

SOURCE: BEDRICH MOLDAN

**OFFICIAL OPINION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ON THE EEA ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005**

In accordance with Article 8(5) of the EEA Regulation, the scientific committee is giving its opinion on the Annual Management Plan 2005 before the Executive Director is submitting it to the management board for approval.

The scientific committee's opinion is given on the basis of the second draft received in due time before the committee meeting 6 October 2004.

The committee discussed also the more detailed documents on individual projects and the work of the ETCs in order to form its conclusions:

The scientific committee:

Welcomed that a balance was found between focusing on specific issues of political importance in the coming year, and preparing for the future through maintaining a comprehensive coverage with respect to activities covered by the Regulation;

Welcomed that the Agency delivers information to support sustainable development while focusing on the environmental dimension;

Encouraged EEA to maintain a focused and user-oriented annual management plan;

Welcomed and stressed the importance of focusing on data, quality control/assurance, and continued improvements to the monitoring systems;

Welcomed the emphasis on moving increasingly towards spatial data and information, strengthening cooperation with the spatial networks and using INSPIRE and GMES as appropriate;

Encouraged the work on scenarios and risk assessments, delivering information of direct use for the policy makers;

Welcomed the emphasis on relations to other partners and players in all major areas, stressed the need to strengthen the relations with the scientific community and the NFPs, and ensure transparency on the networks;

Welcomed the increased emphasis on cross cutting assessments, such as biomass flows, land use and coastal systems, waste and material flows;

Welcomed the approach on climate change covering a broad range of issues, use of scenarios, supporting work for 2030 targets, encouraged looking beyond 2050 for impacts analysis on ecosystems, and following and explaining risk assessments;

Welcomed the approach on chemicals, ensuring overview on networks working in this field, seeking cooperation and where possible trace a cause-effect chain in the assessments of risks;

Stressed the need for an integrated approach, i.e. considering impacts of chemicals on both environment and human health and mutual interactions;

Stressed the need to aim at a balanced representation of drivers, pressures, states, impacts, and responses within all thematic fields;

Stressed that soil should be seen as a priority;

Stressed assessments of biodiversity loss as a priority;

Stressed the need to outline key areas within environment and health such as assessments on routine data, overview of and access to scientific expertise, cooperation with partners and access to documentation; and to use risk assessments to address different combinations of environment and health issues.

Copenhagen, 10 November 2004

Prof. Bedrich Moldan
Chairman of the EEA scientific committee