

EEA strategy 2004–2008



Background

The European Environment Agency was formally established by EEC Regulation 1210/90 in 1990 (amended by EC Regulation 933/1999 and EC Regulation 1641/2003). The decision to locate in Copenhagen was taken in 1993 and the Agency has been operational since 1994.

The European Environment Agency is the leading public body in Europe dedicated to providing timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public, to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvements in Europe's environment.

The work of the Agency includes coordinating Eionet and an information system, collecting and analysing shared environmental data from the European Commission services, EEA member countries, international organisations, conventions and agreements, producing policy relevant advice and making these and other information widely available.

This EEA strategy 2004–2008 is the third multiannual work programme of the Agency as required by its founding regulation. It was adopted by the EEA Management Board at its meeting on 25 November 2003.

EEA countries



EEA strategy 2004–2008

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Foreword by the Management Board Chairman

The starting date for this new 5-year strategy for the EEA coincides with my taking over the chair of the Management Board of the Agency. I am honoured to have been elected to this important post, and I look forward to working closely together with the members of the board and the Executive Director Jacqueline McGlade in implementing the EEA strategy in the coming years.

On behalf of the board I thank the outgoing chairman, Kees Zoeteman, for his dedicated and competent leadership of the Agency over the last four years. We wish him all the best in his future activities.

Looking to the next five years, I would like to highlight two strategic dimensions of the further development of the EEA.

Firstly enlargement, where the EEA continues to spearhead European integration. While the EU as such looks forward to enlargement to 25 members on 1 May 2004, the EEA already has 31 members, including Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. We also work closely together with the countries in the west Balkans. In this way, the EEA not only improves the quality and coverage of environmental information, but also plays a small part in stabilising and developing these countries for the benefit of peace and prosperity in Europe as a whole.

Secondly, the increased emphasis that will be placed on evaluations of policy effectiveness. Environmental policy is no longer a free ride. In order to be able to convince politicians and the public alike that environmental policies are necessary and good for society as a whole, we must be able to demonstrate that they are delivering real results in an effective way. I welcome the fact that the European Commission also sees a clear role for the EEA in this field. We will work closely together with the Commission to deliver real results.

Lars-Erik Liljelund

Foreword by the Scientific Committee Chairman

The Scientific Committee welcomes and supports this EEA Strategy setting out the main priorities for the next five years. On this firm foundation, the Agency will be able to substantially increase its provision of independent and quality-assured information for the benefit of the environment and the citizens of Europe.

The committee looks forward to playing its own role in this development. The EEA should not itself engage in research but should build on and integrate the latest findings of the scientific world in the information it provides. The members of the committee are all of high scientific standing and cover collectively the fields of expertise that are relevant to the work of the Agency. Our role is therefore to ensure strong ties between the academic world and the EEA and to provide critical input to its work.

Nowhere is this bridging function between the research community and the world of policy more important than in the further development of indicators. Capturing complex scientific understanding, theories and hypotheses in easily-understandable and generally accepted indicators lies at the heart of the Agency's work. Developing indicators that illustrate the links between the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development is one major challenge. There is also a call for aggregated indicators that summarise huge amounts of information across several fields. The task here is to meet this need without losing sight of the often complex and contradictory trends that lie behind the aggregated figures.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the critical importance of quality assurance of data and assessments, and the quantification of uncertainties. Transparency in this regard is crucial if clients and the public are to be able to make proper use of the information the Agency provides. The Scientific Committee is already looking at these questions and aims to provide substantial support to the Agency in this respect.

Bedrich Moldan

Overview by the Executive Director

People's quality of life greatly depends on the environment in which they live, as well as their social and economic development. The EEA is helping to play a vital part in securing Europe's future by providing timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information on the state of the environment to policy-making agents and the public.

The context of the Agency is rapidly evolving. Originally conceived as an organisation that could provide environmental information and data, today the Agency is being asked by the European Parliament, the European Commission and its member countries not only to report and advise on the state of the environment and technical issues concerning environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources, but also the effectiveness of key environmental and sectoral policies and their implementation. Thus over the next five years, the Agency will expand its work to support a variety of policy processes, by providing knowledge of Europe's environment, as well as the actions being taken to protect it.


One of the key issues for member countries is the need for more streamlining in data reporting. Over the next five years the Agency will work with its key international partners, including the European Commission (particularly Eurostat and JRC), OECD and various international conventions, to establish ways in which data can be reported once, but used for many purposes. To support this move, the Agency will extend and further improve its quality assurance of the information it uses by establishing an Agency-wide quality control and management system. The system will be open to the EEA's network of governmental organisations, agencies, citizen groups, industries and specialists, so that data can be tracked from source to final use. These activities will be supported by an enhanced programme of capacity building in new member countries.

