan 2014
22. Feedback from members of the Management Board

Tabled documents

69 MANAGEMENT BOARD AND SEMINAR - Attendance list
Zagreb, 24 - 26 March 2014

COUNTRY		*NAME*	*ORGANISATION*	*CASTLE VISIT AND DINNER, 24th*	*SEMINAR AND CELEBRATION DINNER, 25th*	*MEETING, 26th*
CHAIRMAN		Karsten SACH	Chairman of the EEA Management Board	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
AUSTRIA	*Member:*	Elisabeth FREYTAG-RIGLER	Bundesministerium für Land-und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Alternate:	Georg REBERNIG	Umweltbundesant	**CONFIRMED tour APOLOGIES dinner**	**CONFIRMED**	**APOLOGIES**
	Expert:	Wilhelm VOGEL	Head if International Affairs	**APOLOGIES**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Expert:	Florian EYWO	NFP	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Expert:	Violeta PHILIPPITSCH		**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	
BELGIUM	*Member:*	Philippe D'HONDT	Flemish Environment Agency	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Alternate:	Francis BRANCART	European Policy and International Agreements	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**
	Expert:	Jan VOET	NFP	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**APOLOGIES**
BULGARIA	*Member:*	Vanya GRIGOROVA	Bulgarian Environment Agency	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Alternate:	Philip PENCHEV	Bulgarian Environment Agency	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**
	Expert:	Rositsa KARAMFILOVA		**APOLOGIES tour CONFIRMED dinner**	**CONFIRMED**	**APOLOGIES**

COUNTRY		NAME	ORGANISATION	CASTLE VISIT AND DINNER, 24th	SEMINAR, 25th	MEETING, 26th
CROATIA	Member:	Neven VOĆA	Croatian Environment Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate.	Savka KUČAR DRAGIČEVIĆ	Croatian Environment Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Rene VUKELIĆ	Croatian Environment Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	
	Expert:	Ivana Lampek PAVČNIK	Croatian Environment Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	
	Expert:	Branka ILAKOVAC	Croatian Environment Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	
	Expert:	Hana MESIĆ	Croatian Environment Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	
CYPRUS	Member:					
	Alternate:	Charalambos HAJIPAKKOS	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					
CZECH REPUBLIC	Member:	Michal PASTVINSKÝ	Ministry of the Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Kristýna VOJTÍŠKOVÁ	Ministry of Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED vegetarian w/ fish
	Expert:	Jarmila CIKÁNKOVÁ	NFP	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
DENMARK	Member:	Mikkel AARØ-HANSEN	Danish Ministry of the Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Henrik Hedemann OLSEN	Danish Nature Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:	Thomas Nicolai PEDERSEN	Danish Ministry of the Environment	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Hannibal RASMUSSEN	Climate change adaptation, water sector and groundwater	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED as nfp	CONFIRMED as expert
ESTONIA	Member:	Allan GROMOV	Ministry of Environment	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:					
	Expert:					
FINLAND	Member:	Laura HÖIJER	Ministry of Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Pekka HARJU-AUTTI	Ministry of Environment	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED vegetarian w/ fish
	Expert:					
FRANCE	Member:	Bruno VERLON	Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Guillaume COUNIO	Sous-Directeur Régulation Européenne	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					

COUNTRY		NAME	ORGANISATION	CASTLE VISIT AND DINNER, 24th	SEMINAR, 25th	MEETING, 26th
GERMANY	Member:					
	Alternate:	Julia WERNER	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz & Reaktorsicherheit	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Christina PYKONEN	NFP	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
GREECE	Member:	Maria Peppa	Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Nicholas Mantzaris	Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					
HUNGARY	Member:	Istvan TEPLAN	National Institute for Environment	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED vegetarian w/ fish
	Alternate:	Krisztina PRÉM	Ministry of Rural Development	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					
ICELAND	Member:	Hermann SVEINBJÖRNSSON	Ministry of Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Gunnar Steinn JONSSON	The Environmental Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					
IRELAND	Member:	David WALSH	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Laura BURKE	Environmental Protection Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:	Micheál LEHANE	NFP	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
ITALY	Member:	Giovanni BRUNELLI	Ministero dell'Ambiente	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Valeria RIZZO	Ministero dell'Ambiente	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:	Claudio MARICCHIOLO	NFP	APOLOGIES tour CONFIRMED dinner	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
LATVIA	Member:	Alda OZOLA	Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Inita STIKUTE	Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:	Ansis GRANTINS	Member of the Board, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES

COUNTRY		NAME	ORGANISATION	CASTLE VISIT AND DINNER, 24th	SEMINAR, 25th	MEETING, 26th
LIECHTENSTEIN	Member:	Helmut KINDLE	Director National Office of Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:					
	Expert:					
LITHUANIA	Member:	Aldona MARGERIENE	Environmental Protection Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Vytautas NARUŠEVIČIOUS	Environmental Protection Agency Activity Planning and Publilc Information Division	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					
LUXEMBOURG	Member:	Eric DE BRABANTER	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Pierre PRUM	NFP	maybe joining for dinner depends on flight arrival	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:					
MALTA	Member:	Vincent CASSAR	Malta Environment and Planning Authority	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Suzanne GAUCI	Malta Environment and Planning Authority	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:					
NETHERLANDS	Member:	Koen de SNOO	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Dick C. De BRUIJN	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (I&M)	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Kees SCHOTTEN	NFP	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
NORWAY	Member:	Kari HOLDEN	Data, Climate and Pollution Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Øystein NESJE	Ministry of Environment	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:					
POLAND	Member:	Andrzej JAGUSIEWICZ	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Lucyna DYGAS-CIOLKOWSKA	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:					

COUNTRY		NAME	ORGANISATION	CASTLE VISIT AND DINNER, 24th	SEMINAR, 25th	MEETING, 26th
PORTUGAL	Member:	Nuno LACASTA	Ministério do Ambiente, do Ordenamento do Território e do Desenvolvimento Regional	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Ana Teresa Perez	Portuguese Environment Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Expert:	Luis MORBEY	Portuguese Environment Agency	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED veggie w/ fish
	Expert:	Sofia RODRIGUES	NFP	APOLOGIES tour CONFIRMED dinner	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
ROMANIA	Member:	Mihail FĂCĂ	National Environmental Protection Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Gabriela VASILIU-ISAC	NFP	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:					
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Member:	Martin VAVŘINEK	Slovak Environmental Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Katarína KOSKOVÁ	NFP	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:					
SLOVENIA	Member:	Joško KNEZ	Environmental Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED
	Alternate:	Gregor SLUGA	Environmental Agency	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Barbara Bernard VUKADIN	NFP	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
SPAIN	Member:	Guillermina YANGUAS MONTERO	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Elisa RIVERA MENDOZA	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentacion y Medio Ambiente	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Nieves MESTRE MORALES-ALBO	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentacion y Medio Ambiente	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
SWEDEN	Member:	Maria ÅGREN	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Martin ERIKSSON	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Ninni BORÉN	NFP	CONFIRMED tour and dinner	CONFIRMED NO to dinner	APOLOGIES
SWITZERLAND	Member:	Bruno OBERLE	Federal Office for the Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Alternate:	Gérard POFFET	Federal Office for the Environment	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED
	Expert:	Nicolas PERRITAZ	NFP	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED

COUNTRY		NAME	ORGANISATION	CASTLE VISIT AND DINNER, 24th	SEMINAR, 25th	MEETING, 26th
TURKEY	*Member:*	Mustafa ÖZTÜRK	Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**
	Alternate:	Mehmet SATILMIŞ	General Director of Environmental Impact Assessment	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Expert:	Gökşin TEKINDOR	Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
UNITED KINGDOM	*Member:*	Deborah PETTERSON	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**
	Alternate:	Peter HELM	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Expert:	Martin FOWELL	NFP	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**APOLOGIES**
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Nicholas BANFIELD		DG Environment	**Only for the WB meeting not tour nor dinner**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Maria BETTI		JRC	**APOLOGIES**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED not lunch**
	Peeter PÄRT		JRC	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Velina PENDOLOVSKA		DG Clima	**APOLOGIES**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Kurt VANDENBERGHE		DG Research	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**
	Renzo TOMELLINI		DG RTD	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED APOLOGIES dinner**	**APOLOGIES**
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	Peter HENNICKE		Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**
	Christian HEY		Umweltfragen	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**	**APOLOGIES**
	Michael SCOULLOS		University of Athens	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**	**CONFIRMED**

EEA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	Sybille van den HOVE	Chair of EEA Scientific Committee Median SCP	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Ole HERTEL	University of Århus	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Jiri HŘEBÍČEK	Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses (IBA)	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Mogens HENZE	Technical University of Denmark	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Richard JOHNSON	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Ulrike KASTRUP	Focus Terra - Earth Sci Res & Information Centre	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Eckart LANGE	The University of Sheffield	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Peter NOVAK	Energotech Engineering	CONFIRMED tour APOLOGIES lunch + dinner	CONFIRMED APOLOGIES dinner	APOLOGIES
EEA STAFF COMMITTEE	Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK	Project Manager - NSV1	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
EEA STAFF	Hans BRUYNINCKX	Executive Director	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Peder JENSEN	Head of programme - PAN	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES
	Jock MARTIN	Head of programme - IEA	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Paul McALEAVEY	Head of programme - ACC	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Søren NIELSEN	Head of programme - ADS	APOLOGIES	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED
	Katja ROSENBOHM	Head of programme - COM	APOLOGIES	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Ronan UHEL	Head of programme - NSV	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Teresa RIBEIRO	Head of Group - IEA1	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	APOLOGIES
	Petra FAGERHOLM	Head of group - EDO1	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Thomas HENRICHS	Project Manager - IEA0	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Elena OSTÁRIZ	Management Board Secretariat - EDO0	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED
	Pernille FOLKMANN	Secretary - IEA0	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED	CONFIRMED

ANNEX 3 – Action List

ACTIONS	Status 15 April 2014
To publish on Forum the final minutes of the 68th Management Board	Ongoing
MB Chair to launch the election process for a new MB Chairperson and the 5th Vice-Chair/Bureau member in April	Done
To circulate the presentations from the West Balkan meeting when available	To do
MB members to send proposals for SC areas of expertise in view of a call in 2014	Done
MB members to send feedback on the tabled seminar conclusions	Done

DECISIONS taken at the 69th Management Board meeting, 26 March 2014, EEA

Agenda item	Decisions	Comments
Item 1. Adoption of agenda	Adopted with a change	Item 19 was moved to the Guidance/Decision section; the numbering of the agenda was consequently amended.
Item 2. Adoption of the 68th Management Board minutes, 27 November 2013	Adopted	-
Item 7. ETC review 2012-2013/2014	Agreed with the proposed timetable for the designation of the ETC ULS, and composition of the Evaluation Committee	Delegated the designation of the Opening Committee to the Executive Director. Delegated the designation of the Evaluation Committee and the Agency staff involved in the pre-screening of proposals to the MB Chair
Item 8. Conclusions MB seminar SOER 2015 – Synthesis report	Took note of the tabled conclusions and provided guidance	Board members to send feedback to the EEA by 15 April. The seminar presentations and report will be circulated as soon as available.
Item 9. SOER 2015	Took note of the development of the SOER 2015 and proposed Communication strategy. - review	The MB clarified that the country to country review was not a peer review but a learning process.
Item 10. Indicators, joint MB-Dimesa seminar (18 June 2014)	Provided guidance on the proposal for a joint seminar MB-Dimesa on 18 June	The EEA will further discuss the proposal with Eurostat; the conclusions to be presented to the Bureau on 8 May.
Item 11. Scientific Committee call 2014	Took note of the oral update	MB members to send feedback by 15 April on possible areas for the next SC call this year. A developed proposal will be presented to the Bureau on 8 May, following MB feedback and consultation with the SC Chair.