The EEA is working hard to deliver the objectives and targets set out in the European Commission's legislative and work programmes covering enlargement, stability and security, sustainable development and an inclusive economy. By taking an integrated approach to the assessment of environmental improvement or deterioration, the EEA will be able to provide a unique view of the impacts across sectors and policy areas. Over the next five years, it is the aim of the Agency to expand these capabilities further by producing a series of integrated assessments on the interactions between the major sectors and environment, and a range of horizon-scanning and scenarios studies to help anticipate potential threats and opportunities to establish a viable, secure and stable pattern of sustainable development.

Jacqueline McGlade

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Shaping the EEA

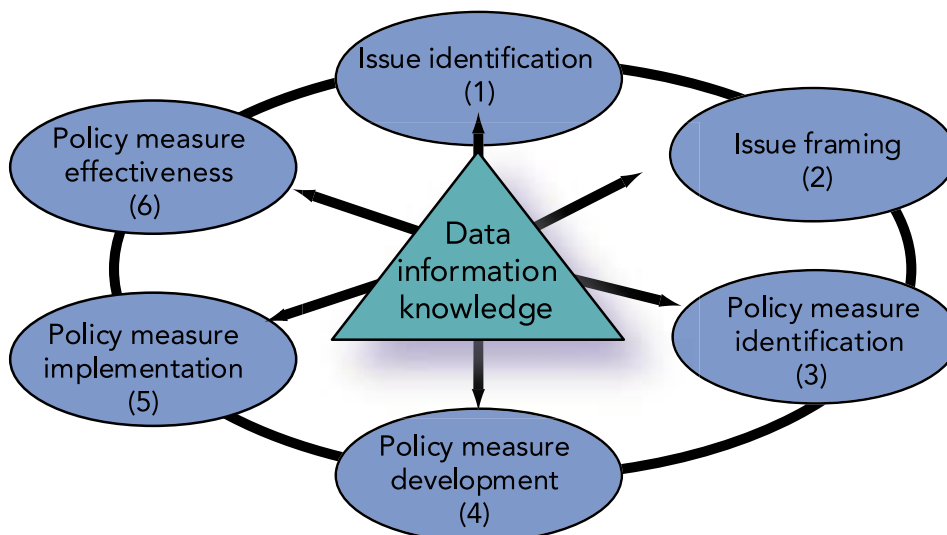
EEA organisation and networks

The Agency completed its reorganisation in January 2004, in time to begin work under the EEA strategy 2004–2008. The new structure aims to better reflect the changing needs of its main clients and provide a more transparent level of access to data, information and individual experts. Groups have been established to bring together individuals to work on more integrated activities around sectoral analysis, policy analysis, development of new information systems including spatial information, scenarios and assessments across key areas such as water and biodiversity, chemicals, waste, air quality, climate change and environment and health.

To provide a more effective level of communication with the European Parliament, the Commission, other Community institutions, member countries and partners throughout the world, a corporate affairs programme has been established. This new programme will be responsible for bringing forward new products such as briefings, updates and multimedia outputs, as well as a communications strategy.

The EEA is a networking organisation: it relies greatly on Eionet to provide advice and inputs on indicators, data flows and streamlining of information. Information about the state of action of policy implementation is now being guided by a new network of European environmental protection agencies. Over the next five years, the Agency will continue to build up the strengths of its networks and seek to extend them through an active stakeholder process in support of scenario development, policy evaluation and data quality assurance.

Main stages in the policy cycle, supported by data, information and knowledge



Taking an integrated view

Environmental and sectoral themes

The EEA strategy is aligned with the 6th environment action programme. The Agency works across four major thematic areas: tackling climate change, tackling biodiversity loss/understanding spatial change, protecting human health and quality of life, use and management of natural resources and waste. Each of these is influenced by a range of societal and sectoral processes. Over the next five years the EEA will produce a series of assessments on the links between these issues and cross-sectoral impacts on the environment. A limited set of core indicators will be used to report on the impacts of sectors on environmental trends and ecosystem health.

	Air	Biodiversity	Freshwater	Marine	Land & soil
Environmental themes					
Tackling climate change	■	■	■	■	■
Tackling biodiversity loss/ understanding spatial change	□	■	■	■	■
Protecting human health and quality of life	■	■	■	■	■
Sustainable use and management of natural resources and waste	□	□	■	■	■
Sectoral themes					
Agriculture	■	■	■	■	■
Chemicals	■	■	■	■	■
Energy	■	□	■	■	■
Transport	■	■	□	□	■
Land-use development and planning	□	■	■	□	■
International issues	■	■	■	■	■

■ Major EEA work area □ Minor EEA work area



Europe's environment

Information systems and networks

The EEA/Eionet information system has been established to support all EEA and Eionet activities related to the flows of data and information from countries and others to the EEA, through to the assessments and knowledge provided back to countries, the Community institutions and other clients. The system comprises the people and organisations in the network, their networking activities, as well as the supporting infrastructure and electronic tools.