Item 12. Update Draft Budget 2015, AWP 2015 highlights, and Multiannual Staff Policy Plan (MASPP)	Took note of the state of play of the draft budget 2015, MASPP and provided guidance on the highlights of the AWP 2015	-
Item 13. Endorsement of Internal Audit Service (IAS) strategic plan 2014-2016	Endorsed	-
Item 14. Accounts 2013 and discharge process 2012	Took note of the accounts 2013 and provided guidance on the discharge process 2012	-
Item 15. Development of Policy for the management and prevention of conflict of interests	Endorsed the proposal for the development of an EEA Policy for the management and prevention of conflict of interests	-
Item 16. Observer from non-EU Member State in the Bureau	Endorsed the MB Norway as the Observer from non-EU MS in the Bureau	Norway´s Observer status in the Bureau will be effective as of the 63rd Bureau on 8 May 2014, for two years.
Item 17. Procedure for the development of EEA Annual Report and Annual Activity Report 2012, and delegation to the Bureau	Agreed with the proposed timetable and delegated the approval of the final draft of the Annual Report 2012 to the Bureau	-
Item 18. Eionet review, new NRC structure	Approved the new NRC structure	The NRC structure would be considered as a living structure, to be reviewed if need be.

Approved by the Chair of the Management Board
on 26 March 2014

SIGNED

Dr. Karsten Sach

TABLED

European Environment Agency

ITEM 08
69th Management Board
Doc EEA/MB/69/08
26 March 2014

Subject: EEA SOER 2015 Seminar 25 March 2014

FOR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

This note provides a summary of the EEA SOER 2015 Seminar. In doing so, it highlights key outcomes from discussions on 2050 visions, the draft SOER synthesis annotated outline, prospects for the knowledge base for long-term transitions, and subsequent EEA initial reflections.

Context

The EEA SOER 2015 seminar engaged some 80 participants – from Management Board and Scientific Committee, as well as National Focal Points and EEA staff – in a reflection on the environmental knowledge base required to underpin the long-term ambitions that underpin the 7th EU Environment Action Programme (7th EAP).

The discussions were anchored in the wider context of the EEA's MAWP 2014 to 2018, and set out to inform the drafting of the SOER 2015 Synthesis in particular. Furthermore, a dedicated background paper supported this EEA SOER 2015 seminar. Specifically, the seminar focussed on a set of three objectives:

- To reflect on environment and climate related visions in EU policies and their relevance for long-term societal transitions processes;
- To consider the knowledge base needed to inform long-term transitions processes, and the role the EEA can assume in this regard;
- To inform SOER 2015 Synthesis drafting accordingly – based on an annotated outline provided as separate document for feedback.

The seminar addressed these three objectives in three distinct sessions, each introduced by a short presentation by EEA colleagues. Participants then engaged in facilitated discussions to explore the above points further. A dedicated workshop report will provide a full account; this note highlights key outcomes and reflections.

Key outcomes

1. The SOER 2015 Synthesis approach proposed by the EEA has been broadly confirmed. The annotated outline lends itself to addressing in a balanced way past environmental performance, today's European and global realities, as well as long term perspectives for environment and climate policies, their role in society, and influence on natural resources.

2. On European policy visions an overarching take-away messages is that the role of environment policies in society needs to change, become more upstream in focus and more central to important societal examples, such as innovation, employment, and ageing population. In the near-term, the Synthesis should take into consideration the EU 2020 Strategy, and its relevant flagship commission initiatives

3. On the knowledge base, a main issue was how to balance continued efforts on established knowledge elements, increased demands for evaluations of policy successes, and the need to upscale efforts on the less mature knowledge needs for long-term transitions. The Synthesis should give some pointers in this direction. Beyond this, there is a need to reflect on Eionet's role in the changing knowledge landscape.

4. On the use of knowledge, the EEA, the MB and the EIONET must play a much more active role in helping other actors understand how our contributions can be translated to their realities. This includes an active engagement in both SOER 2015 completion, and subsequent dissemination and outreach activities. Such other actors include those with most influence and leverage across the systems of production and consumption, and increasingly influential global players such as China and India.

5. There was a recognition that to be most useful for policy makers the concluding section of the synthesis would benefit from balancing between the overall framing of knowledge base needs and developments in support of long-term transitions on the one hand, with concrete examples of existing mechanisms and processes for change that could be of immediate utility for policy makers on the other.

6. The 7th EAP offers many pointers on knowledge needs for existing and future policy-making and an ambitious timeframe to 2020 for their realisation. Given the short-time scale and high ambitions, seen against past developments in the knowledge base, there would be merit in analysing more closely the 7th EAP needs and reflecting on the role of EEA stakeholders and other networks in moving towards a shared European knowledge base for sustainable development.

SOER 2015 Workshops

EEA Management Board Seminar

25 March 2014

Zagreb

Seminar report

INTERNAL DOCUMENT
FOR USE BY EEA ONLY

Prepared by:

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Date: 10 April 2014

Version: 1.1

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1. Introduction

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is mandated to publish a State and Outlook of the Environment Report (SOER) every five years, to evaluate the European environment's state, trends and prospects. These 'European Environment: State and Outlook' reports are a flagship product of the EEA.

To date, the EEA has produced four SOER reports — in 1995, 1999, 2005 and 2010. They have been consistent in providing a comprehensive environmental assessment, which aggregate environmental information in an accessible manner. However, during this period both our understanding of environmental challenges in Europe and the environmental policy context in the EU have evolved.

The next SOER report — 'The European Environment: State and Outlook 2015' — is planned for publication during the first quarter of 2015. As with previous reports, the overarching goal of SOER 2015 will be to provide policymaking agents and the public with an assessment based on objective, reliable and comparable environmental information.

SOER 2015 is structured into four main parts. Three of them address environmental challenges at contrasting scales: an assessment of global megatrends (Part A), thematic European assessments (Part B) and country-level state of the environment information (Part C).

The fourth part, a SOER 2015 Synthesis, will provide a strategic integrated assessment based on three main sources of information:

- key conclusions from the other three SOER 2015 parts (i.e. Parts A, B & C);
- reflections based on other EEA assessments and related activities;
- two stakeholder workshops and an EEA Management Board Seminar.

Particularly the latter are a new feature in the approach used by the European Environment Agency to inform an SOER process. With this, we are hoping to engage selected societal stakeholders (via the two workshops) as well as country representatives (via the seminar) in reflections about differing perspectives on the prospects for the environment in Europe.

SOER 2015 stakeholder workshops on environmental transitions

The discussions at the stakeholder workshops will be anchored in the EU's long-term strategic planning, for example the vision for 2050 set out in the 7th Environment Action Programme (i.e. *In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits*) as well as other environmental visions and targets as highlighted in European policies.

Against this background, the Management Board Seminar has the following objectives: (1) reflect on environment and climate related visions in EU policies and their relevance for long-term societal transitions processes; (2) consider the knowledge base needed to inform long-term transitions processes, and the role the EEA can assume in this regard; (3) inform SOER 2015 Synthesis drafting.

Format of the Management Board Seminar

The Management Board Seminar took place on 25 March 2014 in Zagreb and was guided by professional facilitation. The seminar involved 78 participants: country representatives from the

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Management Board, country representatives to support the Management Board, scientific committee members, EEA staff and representatives of European Institutions in the Management Board.

From the outcomes, the EEA will extract insights and inputs for its own analysis in the SOER 2015. Participants have agreed to work with Chatham House Rules related restrictions on quotations.

2. Agenda of the Seminar

	What?	Who?
9:00	Registration desk opens	
	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	
10:00	Opening remarks & welcome	Karsten Sach, MB Chair & Neven Voča, Executive Director Croatian Environment Agency
	Introduction to the workshop	Facilitation Team, Prospex
	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE VISIONS	
10:30	The EU visions for 2050	Hans Bruyninckx, EEA Executive Director
	Reflections regarding the vision	Participants, facilitated by Prospex
12:30	Lunch break	
	RELEVANCE FOR THE SOER 2015 SYNTHESIS	
13:30	Outline of SOER 2015 Synthesis	Thomas Henrichs, EEA
	Key points to consider in the Synthesis	Participants, facilitated by Prospex
14:30	Break	
	REFLECTING ON THE KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR LONG-TERM TRANSITIONS	
14:45	The knowledge base status and prospects	Introduced by Jock Martin, EEA
	Bridging the gap to long-term transitions	Participants, facilitated by Prospex
15:50	Panel discussion	Panellists, facilitated by Prospex
16:50	Conclusions	Karsten Sach, MB Chair
17:00	**END OF DAY'S WORK**	

Presentation by Steven Libbrecht: Project and Workshop objectives

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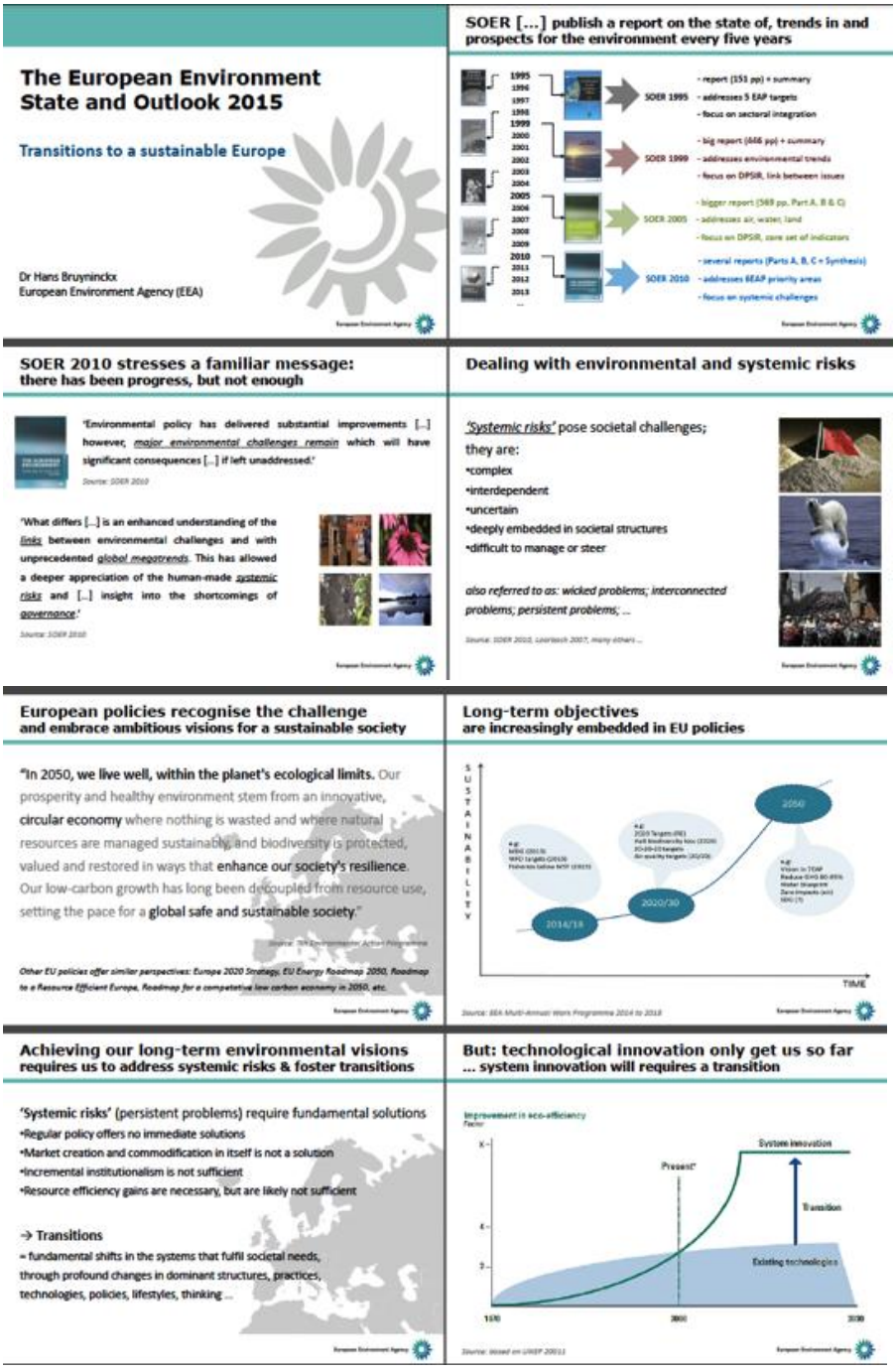
3. The EU Environmental Visions for 2050

Presentation by Hans Bruyninckx: The European Environment State & Outlook 2015



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To reach ambitious environmental visions

Not just incremental efficiency gains ...

nor new technologies only ...

... but also a different systemic (re-) thinking.

Resource efficiency gains remain necessary ...

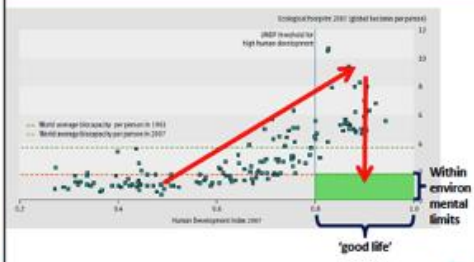
Resource efficiency	Ecosystem resilience
Greenhouse gas emissions	Global climate change
Transboundary air pollution	Marine biodiversity
Air pollution	Air quality in urban areas
Maritime transport emissions	Terrestrial biodiversity
Water use	Water status
Decoupling / recycling	Ecological footprint

Key: improving / stable / mixed progress / deteriorating

... but they alone will not guarantee resilient ecosystems ...

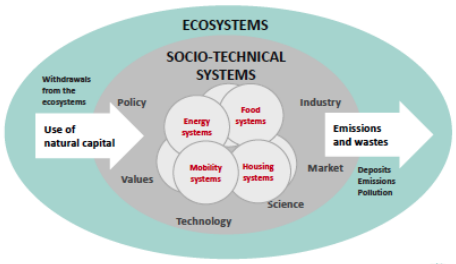
Source: based on EEA Indicator Report 2012

... nor enable all to live the good life within limits.

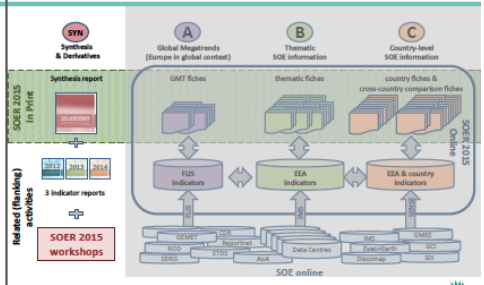


Source: based on UNEP 2012

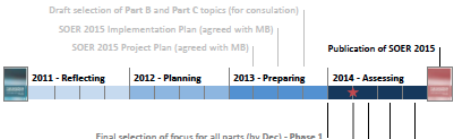
Societal transitions
are at the core of addressing environmental challenges



SOER 2015
A suite of products and processes



SOER 2015
The path from SOER 2010 to SOER 2015



I look forward to discussing with you ...

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Comments (c), questions (q) & answers (a) to the presentation:

- ***Q: You said problems are embedded in the social constructors, so how would we remedy that? How do we change society? I think this was not covered enough in the presentation and we should focus on this issue.***
  A: I think this is very much part of the debate that we will be having. In the morning we will address what this vision really means and how we go about this and how you see these processes. In the transitions paradigm there are some clear indications as to how this could happen. To a certain extent it is a combination of working at a high level with setting goals and visions, and a niche level; you allow experimentation with different types of practices, different technologies, different norms and values and how people go about transport and mobility or food. It is very much at the heart of what we will be doing in this morning session.
- C: You said that we need to come from one model of society to another model of society and I would add that we need to discuss how we change the model of society. By using the term "transition" we don't explain that it is not about incremental movement or improvement, but that it really is a challenge.
  A: A couple of points you raised are essential. The vocabulary and the discourse that we use in actually shaping and framing reality are essential. Yes, we will need to clarify concepts that will allow us to think outside of the box and reframe things. An example would be, if we talk about "economic growth" or "green growth", you could also use terms like "economic performance", "economic innovation", "economic competitiveness", because growth has certain connotations and there are other ways of framing things. I tend to use the term "systemic transition"; by adding the term systemic it becomes more precise and clear what we mean. Will it take time? Yes but our framing should also move away from the notion that we still have a very long time to get going at this in a more essential way, because probably we don't have that time. The language should allow us to embed a sense of urgency. And I completely agree on the point on society and I think we should frame things as "low carbon society", because it is not only low carbon economy and it will require more than just changing a few things in the economy. We need to carve out a space that allows us to think outside of the embedded, locked-in practices that we have.
- Q: ***The understanding of global trends seems to be absolutely crucial but what does it really mean in the context of scenario thinking? Is it business-as-usual path of development or can we change it when we set targets on a local, national and on a global scale?*** It seems to be locked-in those global trends, which we cannot change, but it could be a contradiction to all the targets and the decoupling ideas. I think we should be very precise about what are real trends in reference cases and what we can change.
  A: Yes and we have to respond to those issues in the EEA. What does it mean in our scenario work and trends work? What kind of methods do we use to look forward? How do we integrate European dimensions into broader, global, systemic dimensions? All of those matter but I think it even goes beyond that, because when we talk about different levels, we still stick to the traditional state system boundaries: the national, the European, the local. They are all administrative, political boundaries. I also think we need to open up to think about governance along production and consumption chains that exist, which is an even broader challenge.

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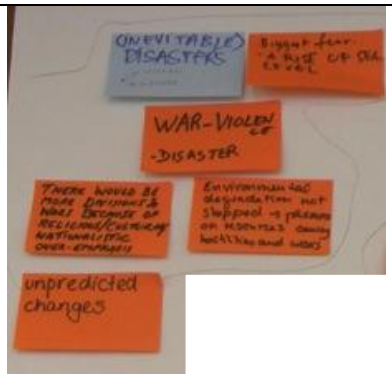
3.1. Hopes and Fears

Identification of hopes and fears with regard to the EU environmental visions for 2050 in three participant groups.

Group 1

Cluster: Quality of political leadership (empowerment, quality of democracy, good governance)	
Hopes: - That citizens prioritize concrete changes/political decisions - Mitigation/adaption measure in (least) developing countries - Real implementation of EU environmental vision - Adoption of a xxx strategy - Sectoral policy coherence rooted in participatory processes - Finding the right solutions, which will lead to the prevention of the global risks	
Fears: - Lack of systemic integrated approach, e.g. "blackmails" (no jobs, industry, disaster, environment) - Too ambitious, frustration, unclear transition - Politicians not courageous - That citizens don't prioritize concrete changes/ political decisions - Misunderstanding of politics and governance - Trade-offs and conflicts on resources not addressed by governance - Not able to give a good example	

Cluster: Inevitable disasters	
Hopes: - n/a	
Fears: - A rise of sea level - War-violence-disaster - There would be more divisions & wars because of religious/cultural/nationalistic over-emphasis - Environmental degradation not stopped → pressures on resources causing hostilities and wars - Unpredicted changes	

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Cluster: Solidarity	
Hopes: - The broad scope enables and underpins a broad societal transition - All actors play the game, i.e. adhere to the systemic transitions - Changing the (economy driven) mainstream egoism to solidarity - Individual and societal behaviour changes	
Fears: - Human nature → Individualistic - Will be difficult or living it because of diversity - 2050 vision is obtained by societal divisions, great inequalities. - Vision is too fluffy/complex - Losing people in the transition to populists	

Cluster: Eco-awareness/Quality of life	
Hopes: - My children will understand and follow the visions we bring - Humans realize better their inner essence and inter-connectedness with the nature - 2050 vision achieved in a way that enables social equality - Meeting all objectives leading to a better quality of life - Better quality of life/environment - To be alive myself and my beloved	
Fears: - Not experience positive change in terms of life span	

Cluster: Green economy/Economic fundamentals	
Hopes: - Economic necessity help and foster changes to improve environment - Paradigm change: energy, transport, production - Change of business models, including consumption patterns & banking (long vs. short-term)	
Fears: - Slow change dependence conventional energy	

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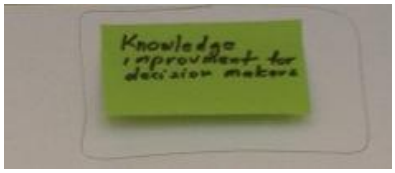
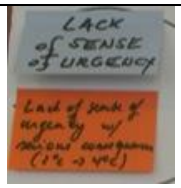
Cluster: (no name)	
Hopes: - Knowledge improvement for decision-makers	
Fears: - n/a	

Additional note on the clustering in Group 1:

There are five big clusters and one small one. The clustering process went very smoothly and the group saw patterns emerging very quickly. The biggest cluster is what was originally called the "quality of political leadership", which includes a lot of fears but also some hopes. When gradually adding more meaning to the cluster the group started think that maybe the cluster should be called "empowerment (of the citizens)" or to which extent are politicians able to empower citizens. Another idea was to label it "quality of democracy" or "good governance". The other important cluster is "solidarity", which has to do with fears that inequality and individualism dominates in society but also with hopes that there would be a societal transition and everything would converge into the same direction. Another important cluster was first called "quality of life", i.e. do people experience a better quality of life? After some discussions it became obvious that this cluster has to do with "eco-awareness". Thanks to their positive experiences, people became more environmentally aware. Another cluster concerned "economic fundamentals" or alternatively the title could be "green economy". This cluster has to do with paradigm change at the level of energy, transport and production, and it deals with changing business models. The cluster "inevitable disasters" can relate to disasters created by human beings or natural disasters. Finally, there was one isolated hope, forming a cluster on its own and inspired by the presentation of this morning, which is "knowledge improvement for decision-makers". The group could not fit that in any of the other clusters and left it on its own.