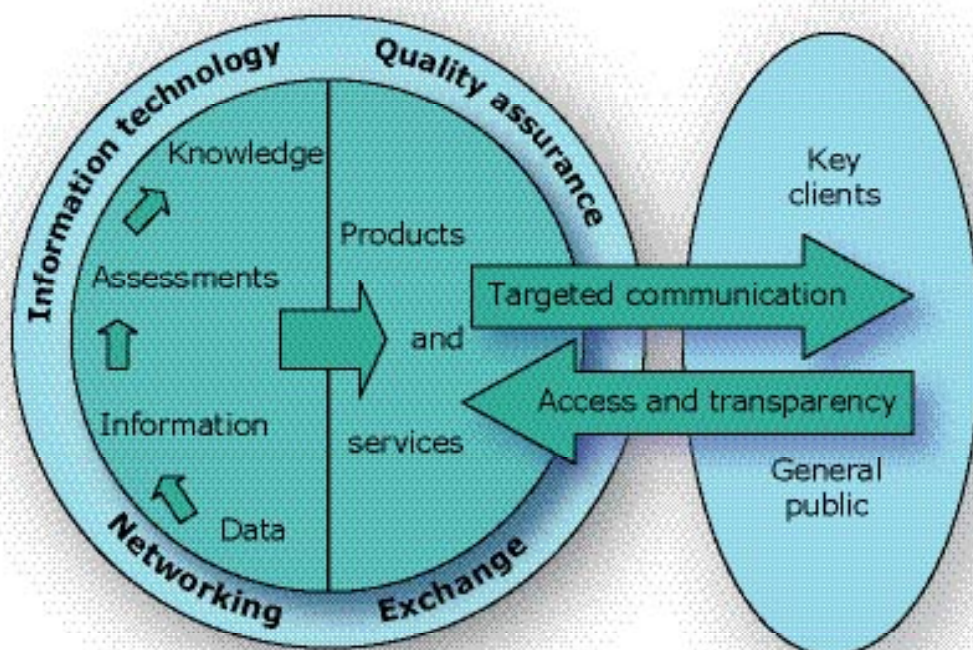
Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be to improve the system to support more effectively the development of EEA products and services and to extend the network and the capacities needed by users. Quality assurance procedures will be introduced and strengthened to ensure standardisation, homogenisation and clearer data definitions for users. Furthermore EEA will contribute to the Commission-led review of reporting and extend the information system to

a shared European integrated spatial information system in line with the Inspire (infrastructure for spatial information in Europe) and global monitoring for environment and security (GMES) initiatives.

(a) Core set of indicators

The main use of indicators is to communicate information in a clear and simple way. Indicators focus on those aspects which are regarded as policy relevant, using data that are widely available. In general, indicators quantify information by integrating different and multiple data sets and help reveal underlying trends in complex phenomena.

Over the past five years, the Agency has been working with its member countries on the development of a core set of indicators and indices, to reflect the state of the environment in the context of analyses of economic performance, social development and policy implementation. In the first year of the strategy, the Agency will consolidate the core set of indicators and associated data flows from countries. This information will then be used by the EEA and Eionet to track progress at the European level against policy objectives and targets, and to benchmark countries' environmental performance, using comparable data and consistent methodologies.



(b) Streamlining the system

The network will be extended to include capacities needed for the new type of products and services to be developed in the five-year period, for example in the area of sustainable development.

The Agency will provide assessments of countries' performance on delivery and data quality through its Eionet priority data flows report.

The Agency will enhance the linkages to external organisations associated with data flows (including spatial data) and indicators, especially with OECD, Eurostat and JRC, benefiting especially from the global monitoring for environment and security (GMES) initiative.

The electronic tools and infrastructure and review of business processes under the Reportnet umbrella will continue to be developed using Commission and EEA funding in order to make information flows more efficient, transparent and available for many purposes.

The EEA data warehouse will underpin the core set of indicators and provide a setting for cross-sectoral analyses. Interactive tools enabling users to analyse environmental data, produce indicator-based assessments for their own purposes and refer to best practice will be implemented.

(c) Communications services for the public

The EEA will strengthen its communications systems to reach its key clients and the general public through the most appropriate communication channels.

Over the next five years, an extensive geographic Internet portal to regional and selected localised information will be made available. The objective is to enable the public to locate information about their surrounding environment. By simply entering postal codes or by using interactive maps and tools, people will be able to find information on environmental conditions affecting air, land and water, plus information on measures and regulations in place to protect the environment. The portal will be built by combining the Agency's activities with other ongoing United Nations, international, national and Community initiatives.

The system will contain a variety of historical and real-time data on environmental quality. For example, in 2004, the European pollution emissions register will be launched at the EEA; this will give location-based information on individual regulated industries. Over the five-year period, the Agency will increase the coverage of many topics and by 2008 have in place a system covering the complete area of EEA member countries.

Web and multimedia services targeted towards the younger audience will be established.

Tackling climate change

Preventing or slowing down climate change is a major focus of EU policy. Various policy actions, including energy savings, development of renewable sources of energy, development of sustainable transport, emission trading and Kyoto flexible mechanisms will play an important role in determining success in achieving the targets set by member states.

The EEA is committed to providing assessments and analyses in support of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, and to providing advice and briefings to the Commission, Parliament and Council Presidencies to advance new climate policy areas aimed at both reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the sectors of transport, energy, industry and agriculture and at policies to adapt to climate change impacts.



Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be:

(a) Assessment of progress to the Kyoto and burden sharing targets

To support the implementation of the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol and the EU and member states' 'burden sharing' commitments (for 2008–2012), including the realisation by 2005 of demonstrable progress in achieving these commitments. This also includes support to the EU objectives to reduce by 2010 the EU energy intensity by 1 % per year over and above what would have otherwise happened and to increase by 2010 the EU renewable energy consumption to 12 % of total energy consumption. Specific outputs will include:

- assessments of progress to the Kyoto targets and the effectiveness of national and EU policies;
- greenhouse gas monitoring, accounting and review;
- benchmarking of Europe with other regions of the world.

(b) Climate change impacts, adaptation and scenarios

To support the EU in its position to advocate an international agreement on more stringent reduction targets after the first Kyoto commitment period (2008–2012). This is guided by the EU long-term objective of a maximum global temperature increase of 2° Celsius over pre-industrial levels, which in the long term will require a global reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by 70 % from 1990 levels. This work will also support integrated sectoral policy analysis and the EU sustainable development strategy to increase the use of sustainable energy, through renewable energy and energy efficiency gains. Specific outputs will include:

- scenarios for sectoral developments and climate change impacts, including EU-25 contributions;
- assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation, including the assessment of seasonal characteristics on a regional level (e.g. temperature, precipitation and storm events);
- integrated sectoral policy analyses, including the role of environmental technologies;
- identification of vulnerable areas and assessment of adaptation to climate change.

Tackling biodiversity loss and understanding spatial change

In Europe we have a commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity and protect habitats and areas of special conservation interest. The EEA will provide support for this through assessments of distance-to-target, provision of information on changes in biodiversity across different spatial scales, analyses of links to other socio-economic developments and pressures, and of policy effectiveness through other policy areas.

Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be:

(a) Biodiversity

To contribute to the achievement of the 2010 target of halting biodiversity loss through assessments of trends in biodiversity with respect to physical planning, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, environmental pollution, soil contamination and management of the rural environment. Specific outputs over the next five years will include:

- distance to 2010 target assessments;
- performance indicators for biodiversity policies, especially Natura 2000 implementation and the link to sectoral policies;
- assessments of forest condition;
- support for member states and the Commission on Natura 2000 and biodiversity action plans;
- bring together existing experience and knowledge across its networks to develop common methods for monitoring habitats and species and the pressures on them;
- maintenance of reference databases, portals, guidelines and networks;
- development of an early warning network of alien invasive species;
- sectoral policy integration and economic analyses.

(b) Landscape and spatial change assessments

To support the spatial requirements of European and global development initiatives, including key thematic strategies on marine systems and soils, with particular attention to land-use changes in ecologically sensitive areas and protection of soils. Specific outputs will include:

- an integrated information system, including spatial data, for the natural, cultural and built environments to support thematic and sectoral policy initiatives;
- assessments of sustainable development of regions in Europe in the context of biodiversity and landscape change;
- assessments of changes associated with climate change, desertification, erosion, accretion, agricultural intensification and extensification, and contamination;
- assessments of coastal and marine ecosystems.



Protecting human health and quality of life

Much of the gross pollution that characterised the last century has been dealt with across large parts of Europe — foetid rivers, smog, unmanaged waste sites and contaminated land. But other challenges are emerging that are equally damaging, if less obvious in their manifestation: global warming, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, ultrafine particles in the air.

New problems demand new solutions — joined-up thinking that takes into account all the aspects of a particular problem. Society now has to mobilise consumer behaviour and innovation in business and ways of living, by engaging communities in planning for change, producing and consuming in ways that protect and enhance the environment while ensuring prosperity and a better quality of life for everyone, especially vulnerable communities.