Group 2

Cluster: Lack of sense of urgency	
Hopes: - n/a	
Fears: - Lack of sense of urgency with serious consequences (2°C → 4°C)	

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Cluster: "Big", "hard" economy	
Hopes: - n/a	
Fears: - Banking system resilience of multis to change - More market, less sustainable society - "Distributional blindness" – too many losers - Drive for growth (non-sustainable) - People benefiting from vision ≠ people having to pay for it	

Cluster: Sustainable governance/politics (T/D)	
Hopes: - Development of countries - European policies become coherent and "decoupling" is properly integrated in all of them - Governments will internalise long-term thinking	
Fears: - Interfering of the politics; high demands - Unstable political situation not allowing the transition - Europe splits and decoupling policies are abandoned - Geopolitical differences: It's not real to expect everybody to live well and sustainable at the same time - "Politics" overpowers long-term strategic thinking - Vision → long-term, politics → short-term (controversy) - Some countries don't follow - Short-term orientation of politics	

Cluster: Information & participation	
Hopes: - Improvement in communication - Public awareness will push environmental issues high in the political agenda	
Fears: - That those who 'own' key information on environment will fail to share it	

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Cluster: Behaviour/social	
Hopes: - On-going drive to re-think way we live - Renewed models of ownership (collective/individual) - The wisdom of the crowd is substantially enabled by social media → consumer power! - Change of public awareness & mentality - More cohesive Europe, less countries - People support the goals, solar energy prevails - Sustainability at local, national and global level	
Fears: - Borders: person, family, state, EU…	

Cluster: Mega trend awareness	
Hopes: - Sustainable urban areas - That action to eliminate life-shortening poor air quality will have succeeded - Sustainable nobility work & life go together	
Fears: - All global "megatrends" will develop according to BAU (Business as usual) - Consumption behaviour remains the same - Global population growth	
Fears: - Regional planning ≠ come along growth	

Cluster: Innovation	
Hopes: - The younger generation & shale gas - Creative out-of-the-box niche developments → away from lock-ins - Sustainable energy (no nuclear, no fossil) has been established globally → step to "great transition" - Successful pilots (for empty green area) - Abundant green resources	
Fears: - Regional planning ≠ come along growth	

Additional note on the clustering in Group 2:

The group had some little difficulties with, on the one hand, coming up and singling out the themes, and on the other hand with maintaining the interconnectedness of all themes. In the

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end the group decided to have one major theme, which is at the centre of the discussions and which is feeding into the other clusters. This cluster is called "lack of sense of urgency" and it is a fear on its own. The "lack of sense of urgency" is feeding into the cluster of "governance, politics", which the group had difficulty labelling, but in the end decided to add "sustainable" to the cluster title. This cluster includes a lot more fears than hopes but does this mean that the group is pessimistic about it? No, it is just that the group perceives that a lot of the challenges we are facing are related to governance and politics. If we want to reach the vision it would require politicians to shift their short-term focus to really working on long-term goals and objectives, which is not that easy. In the end, it is about making sure that the vision is not just words on paper but that it is guiding us in our daily activities. The "lack of sense of urgency" also triggers the thought that there is a need for "information and participation", which requires improvement in communication and public awareness. The "lack of sense of urgency" also allows the "hard" economies and big players (i.e. the symbols of an economic system that we would not like to continue) to keep their position and create a strong lock-in and maintains the status quo. Of course there is also good news, because we see a lot of hope, e.g. on the level of "behaviour/social" where people are willing to experiment with renewed models of ownership and where people support the goals. At the same time there are many borders, e.g. on the individual level or between families or our role in society and it is not always easy to deal with that. The cluster "mega trends awareness" is clearly linked to the lack of sense of urgency and one mega trend was singled out as extremely important and that is the global population growth. The cluster "consumption behaviour" is in a way part of the "lack of urgency", but it also links to the "mega trends awareness" and "behaviour/social" dimension. The cluster "innovation" at the beginning had some overlap with "behaviour/social", because we see the need for innovation, but also we have this dream that energy is not an issue anymore in the future and there will be abundant green resources. The hope is that innovation can help to make this dream possible.

Group 3

Cluster: Global community	
Hopes: - More effective participation of all environmental stakeholders - Every idea counts, system will process them in appropriate way (implementation of the best of them) - In the next decade we are well on our way to a sustainable society without force and legislation	
Fears: - No international agreement on solutions	

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Cluster: Global economy	
Hopes: - Economic growth is not the main goal any more - Circular economy might be possible to developed by 2050 - Explain "circular economy" - EU can be led by example - Transition in global government and state of mind could eventually happen	
Fears: - Another (economic) crisis diverting attention away from sense of urgency - Economic crisis destroys achievements - Global economic developments negate EU ambitions/action	

Cluster: Citizen/society/behaviour	
Hopes: - A big crisis convincing us that systemic change is the only way out - Citizens making a quick change - Define progress in terms of well-being/living well - Common change in attitude to environment - Future generations automatically include environment in their lifestyle choices	
Fears: - The disbelief in trends and XXX in regional economies prohibits sustainable development - No public awareness and no political willingness for actions - Transition paradigm is not taken on by society - Personal gain gets in the way of progress for all - Hard to change way of thinking/behaviour - Big business/economies are not ready/willing - Society is not ready for changing behaviour	

Cluster: Energy/innovative action	
Hopes: - Energy saving - Electrical cars and alternative energy - Car no longer solution	
Fears: - Negative impact of technology on resources	

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Cluster: Political action/global	
Hopes: - Political awareness and political willingness for action - Developed countries will better understand needs of undeveloped and developing countries - Sustainable use of resources will change behaviour for not-believers - Peace and welfare for each inhabitant of the planet	
Fears: - Social problems because of scarcity of resources - Political instability - Political decisions coming too late to reach target goals (2°C) - North-South splitting - Too stressed people with big needs - The system will not change quick enough to enable jobs (recession will continue) - Global conflicts! Seem to be a constant, which will remain an obstacle for nicely set goals	

Cluster: Global health	
Hopes: - Resource efficiency and ecological resilience - Maintained biodiversity - Fresh water for all; good practice on table	
Fears: - Global warming and its consequences - Get ecological crisis leading to lack of food - Impacts of climate change come quicker than we can respond (instead of react) - Awareness of politicians saving nature	

Additional note on the clustering in Group 3:

The group identified one political cluster called "political action", which includes similar items to the ones mentioned in the other groups. It includes a lot of issues on how politics are failing but also a great deal of hope that with political actions can be led by citizens and sustainable use of resources will change the behaviour of society and our political classes. The next cluster is the "citizen", which reflects society as a whole and again some of the fears voiced that the transition paradigm cannot be taken up by society and that we find it too difficult and our personal gain gets in the way. There is a whole sub-cluster around the need for communication

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and to communicate effectively. There is also a lot of hope in the cluster, namely that citizens make a quick change, because there is a big crisis that convinces us to change the system. Change is also seen in terms of economy ("global economy" cluster) and the fear is that the economic crisis destroys our achievements and that global economic development is negated and the crisis is diverting our attention away from really important issues. However, there is also a lot of hope in that cluster, e.g. a circular economy, which helps us begin to see other main drivers instead of economic growth. In the cluster "global community" the group realised that there is a big problem in creating international solutions, which is that there are no agreements. In comparison there is hope that we would be more effective in allowing the participation of all environmental stakeholders at a global level. Similar to the other group, there is a global, natural science cluster (titled "global health"), worrying about what is happening to the planet and about global warming and its consequences; but hoping that we can maintain biodiversity and that we learn to water sustainably. The last cluster has two titles "energy" or "innovative action" and the fear is that technology often brings about negative consequences, e.g. fracking is not really helping the environment. Of course there are also hopes that our technological advances will help us solve the problems.

General comments on the hopes and fears and the clustering:

Are there any significant differences between the groups? Is there anything that strikes you?

- One of the things that strike me is that the second group is a lot more into action, actionable futures and innovation. They are more about bringing solutions to the table, whereas the other groups seem to be more passive and observant.
- I think that all groups have more or less tackled the same issues in very similar ways. The mega trends are there and there is a need to address them. An important thing is how we can link the individual and the political processes to solve the problem. There is a bottleneck on how we transfer the willingness of individuals in a democratic way into policies and politics. The fear is that we cannot obtain that with the existing system, but we need to have a transition there. I think that was mentioned in all groups. Innovation is a hope – and all groups touched upon that - but it is just a tool, because the fear of new problems arising from innovation was also raised.
- It strikes me that we are more or less going in the same direction and having the same ideas. This might mean that we are convincing the convinced. Nobody talked about big economic growth as a hope and nobody was defending the global economy as it is. Within this little group we might be convinced where we have to go to, but be aware that there is a different world outside of this room.
- My observation is very similar. It is obvious that we all share similar thoughts about our future and what we can do. However, we are not alone and there is a global society outside of Europe and the European Union. On the political level we must do everything we can, so that our colleagues understand that the situation is problematic and it will be even worse in 50 years.

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- If this is a vision or think tank exercise, it would paint a better picture if there were people in this room representing insurance companies, banks and industry, because otherwise this is an orchestra where you only have violins but no other instruments. Translating that, I think it would be beneficial to involve other stakeholders.
- In a very superficial exercise to summarise the groups, I would say that we have one on politics, one on civil society and one on resources. What strikes me is that the bridge between those three parts, the decoupling, has not been mentioned. And by that I refer to both the decoupling of growth of happiness and lifestyle from GDP, and the decoupling of GDP from resources, as well as decoupling resources from impacts. I think bringing the three areas together will be one of the key answers.
- We have to see the big economic players as part of the solution and not just as part of the problem, because we will need to get the capacity to engage them in a positive future-oriented process. There is a strong link with policy-making, because it is the policy framework that allows them to do certain things or encourages them to go in certain directions or not. I see a strong link with creating a more positive drive.