Environmental issues cut across both economic and social concerns; society will not successfully tackle big issues such as climate change, transport, energy and health purely by finding solutions that improve the environment, but only through policies that have regard to the social and economic implications as well.

For the Agency, this means challenging new ways of working and thinking about the issues that will allow us to contribute to finding solutions. Over the next five years, we will explore the use of a wide range of approaches including spatial analyses, development of models to test different future scenarios, economic instruments and the use of voluntary agreements. We will build on educational programmes and public attitude testing to be able to put environmental knowledge into local community planning.

Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be:

(a) Environment and human health

To help improve human health and the quality of life as related to the environment to support the EU environment and health action plan. Specific outputs will include:

- a methodological framework in which to analyse environment and health issues;
- a set of environment and health indicators to track key environmental stressors, such as air quality and indoor pollution on human health, in consultation with EEA member countries and the World Health Organization;
- establishment of an Eionet network for environment and health;
- a revised set of environment and health assessments;
- partnership activities with the European Food Safety Authority.



(b) Chemicals

To support policies that will reduce risks posed by the use of chemicals. Specific areas of work will include:

- development of a monitoring framework and information system linked to concentrations, exposure and effects of chemicals, including pesticides, in different natural and urban systems;
- partnership activities with the new European Chemicals Agency.

(c) Water quality and water framework directive

To support the attainment of ground and surface water quality and quantity that does not give rise to significant impacts and risks to human health and the environment. This will be done largely through support to the implementation of the water framework directive by assessing progress towards achieving good status of water bodies by 2015 including assessment of emerging issues. Specific outputs will include:

- assessments of European water bodies;
- further development of Eurowaternet, the European water monitoring network, to be in line with and support reporting under the water framework directive and the nitrate, urban waste water, drinking water and bathing water directives;
- an integrated information system, including spatial data, linking freshwater to coastal and marine areas, and information at the scale of river basins.

(d) Marine environment

To support the implementation of the EU marine strategy in collaboration with marine conventions through the assessment of ecosystem health in the eight large marine ecosystems surrounding Europe. Particular attention will be paid to trends in ecosystem functioning, eutrophication, pollution, compliance with environmental legislation, governance and socio-economic analysis of sustainable use of marine resources. Specific outputs will include:

- assessments of distance-to-target;
- assessments of ecosystem health in Europe's large marine ecosystems based on an integrated spatial information system to examine trends in natural systems and effects of land-based pollution;
- development of information flows for the marine strategy using Reportnet and other available tools;
- development of scenarios for coastal zone development, marine resource exploitation and maritime transport in the Arctic and Mediterranean;
- partnership activities with the European Maritime Safety Agency.

(e) Air quality

To support the process of reaching a quality of air that does not give rise to significant impacts and risks to human health and the environment. Specific outputs will include:

- distance-to-target assessments;
- assessments of local and indoor air pollution;
- air quality and air pollutant emissions monitoring, including improvements to Airbase;
- assessment of exposure to air pollutants, especially in urban areas and street canyons.

(f) Urban areas and noise

To support the improvement of the quality of life in urban areas. Specific areas of work will include:

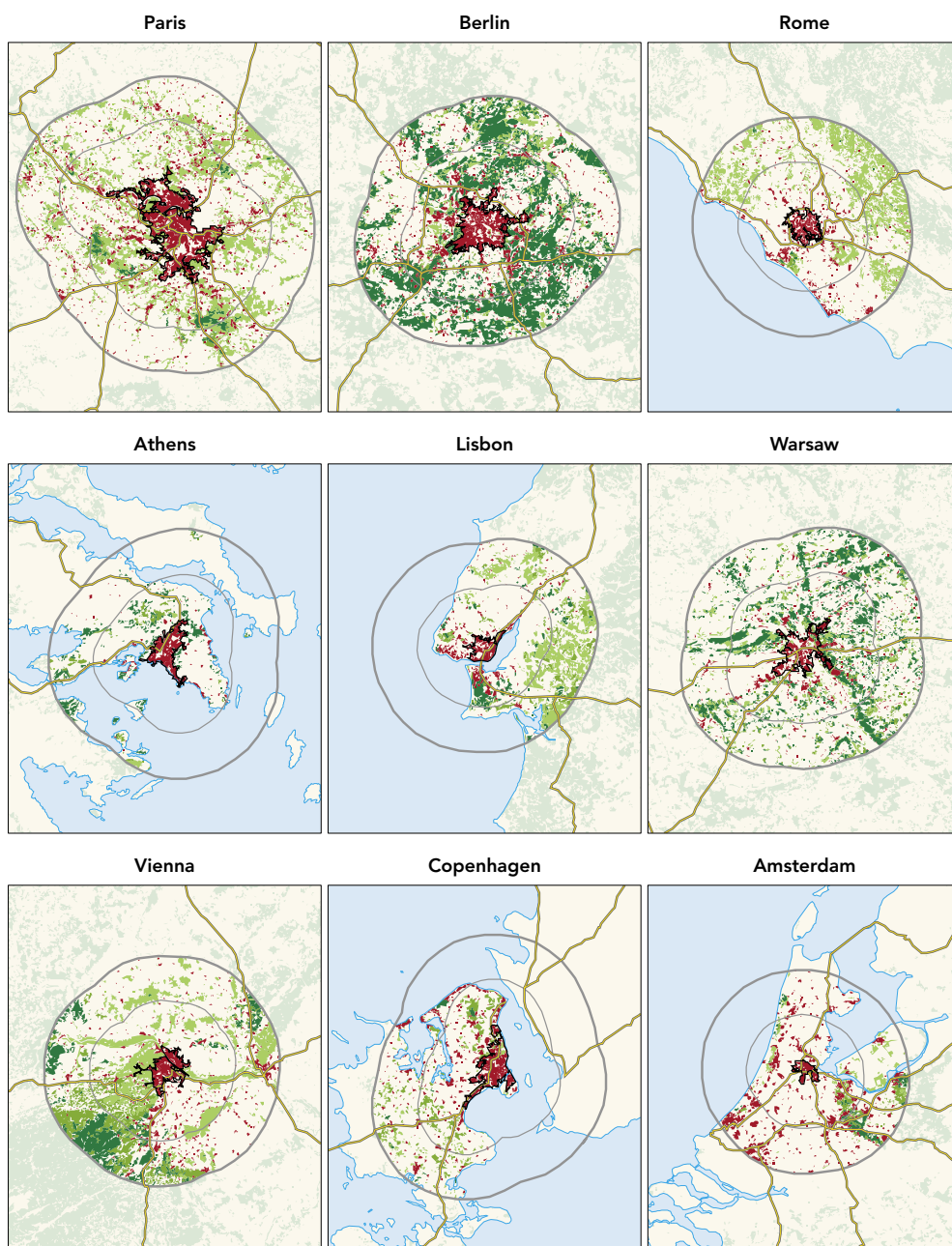
- assessments of changes in living and green spaces within the urban environment;

- support to the thematic strategy on urban environment, particularly in the area of monitoring urban sprawls, land-use, reporting and sustainable urban mangement;
- assessments of noise in selected areas.

(g) Natural and technological hazards

To support the development of framework legislation on risk prevention and harmonisation of hazards mapping. Specific outputs will include:

- environmental and economic impact assessment of natural hazards;
- maps relating to land-use and risk of technological hazards.



Forest around capitals in Europe

Sustainable use and management of natural resources and waste

Society's demands for water, energy and minerals are increasing and unless checked will begin to create problems for future economic and social development. Increasingly, waste is being seen as a potential resource: intensive re-use and recycling of materials and efficient use in manufacturing will become the norm. More products will be designed, marketed and licensed to minimise environmental costs in their manufacture, use, and end-of-life fate.

The Agency will continue to provide information and assessments supporting policies on waste management and the sustainable use of natural resources, to allow for priority setting, monitoring and follow up, and the identification of best practices.



Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be:

(a) Waste and material flow assessments

To support the policy intentions behind the thematic strategies on sustainable use of natural resources and on waste recycling. To ensure a significant overall reduction in the volumes of waste generated, decoupling of resource use from economic growth, and that consumption of resources and the associated impacts do not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment. Specific outputs will include:

- support for the thematic strategies on sustainable use of natural resources and on waste recycling;
- waste and material flow assessments;
- waste and natural resources policy analysis, including effectiveness and state of action assessments;
- development of indicators for natural resource use and waste prevention;
- support to member countries in waste reporting (including the packaging waste directive) and material flow accounting;
- support to the Waste Statistics Regulation, including the commitment to review reporting obligations.

(b) Information on best practice

To facilitate a significant overall reduction in resource use and volumes of waste generated through dissemination of information about tools and policy instruments. Specific outputs will include:

- identification and dissemination of best practice information and success stories.

EEA in the wider world

As stated in the 6th environment action programme, it is important to fully and properly integrate all aspects of environmental concerns into the Community's external relations and the impact of the EU on the rest of the world. The external dimension of the EU sustainable development strategy addresses this need by calling for improved cooperation with international bodies and developing countries to enhance the quantity, quality, impact and sustainability of development cooperation. The EU wider Europe neighbourhood policy promotes similar ideas of an enlarged EU with countries of southeast Europe, the Mediterranean and EECCA (eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia). The EEA Regulation requires the Agency to avoid duplication with other bodies. It is therefore essential that the EEA develops its work together with relevant international organisations, secretariats of international conventions and third countries to ensure that respective activities tackling environmental issues are properly coordinated and the effectiveness of its activities enhanced. This will include an increasing exchange of experience, further development of common methodologies and targeted joint services and products.

Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be:

(a) Supporting the EU wider Europe neighbourhood policy

To support the sharing and exchange of environmental information and of experiences on issues, working methods, frameworks, etc. with the EU neighbourhood countries of southeast Europe, the Mediterranean and, subject to resources, EECCA, including the establishment and consolidation

of working links and partnerships with international and regional organisations. Specific outputs will include:

- improved information capacities and flows in southeast Europe under the CARDS programme;
- publication of joint thematic messages with UNEP;
- contributions to UNEP's 4th Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-4) for publication in 2006-07;
- improved information capacities and flows in countries in EECCA under the Environment for Europe process, and participating in the fourth pan-European assessment 2007 report;
- assessment of the environmental effects of the Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area (to be established in 2010).

(b) Support to the external dimension of the sustainable development of the EU

To support, in cooperation with international bodies, the assessment of Europe's impacts on the environment in countries and regions outside Europe in the context of sustainable development, the measurement of progress towards the millennium goals and global responsibility. Specific areas of work will include:

- cooperation with UNEP on the GEO series and joint messages;
- development of data flows to support indicators on international issues.

(c) Developing partnerships to support global environmental governance

To consolidate, through partnerships, shared information provision processes to support environmental policy integration on the global level. Specific areas of work will include:

- streamlining of international reporting through establishment and strengthening of agreements with international bodies and conventions relating to specific policy areas;
- strengthening of cooperation with UN bodies, OECD, international financial institutions and Eurostat to ensure a better harmonisation of global reporting activities and delivery of joint information;
- cooperation with WHO and US Environmental Protection Agency to support knowledge building in the area of health and environment.

Supporting sustainable development and environmental policies

Recent environmental policies have been developed in the context of a variety of political frameworks including the Cardiff and Lisbon processes, the 6th environment action programme and the EU sustainable development strategy. In addition, political developments, such as enlargement, globalisation of the economy and strategic setting of sustainability objectives have added to the complexity of issues and to uncertainty about the future. The main approach has been to address economic and social concerns, rather than the well-being of the environment within other policy areas. As a result the Agency will now need to incorporate thinking on integration, uncertainty and the application of the precautionary principle throughout its work programme.

Sound policy-making for sustainable development needs improved information and methodologies for impact assessment, as well as prospective analyses. There will also be opportunities to develop more integrated assessments to support cross-cutting and emerging issues. The



Agency, with the involvement of stakeholders, will develop scenarios and models about future outcomes of existing and planned environmental and sustainable development policies.

Over the next five years the Agency's priorities will be:

(a) Sustainable development

To support the assessment and reporting on progress of the EU sustainable development strategy, including the challenge of enlargement and national processes. To place EEA assessments in a better context for sustainable development by developing guidelines, improved information on sustainability reference values, and a better understanding of corporate social responsibility. Specific outputs will include:

- assessment of achievement of environmental objectives in the context of the 6th environment action programme, Cardiff and Lisbon processes, the EU strategy on sustainable development and their inter-linkages;
- links between EEA/Eionet and relevant social and economic networks and expert groups;
- analysis and dissemination of information and guidelines on sustainable development and sustainability impact assessment;
- economic analyses of sustainable development;
- scenarios for European and regional development.

(b) The challenges of enlargement

To support the enlargement process during 2004 and subsequent requirements by the EU. Specific areas of work will include:

- support for the accession process in 2004;
- the enlargement context of the 6th environment action programme;
- tracking of the enlargement process post 2004.

(c) Regular crosscutting assessments

With regard to the EEA Regulation, the Agency will publish every five years a report on the state, trend and outlooks on Europe's environment, supplemented by more regular indicator-based reports on specific issues. This

will continue to be done to support policy programme planning and in particular the mid-term review of the 6th environment action programme (in 2006). Furthermore, activities will focus on measuring progress and benchmarking. Specific outputs will include:

- *State and outlook environment report 2005*
- Environmental signals (annual report)
- EEA snapshots
- policy briefings.

(d) Sectoral assessments

For each priority theme in the 6th environment action programme and for the main sectors in the Cardiff process, the Agency will aim to deliver a regular update of progress towards policy targets and objectives, including prospects for the future and comparisons between countries and regions drawing conclusions on, and disseminating, lessons learnt and best practice. Specific outputs will include:

- indicator-based reporting mechanisms for transport, agriculture and energy in the first instance;

- a methodology and recommendations on data harmonisation for sectoral comparisons between countries and regions;
- analysis and dissemination of best practice.