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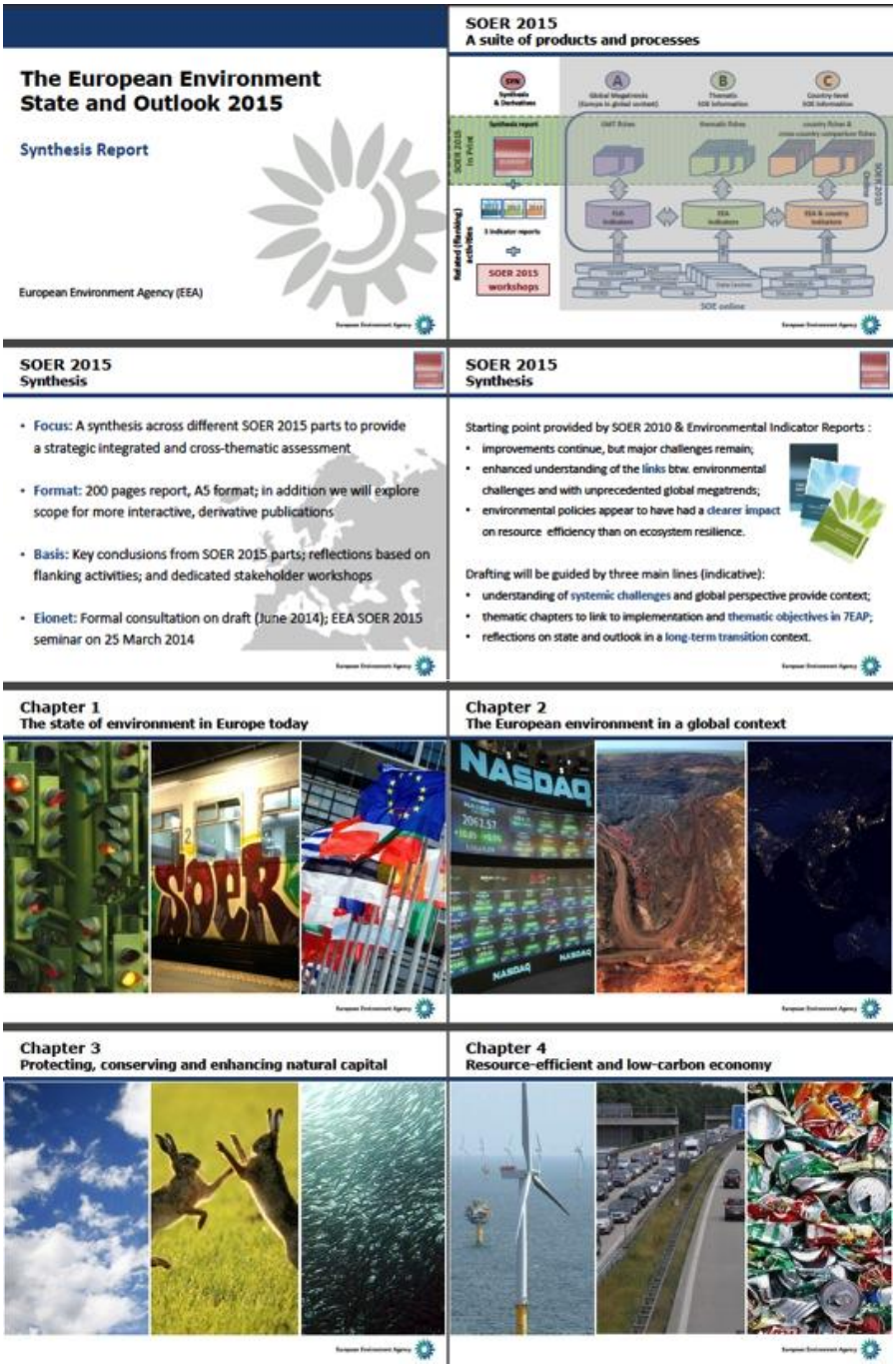
4. SOER 2015 Synthesis

Presentation by Thomas Henrichs: The SOER 2015 Synthesis Report



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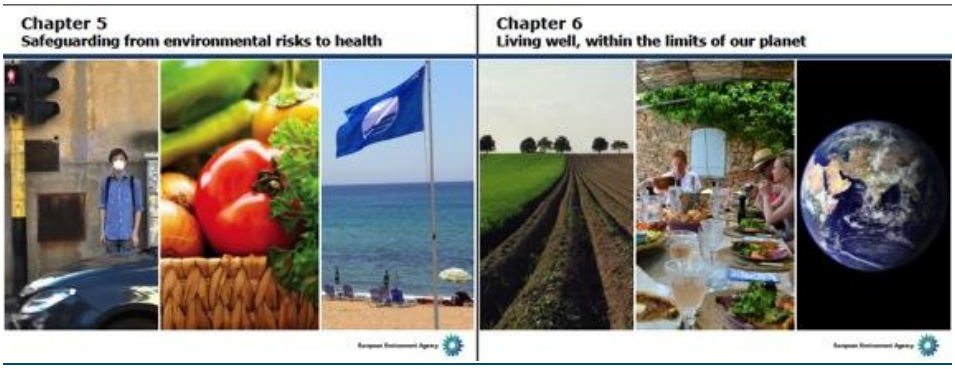

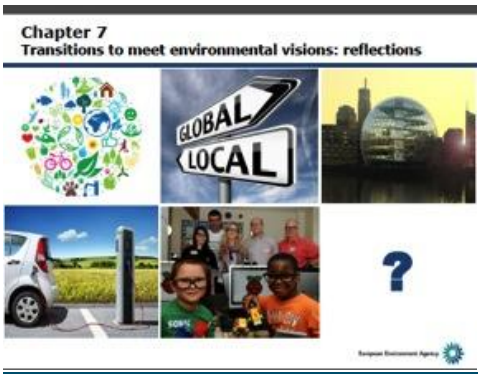

Comments (c), questions (q) & answers (a) to the presentation:

- ***Q: Are 25,000 words enough to tackle the challenges we identified in the morning?*** The synthesis is going to be translated in all national languages and it is important to put all challenges in these 25,000 words. It is also important to promote the synthesis in our countries. ***So how do we promote the synthesis?***
  A: Given 25,000 words, we are able to make the middle chapters about 5,000 words and the first and last chapter about 2,500 words each. For some people this sounds like far too much, while others wonder if that is really enough to say everything. We deliberately wanted to stay within the margins of the previous SOER report, because we felt that we hit the right spot in terms of length for policy-makers that take the time to read it. I don't think we can go beyond that limit; also because of the costs of production and translation accumulate. So the challenge for us is to use the 25,000 words to most effect. With regard to the promotion it links to the broader discussion, because there is a dedicated communication activity for the SOER 2015 and one of the cornerstones of that is that we want to use the whole year of 2015 to engage society or actors that you identify in your

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countries in discussions about SOER 2015. We are very keen to have that debate and we feel that just delivering the report would not be enough.

- ***Q:*** The overall structure of the seven chapters is convincing. ***My first question is on chapter four, where you have the title of the 7th EAP "Resource efficient and low carbon economy". Should it be "economy" or "society"?*** We had that debate this morning already. ***Do we stick to the formulation of the EAP or do we allow ourselves to think a bit further? The second question is on chapter seven, which is about "transitions to meet environmental visions"; whereas I agree that this makes up the core, I wonder if it is only about environmental visions or is it broader?***
  A: Yes, the titles link to the 7th EAP, but for strategic reasons it might be worthwhile keeping them and then open up for society in chapter six and seven, but there still is room to discuss this a bit further. With regard to the title of chapter seven: We as an agency, get our mandate from the environmental area and less from the sustainable development area. However, I would argue that sustainable development without the environment is pointless, and it many ways while environment without a sustainable development context is equally pointless.
- Q: Let me come back to your first thesis that environmental policy has a clearer impact on resource efficiency than on ecosystem resilience. ***My question is whether this is really true.*** I think it depends on what we mean when talking about ecosystem resilience. ***But if it is true, then what are the reasons behind it?*** Within ecosystem resilience the question of sustainable consumption and lifestyles is embedded and that is one of the problems that we have. Or do you say that from the production side we have had a lot of success in raising resource efficiency yet not enough, because it is not an absolute decoupling, it is relative decoupling. ***So what does it really mean?***
  A: We did an exercise for the resource efficiency indicators in 2012 and we outlined how we got to the general conclusion. Of course there is a little bit of artistic freedom, because it is not as clear-cut. Resource efficiency is often only a relative decoupling in most cases or where we have it is not sufficient to create a resilient environment, not even looking at the society. There is a lot of discussion around relative decoupling versus absolute change and there is more detail on that discussion to be included in the report.
  Additional answer: The policy instruments (e.g. regulation or market-based instruments) tend to be designed with efficiency, pressure reduction in mind. I don't think we have a policy instrument cabinet, which is well developed when it comes to resilience, so there might be a relationship between policy instruments and the clear impact they had on efficiency.
- C: I come back to the question on chapter seven. In my view, when we are talking about transition, we need to take into account the other EU policies and I don't see that in the presentation. For example with regard to the blue growth issue we are talking about following the global trend or about reorienting them. I have a problem with that, because we have several policies - and this is only one of them – where we have to tackle the EU thinking. I know the limits of the agency but it is also like hiding behind our finger, if we don't get into the system.

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A: This was one of the internal discussions we had and maybe the presentation was leaning more towards an environmental discussion, but chapter one has to make the link to blue growth, but also to the EU 2020 strategy and to innovation policy discussions, etc. Both chapter one and chapter seven have to put environmental policy into a broader context and we could use your help with the formulation.

- C: I really think the communication on the national level is really important, and if you already make the link with Europe 2020 in the beginning, I think it would be a very good idea to have a discussion with those people that are writing the national reform programs and present your paper to those people.
  A: Again, we would encourage you to give your input on this, because you as Management Board members are embedded in national policy segments and can actually create a platform using the report as a vehicle to have this discussion at the national level.

4.1. Discussion on the SOER 2015 Synthesis

Which aspects of the long-term transitions should the SOER 2015 emphasise or focus on?

- We discussed that the transition process is quite long and maybe it would be very useful if we can produce some clear targets for specific areas, e.g. quality of living, transport, air, water and many others. These targets and goals will help us to see in 2020 or 2025, if we are on the good way. There could also be benchmarks for that. The statement of "We all want to live in the environment we can afford" is a very nice idea, but it is not clear what it really means, and it might be different for each individual, as well as different according to the stage of development.
- One aspect that is very important is to have the producers on board with us. It is the producers who decide what the world will look like in the next 10 or 20 years. Consumers and politicians are followers in that game. So we need to have the producers with us to encourage them to make that transition. I think now you might be directing us to the wrong audience sometimes, because the audience should be the industry.
- It is important to integrate what is important to other policy-makers, but it is also important to reflect on what might be frightening to those that are running the economy, e.g. multi-nationals. And we should then also think about how we address their fears and how we get them aboard. So it is basically the integration of objectives. Another point is that what happens in China and India is going to be main driver of what happens in Europe and so far we have not seen this adequately reflected in the SOER 2015.
- A good recipe to have a good transition towards a better environment and better use of resources is to have good regulation money. This is the success story from Estonia about cleaning the air. However, we would also like to stress that there is no unique recipe for transition, so we would like to have the term in the plural, because different background situations could lead to different roadmaps towards this kind of transition. We also asked how we could convince policy-makers to have a long-term transition, because the long-

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term is too long for policy. So we might better address different stakeholders, like the consumers, because they will develop the demand side of the transition.

- I would like to come back to the issue of producer/industry/economy, because we have identified this as a big challenge this morning. We must know the objectives of the new economy. What is the meaning of "new economy", "new system of production", and "new system of consumption"? What does it mean in terms of indicators, objectives, and goals? How can we tell we are on the right track? There could be a good opportunity for our seminar in June to cooperate with DIMESA on this topic and identify which could be the right indicators to observe the provision of economy.
- We were discussing along four points:
  - Mainstreaming environmental issues in other policies
  - In the transition we need to indicate where we are on the right track and where we need to change the paradigm. Or, in other words, where we go with incremental improvement (linearity) and where we need substantial changes (systemic challenges) and disruptive innovation.
  - Which are the barriers and bottlenecks in the implementation gaps? Many policies do not fail because the policies are not well formulated, but because there are barriers and bottlenecks in the implementation.
  - 2015 is the year for the negotiation for the Rio+20, so it would be a missed opportunity, if there was no reference or link to it in the report, because in reality Europe is not the biggest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, so this kind of guidance could be beneficial.
- We were confused, because it was not clear whether we are discussing transitions for the world or for the European Union or for Europe. We are also confused about all the new smart words that come up, e.g. "prosumerism", "collaborative consumption" or "eco-innovation". What do those terms mean? Why not use more simple words instead?
- One of the things we discussed is the demographic challenge and the impact of the growing population on the world, especially considering that this growing population is aspiring to a better way of life. How can we manage that within the limits of the planet? We were also questioning the limits: can we describe these limits? Can we understand these limits? How can we be clearer about them? And it goes back to the first comment about having some targets, and we have targets we also need measurements. We need to promote the ecosystem accounting methods and to have better information on the services provided by ecosystems and then we can perhaps identify some targets or put some targets.
- We also discussed four different points:
  - How do we phrase the discourse on new limits?
  - Giving good examples for systemic innovation, e.g. linking it to security or safety.
  - How to create learning spaces for innovation? When we deal with things at the EU or global level we always get compromise solutions. If the compromise where that we allow spheres of society to create laboratories for systemic change, we could win quite a lot.

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    - "Living well" goes to what kind of cities and living conditions we have and what kind of energy we use. But it would be good to look more at what "living well" means in practice?
- If it is true that OECD countries have economic growth without increase of happiness or quality of life and a lot indicators say that there might be a truth in it, then we can't discuss the transition question without discussing the question of economic growth. The discussion should happen without criticising false perceptions of the question, e.g. de-growth in the global sense or prosperity without growth. Neither give the right answer to the challenge. The right answer might be to look a lot deeper into how to steer sustainable, structural change in developing and developed countries. Some sectors have to be decreases tremendously (they could be called "brown sector") and others ("green sectors") need to be increased, especially in the developing world. I would like to have a better understanding of the connection between economic growth and the transition question and what it means in the national and global context.
- We should go back to the question: what is our report? The SOER report has a particular focus and target audiences. I think that with this we are going to inform the incoming European Parliament and the incoming European Commission. When we are talking about urgencies there are urgent policies for politicians, like employment, aging population in Europe and other things that guide them to make urgent policies in comparison to the mega trends in other parts of the world. In these policies they do not take the environmental concerns into account. I think it is very important for the SOER report to reflect on that and see how we can address the measures that these policies have to build in in order to be fully coherent.

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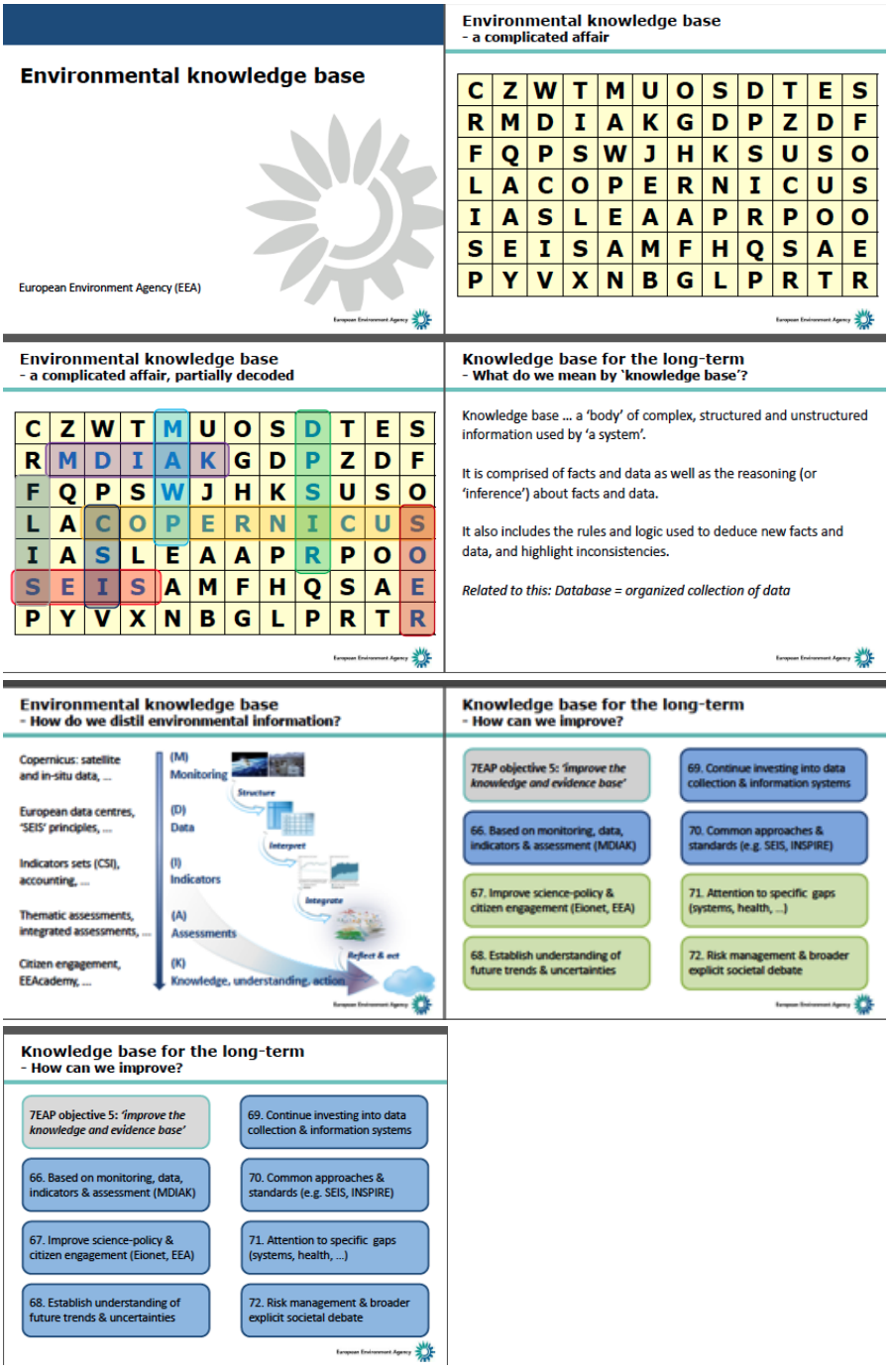
5. Reflecting on the knowledge base for long-term transitions

Presentation by Jock Martin: Environmental Knowledge Base



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Comments (c), questions (q) & answers (a) to the presentation:

- ***Q: My question is related to box number 70: how is this connected to the European interoperability approach?***
  A: If you read the full paragraph that comes from the 7th EAP, then you notice it also talks about consistent spatial information, which is an important dimension of the discussion that perhaps needs more attention in the upcoming period. With respect to interoperability there is of course system interoperability, which might be less interesting as an information project, while knowledge interoperability is very interesting: how we design knowledge in terms of content and how we design it with respect to linking it to other elements.
  Addition: The interoperability bit concerns what we want to do for the environment and INSPIRE and SEIS are set up with a set if principles and those principles are providing the framework for interoperability.
- ***Q: How are you going to add four blue boxes given resource constraints over the next time period?***
  A: This is one of the core things we will need to work on, because we are not going to walk away from the three boxes that were already blue, that is clear. They are our license to operate and they are linked to obligations and they link us very closely to the two key partner Directorate Generals in Brussels. We are talking to DG Clima and DG Environment about doing this in a different way, where we carve out some space in which we link what we are doing to the other boxes. This would allow us to have the space to think in long-term perspectives, while doing the core data gathering and reporting. It is definitely a point of attention.
- C: There seems to be a striking gap between long term knowledge base and knowledge that is evidence-based, because the latter is based on past facts, figures and data, while the future is based on scenario-based evidence but we don't know what is really going on. What will be the role of environmental policy in the year 2050? My hypothesis is that it will change completely because of the resource constraints and that means that maybe the challenge for the EEA could be to define environmental policy in a different way compared to the way we do it now; and to collect data that is connected to a different understanding of environmental policy in the European context.
- Q: When we are talking about the knowledge base I see methodologies, which are very strong about how we produce and share data. The second point is closely linked to box 66: ***How do we spread knowledge? This is part of the knowledge base as well. How do we build the capacities for how our knowledge is understood?*** It is a dimension, which is closely linked to the marketing of the SOER, not just in relation to EU institutions, but also in relation to member states. ***How do you want to broaden the knowledge base with regard to those who need to understand the knowledge we are producing?***
- A: If you look at any of the boxes on the bottom, they actually require a different engagement form the boxes that have been our core business for a longer time. Take number 68 for example: if we look at EIONET, we have a forward-looking component and

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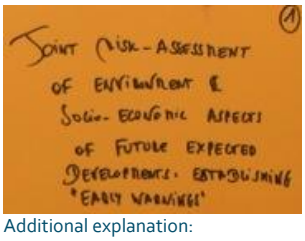
we have a rather successful development of capacities over time but it is a niche perspective in our business and it is also a niche business in the countries we talk to. Therefore the question is how we understand the relationship between knowledge and the different scales is rather fundamental. It requires us to look at things in a more fundamental way with respect to what we are trying to achieve and do the work backwards from that to determine structured ways of working. The same applies to box number 72, the idea of dealing with uncertainties and bringing foresight into debate is fundamentally different from the dominant approach. It requires us to think fundamentally about what we are trying to do it, how we are going to do, with whom we want to do it and whether it is inside or outside the EEA. How do we lift this from niches to something substantial in a relatively short period of time?

What are the two most important points for the development of the knowledge base for long-term transitions:

i) at European level?

ii) at country level?



Additional explanation:
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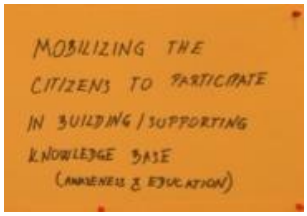
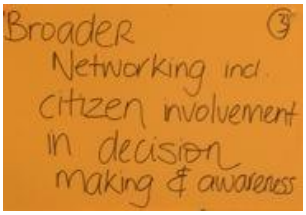
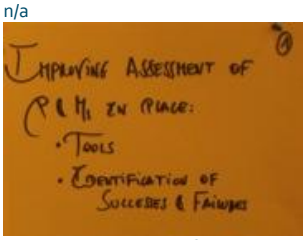


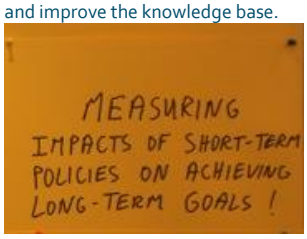
Engaging citizens to help support and improve the knowledge base.



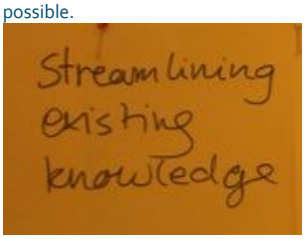
Should be as measureable as possible.



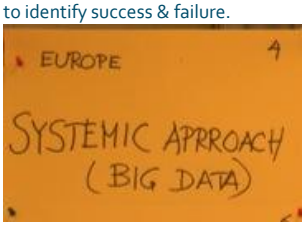
Improve assessment of policies and measures that are in place, to develop tools that process them and to identify success & failure.



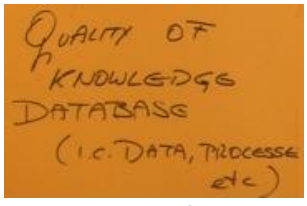
In order to achieve long-term goals we need to have efficient policies.



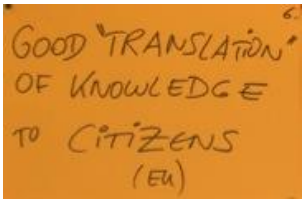
We need to improve the existing way of collecting data, the streamlining must go on.



Taking a systemic approach to environmental assessment. Link different databases so we have more data to base decisions on.



Relates to collecting of primary data, processing of information and interpretation of the knowledge.



The public is overwhelmed by hard data but they do not understand & care. We have to translate the information into language the public

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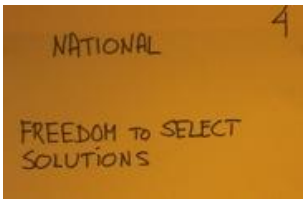
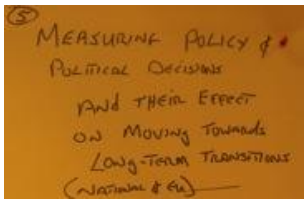
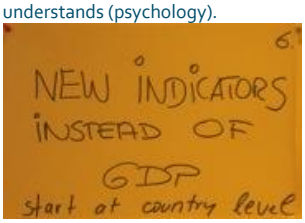
understands (psychology).



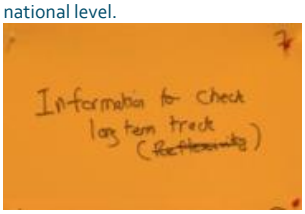
There are a lot of differences at national level, so there should be freedom to select solutions at the national level.



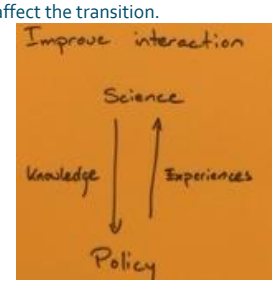
There is already a knowledge base but it needs to be developed to measure how each decision will affect the transition.



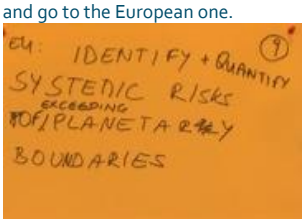
We want additional/new indicators to measure well-being & happiness. It should start at the national level and go to the European one.



Getting information to check if we are on the right track for the long-term.



Improve the interaction between science and policy: science provides knowledge to policy and policy provides experience to science.



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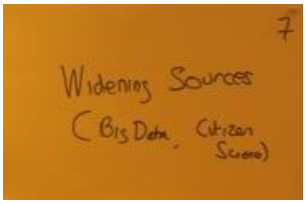
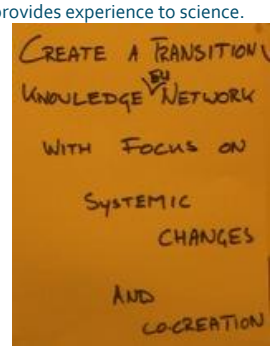


Given the huge data demand, we need to widen the sources and to better use big data and citizen science.



e.g. trying to connect all knowledge centres and institutions within the EU with for example natural capital accounting.

To create the conditions for a knowledge base through education on sustainable development (necessity and opportunities).

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6. Panel discussion

Opening question to the panel:
Are there any observations or learning points with regard to the discussion on the knowledge base?

Kees: The knowledge base should more or less tell us if we are on the right track or if we have to change the track. It is not only about monitoring data but also about monitoring policies.

Sofia: What strikes me is that there are few points on communication and how the information is perceived and acknowledged and how the citizens are involved and how they understand the knowledge.

Nick: When the new Commissioner arrives we have to write briefings for him or her and what I will take away from today is that there is both a huge hunger for knowledge about where we are going in terms of transitions, but also a huge willingness. And the room here is only the tip of the iceberg, because people here represent a couple of thousand people and a several hundred that will be in direct contact with politicians that will take decisions. So we should not underestimate the power of what is going on in the room here.

Hans: I am very encouraged by the fact that the EEA network allows for this type of discussions, because there are very few places in Europe where you can spend a day on this type of discussions. We seem to have the capacity to have a conversation about these types of things. In general there is a need for forward-looking information and this can be based on all sorts of systems feeding into systems, instead of information on reporting about the past or predicting the past.

Karsten: What I take away is that providing the knowledge base goes widely beyond just producing it, but having interactive dialogue with those who use it. I would argue that EIONET provides an excellent basis to build a European knowledge network.

Questions (from other participants) and answers from the panel:

- ***Q: Are you really sure that in the future it will be public authorities that will provide the information or couldn't it be Google, who is going to disseminate environmental information or other institutions? Will you still have a grip on the information in 20 years?***

  Kees: I think that, looking at data, there will be very different sources in the future but I think it is good to make use of both kinds of sources and also to tell what the source of the data is. If it is citizen science it can be very good but it should be clear that citizens are the source. Maybe data coming from institutions could then have a quality mark, because I think there still is place for Google, citizens and institutes to translate the data into information.
- ***Q: On the information collection in the previous session we have "big data"; could somebody comment on that?***

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Reaction from the audience: "Big data" is a new thing coming on the horizon and I think it really is a matter of trying to make sense of all of that. It is a very different sort of concept from having a hypothesis and testing whether the data is proofing it to actually seeing what is in that data. It is a very new dimension and there is a quite a lot of work going on in the academic world and I think from our perspective we need to catch up on it.

Second round of comments and questions:

- C: At our table we raised the issue of education and nobody in the panel mentioned that word. There is a big difference between data and knowledge, and we always forget that and we always assume that the more data we give, the more knowledge we have or the more wisdom we get. If we don't educate everyone, there is no way that we can have informed decisions at the end of the day. It is a matter of knowledge that activates action and if we don't understand how basic this is, we cannot have a change.
- C: I would like to come back to this knowledge and the need to be able to communicate it. When working on environmental health, we are often facing this issue of communication of difficult issues to people that people are worries of. What makes me very pessimistic is that we are talking about knowledge but the listener must also be able to receive the information and take it to heart. It is in human nature that we are not always doing that. Smoking is the best example: it has long been proven how bad it is for the health yet people are still smoking, because they think it will not affect them. There is something in human nature that tells us that, although other people will be affected, it will not affect us personally. I think we forget that humans are unrealistic and irrational in many cases when accepting information and making decisions.
- C: There are a lot of environmental data providers and there are a lot of environmental data users. How can somebody validate data and how can the data be corroborated in order to get useful results and to be applicable? At the same time, how to corroborate environmental data sources? How to coordinate and put them together to get what we are actually looking for? In this context we are working with knowledge of different quality, so we need to find a strategy to promote good quality data and to provide the users with real practical and applicable information on the environment, in order to be able to use them for strategies and to really understand their impact on the environment and the impact of the environment on their lives.
- Q: ***How will we measure the impact of the SOER 2015 on the European Commission, EIONET and citizen? We did not define the indicator, which would measure this impact.***

Reactions form the panel on the second round of questions and comments:

Kees: I think that, by telling people where the information or data is coming from, people themselves can decide whether it is valid or not. If you really look at citizens, they can tell the difference, whether it is ordinary data or who supplies and whether there is a quality sign attached to it. I am not afraid of it. I think it is really about the

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transformation of data into information. What I like about the link between education and knowledge is that if you involve people this usually leads to knowledge, which is very important and it is a nice way to involve the policy-makers of the future.

Nick: On the point of education I have noticed that in the last three or four years there has been an increase in the number of requests for groups of students to come to the Commission and hear from people about the environment. It is an education for people in my position as well, because the kind of questions you get from 13-year-old students makes you think quite seriously about the relevance and reality of environmental policy for them. With regard to the question on education more generally, I think it is very important that the message policy-makers deliver in terms of where the environment is going it is pictured correctly. When we are talking to students that are 8 or 9 years old you can't use the same kind of language.

Hans: Politicians and people in high policy positions should take some responsibility for education on these points and we should facilitate it, because they seem to have a capacity for cognitive dissociation. We know that there is a sense of urgency and we know that we are facing serious problems and yet they seem to be able to dissociate from that in their daily behaviour. This links to the question about how you can psychologically achieve a change of behaviour. I would also like to say that we need to move away from the idea that EIONET is a data provision network. I think we need to engage with all of the countries that are working on 2050 projections, because they have to submit them to the Commission on climate and energy, but also on many other things. There is very little knowledge sharing there and EIONET could be a network where we can actually share information. It could be one of the tools to give EIONET a new dimension and a start into a new type of collaboration.

Karsten: Information and knowledge are totally different things to me. I think we are in times where we consume a lot of information, but the other part and that is what we are talking about here might be called "education", I would call it "interaction", "involvement" or "empowerment" and that goes for politicians as much as for citizens, so it is more active and you are self-evaluating the quality of the knowledge you generate. The second point is about the disassociation with certain impacts, such as in the smoking example. Is it a good or bad example of change? I would argue that it is a better example of change, because there were times when good jazz music was only possible in smoky jazz clubs and freedom was directly linked to smoking a cigarette. That has vanished to a certain extent; of course that does not mean that nobody is smoking anymore but there were lots of positive side effects attributed to smoking, which was partly through lifestyle or partly through lifestyle and partly through publicity. They were predicting catastrophes for bar owners after the ban came into force but two days later nobody was speaking about it. For me it is a half full glass, rather than a half empty one.

Sofia: I was a bit surprised by the amount of times that data was mentioned and I realise that we are talking about knowledge, but we need data to understand the issues. It

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goes to our decisions, because if we have the data, then we have the knowledge; when we understand it, we can chose to smoke and take the risk. But only if we understand what our options are and I think EIONET and the network and the knowledge we create may help us to improve our decision: the decision we take today and how they will impact and change our future. I think we are talking about almost the same thing and education is of course part of it.

Comments from the other participants:

- I would like to underline the human target and that we are not strictly logical in our way of making decision in our lives, and we have to adapt and adjust communication by taking that into account. I think this is missing, in this type of group as well. A lot of people in this room have a natural science background and perhaps we should extend the discussions to other groups and even include, for example, religious groups in this discussion, because it will add another dimension.

Third round of comments and questions:

- C: It was said that information and knowledge are completely different things, and I would like to add that knowledge is also very different from awareness. Knowledge is not enough to produce awareness; you also need motivation and skills to act. The smoking example is quite good; because if having all the knowledge is not enough, yet if cigarettes are very expensive, you might have enough motivation to do something differently.
- C: We are back several millennia, because what was said before is the basic question between Plato and Aristotle. Plato always said that human beings are always good and if you show what is good, it will be pursued. Aristotle said that knowledge is not enough, you have a quality, which is called "Akrasia" where you know what is good, yet you don't follow it, and it is not because you take the risk but because we want to do things. This is part of the difference between knowledge and education. Education has the power to activate and has the discipline to go against Akrasia. This is why I emphasise education so much. Education goes beyond knowledge, it is about how to discipline yourself and follow things that might be less pleasant for you. We have to go back to the routes of education- and understand the future.

Reactions form the panel on the third and previous rounds of questions and comments:

Hans: We will use the whole year of 2015 to send out the messages that are in the SOER 2015 Synthesis and we are not going to do that from Copenhagen and we are not going to do it in a top-down way. We are going to make a toolkit with different types of messages addressing different types of audiences. We very much invite the countries, EIONET, ministries and the scientific community to think about how they want to use the knowledge in their specific context and how they can make use of

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the Agency's resources and knowledge and expertise in joining them in bringing this type of knowledge to their country. We very much want to do an EIONET and country-level exercise on spreading the news in SOER 2015. The SOER 2010 had a big impact on framing the 7th EAP and on framing of a number of policies that came out of the Commission. There are links there, whether we have the correct matrix to measure is something else but we know that the impact is there.

Nick: Around the 26th of June the next President of the Commission will be known and that is roughly around the time when one of the final drafts of the SOER will be available and we are using SOER knowledge as it is building up to provide the briefing; and not just for the new Commissioner for the environment but also for the other commissioners. Somebody was asking about an indicator of whether the SOER has an impact, so one indicator can be the first speech of the new President and see if he/she says anything about the environment.

Fourth round of comments and questions:

- C: I think it is important to add a bit more understanding to the knowledge base regarding which policies have worked. When we take stock in the SOER it should not only be about the state of the environment and what is happening to emissions but also about how much of the reduction or improvement is due to the policies that are in action. I know this is a very difficult exercise and we ask the Agency to help on this ex-post evaluation of policies, so that policy-makers can say if this is due to their policies or is it due to other factors, such as the general economic crisis. I think it is important to have this message in the synthesis or in the overall analysis in the SOER.
- Q: In the background documentation there is one of those boxes on the knowledge base – paragraph 66 from the 7th EAP – which talks about environmental monitoring, data and assessment or how official data flows come into legislation. I would not like to leave this room thinking that this is the past, while the future is all about big data and citizen science. ***Does the panel believe that those officially recorded data flows are a perquisite to be able to answer whether we are on track for transitions for sustainability or are they rather an obstacle that takes up to much space that should rather be used for knowledge creation and education on transition?***
- C: I want to focus on the difference between understanding a system and changing a system, because they require a difference base of knowledge, e.g. when we step forward to the planetary boundaries the quantification in comparison to limits of growth was a huge step forward. We mentioned in the points raised earlier that we need more information on the complex risks and quantification on other planetary boundaries. This is understanding the system and understanding the necessity to change the system; however, when it comes to implementation, there is a huge gap that in my opinion has to be answered by two new knowledge bases: one is knowledge on how mankind can stay within planetary boundaries and we don't have enough knowledge on that; the other, and maybe more important one, is the knowledge about why countries and national and

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international companies should contribute to stay within planetary boundaries in a world where competition is the highest rationale of the economic system. We have to convince national and local governments that it is worthwhile to stay within planetary boundaries and not be a winner in the process.

- Q: I have a problem with the presentation of box 68, which deals with future trends. ***Is that future mega trends that we have not realised yet or is it just mega trends?*** And my other problem with the trends is that they assume that we already have had severe impacts of climate change. I doubt that we have had these severe impacts. In my eyes this is more of a mega fear than a mega trend.

Reactions form the panel on the fourth rounds of questions and comments:

Hans: We are working with DG Clima on policy evaluations and we are revisiting the tradition of policy evaluation that was very strong in the Agency from the late 1990s to the early 2000s. We are working with the European Environment Evaluators Network that has a conference in Helsinki next month, so we are reconnecting with that tradition.

Karsten: I think the question about data flows is impossible to answer, but I strongly believe that we need regular reporting in order to be able to observe trends. If you do legislation, the legislation needs to be underpinned by regular data flows. In principle I would say that you need regular reporting on legislation that is good governance.

Hans: For me data flows are not a prerequisite but as a piece of the puzzle. It is an essential piece of the puzzle.

Nick: It is never quite clear to me the extent to which we are still stuck in the 1970s and 1980s style of policy-making, when we ask member states for the flows of information. We ask for information, because the minds of the politicians in the member states are focused on changes from one year to another in that member state. There is too much reporting going on. I think there are 166 mandatory information flows from member states on the environment. There are a number of pilots including the "structured & implementation framework" that is based on the idea to create a proximity between people looking after implementation in the Commission and individual member states on individual pieces of legislation. The outcome from that might be less reporting in the traditional sense and more about the real position about what was is going on.

Sofia: I think the understanding of a megatrend is that something is changing and has been changing for a long time. This change will have an impact everywhere (in economics, in society, in politics) whether we like it or not. It is not that we are saying that this is the future, we are just saying that this is coming, because it has been coming for a long time and it is not stopping and we need to be aware of it. Megatrends are happening slowly, but steadily and have a wide range of impact they tend to go to the back of our minds and we forget about them when we lake our decisions. We

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forget that they will have an impact in our future. I think it is very useful to keep in mind to maintain awareness of all the megatrends and all that is changing in our day-to-day decisions. We need the megatrends to be aware of the long-term decisions that are needed.

Kees: I think data that are based on a lot of indicators are still valid but one of the problems we have is that we derive the information one or two years later. The questions of today have to be answered tomorrow, and we can use the new kind of techniques to get an idea of where the data flows are moving or where the indicators are moving. Combine the different techniques smartly would probably increase the speed with which the knowledge is available. I know that the knowledge derived after two years is better than the knowledge derived today, but the questions of today have to be answered tomorrow.

Reaction from the participants:

- With reference to the paragraph in the 7th EAP on future, we are talking about something more than global megatrends, because that has a very particular connotation in terms of what is happening at a global scale and what that means for Europe. That's why we take the approach. When you look at Europe we reflect upon the future and there is an interesting picture emerging. We are looking at the capacities developed in the countries to look at the long-term of scenarios and futures. It is a very mixed picture but overall it is a picture of much more emphasis of looking backwards than looking forward with regard to our capacities. It leads me to reflect on some of the other questions: whenever I visit countries in recent times there is a very interesting dynamic going on, which has to do with the fact that there are real cuts in capacities in the environmental sector. It does lead to more thinking about the types of policies that we have today and how to respond to them and how to implement them and how to create knowledge to support them. They do this very carefully, in a way that respects the policies further back but does not necessarily address them in the same way that they did in the past. They are rebalancing their efforts towards the more systemic perspectives that are reflecting for example in the water directive. In my mind this also affects how we report and how we can think about Europe, which has similar features going on, mainly driven by consumption and production patterns and other dynamics outside of the environment. What does it mean for us, doing the reporting in a European context? This might be somehow different from what has been the prevailing model, which is that we have a piece of legislation and all countries implement it and report on it. It may be that we don't need that kind of model with respect to the systemic. It is worth having a discussion on alternative ways of reporting, because the nature of policy design has changed considerably.

Final round of comments and questions:

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- C: I think that, for the SOER to be useful to policy makers, we need to define where there are still gaps in the knowledge base. I think that the discussion today has been a bit too abstract for policy makers to take it and know where to focus their efforts. We as policy makers have some idea where we do not have enough information to male policies, but are we really asking the right questions after considering all of the integrated analysis and after looking at all the environmental themes? Is looking at resource efficiency the right thing to do? Maybe it goes beyond that. As a policy maker, I would like to see more specific identification; maybe we could even do it by policy domain. I have the feeling that the knowledge base and the knowledge gaps would be different, function of the topic, e.g. water or energy. Even within topics like climate change it is different when you talk about mitigation or adaptation.
- ***Q: What will be the concrete actions to be taken after 2015 to start the process towards transitions?***
- C: I am afraid that you put too much importance on the new Commissioner, because one gentleman or lady cannot change the policy of Europe. They can change small things but not the general line.

Reaction from the panel:

Hans: The SOER 2015 is building on 2010 and the five years of work in-between, and I see the bridge towards the future in the last chapter as an agenda-setting chapter in a trajectory that we want to go to with a number of other institutions like the Eurostat or JRC and others. We want to say what the relevance of this transitions agenda is in the 7th EAP and in order working program, and what the relevance of the knowledge questions raised in the 7th EAP is, and this how we think we can approach this in the next period. It is a bridge towards SOER 2020 and our role in evaluating the 7th EAP and in establishing a framework for a forward-looking enterprise of creating relevant knowledge for the next decades.

Nick: I think most of the concrete actions are spelled out in the 9 objectives set out in the 7th EAP and that is the broad picture. There is a new Commissioner coming and there is a new commission, and its emphasis may or may not be on circular economy, its emphasis may or may not be on nature-based solutions, and there will be other elements as well. It will also be about looking at other policies, especially enterprise and industry, transport and energy and the way they shape their new objectives in their own 2050 visions and make sure that we have a sufficient area of knowledge that comes out of our relationship with knowledge providers to equip us with to address the policy goals for 2050 in meaningful way and maybe more forward-looking than backward-looking. Of course it is a fair point that one person cannot change the whole policy environment of Europe but they do give their idea about the vision towards which we should develop in 2050 and they set reasonable milestones.

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Final round of comments from the panel answering the question:

Coming out of your pen which sentence would you like to add to the SOER 2015?

Kees: The SOER 2015 is part of the solution. Are you?

Sofia: I would like to have a note or a remark to address that the idea that we need to keep the forward-looking, long-term thinking, following the Commissions visions and not just forget about it after the crisis is gone.

Nick: I think it should include something like: we strongly recommend that the Commission provide a knowledge clearing house, which by the year 2020 enables all citizens to access information about any aspect of the environment that affects them or their livelihoods.

Hans: EIONET should develop as the basis for its strengthened 2050 knowledge base.

Karsten: I would paraphrase the title of the 7th EAP to "well-being within the boundaries of the planet".

CLOSING OF THE SEMINAR

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