(e) Policy effectiveness analysis

To support understanding of the effects and effectiveness of policies by encouraging the exchange of information on policy implementation, develop targeted assessments of selected environmental policy measures. Specific outputs will include:

- pilot studies (e.g. urban waste-water and packaging policies) including economic aspects;
- analyses of effective policy mixes and cross-compliance in partnership with other key players, including OECD,
- support for the network of European environmental protection agencies, including analyses of specific policy implementation in member countries;
- establishment of a network of policy analyst professionals to support the development of a methodological guide and framework for undertaking policy effectiveness evaluations.

(f) Emerging issues, research agendas and horizon scanning

To provide regular assessments of emerging issues so that signals from science and technology are taken up in policy discussions. Raising awareness and understanding about key emerging issues with targeted audiences to support the early stages of policy responses. Key emerging



issues arising from scientific research, monitoring, public concerns and from policy analyses will be identified and selected for analysis. Specific areas of work will include:

- environmental technologies in the area of climate change adaptation and energy;
- tracking of the uptake and impacts of genetically modified organisms;
- scientific approaches to treat uncertainty in policy making.

(g) Scenarios and prospective studies

To develop and analyse a range of scenarios to support the assessment of prospects for Europe's environment and the consequences of key policy choices. To develop systematic methods to examine plausible future trends for early detection of weak signals, emerging issues and potentially surprising developments. Specific outputs will include:

- development of comprehensive scenarios for Europe's environment;

- in-depth scenario analysis of key issues (e.g. changes in land-use in relation to climate change and energy demand and maritime transport in environmentally sensitive areas, such as the Arctic and Mediterranean);
- elaboration of approaches to public and stakeholder participation in scenario development and assessments.





Managing our resources

The EEA strategy 2004–2008 is based on the underlying assumption that the core funding will grow gradually at an average of 5 % per year. Given that the overall inflation rate is estimated to be approximately 2 % and the increase in salary costs for EEA is expected to be between 4 to 5 % in coming years, a 3 % increase in the subvention reflects a basic budget status quo.

The additional 2 % increase is assessed to be required to cover the increasing needs in the streamlining of data reporting, in improving quality assurance and in expanding the support to the policy processes.

The Agency will continue to be a front-runner by fostering new member countries, specifically Switzerland and the countries of southeast Europe. These geographical extensions, together with cooperation with other countries and extended sectoral work are expected, and assessed on the boundary conditions as highlighted in the table. Resources will also be used to strengthen the capacity of the new member countries. Cooperation with

sectoral directorates-general (DGs) will be further fostered — specifically for the energy, transport, agriculture and fisheries sectors. The option to have joint activities with industrial partners is also foreseen.

The Agency is committed to strive further towards a more modern human resource management approach which emphasises that people are its primary resource. This includes a strong focus on training and staff career development, further building up of managerial skills and a reinforced sensing of the pulse of the organisation. A balanced scorecard system will be one of the main tools used to monitor performance internally and to communicate on EEA performance. In addition, the Agency is now embarking on environmental management and audit scheme (EMAS) registration, which will further support its own reduction of impacts on the environment as well as link to its work with industry and suppliers.

Managing and further refining project steering is high on the priority agenda, with a move towards full activity based management and budgeting. Audit and feed-back mechanisms will be integrated into the management approach.

Over the next five years the Agency will continue to operate from its current offices at Kongens Nytorv 6 in Copenhagen. The building capacity of 155 desks will be approached over this period.



Budget forecast

Budget					
Year	EU core subvention	Non EU members contribution	Candidates cooperation	Other DGs	Total budget
2004	27 200	3 900		500	31 600
2005	28 600	4 900	1 000	1 000	35 500
2006	30 000	5 000	2 000	1 500	38 500
2007	32 200	4 400	2 000	1 500	40 100
2008	33 700	4 500	2 000	1 500	41 700

Staffing	
Year	Total statutory staff
2004	115
2005	125
2006	135
2007	145
2008	150

Boundary conditions and assumptions on the budget:

- Switzerland joins the EEA in 2005;
- Bulgaria and Romania are expected to join EU at which point their current direct contributions will be integrated in the EEA core budget;
- direct contributions for cooperation of south-east Europe is expected from 2005 onwards, with possible external funding for more eastern countries and the Mediterranean;
- direct contributions from sector DGs are expected from 2005 onwards, initially from DG Agriculture and followed by others.

Key EEA documents

EEA vision	EEA strategy 2004–2008	Annual management plan	EEA website www.eea.eu.int
Our aspiration for the future of environmental information	Sets out 5-year objectives and targets linked to our long-term environmental information visions	Our priorities, targets and planned use of resources for the next year	Provides information about the environment and our activities
Annual report/ Annual activity report	Annual environmental report	Customer charter	Half year operational report
An overview of the year including performance against targets	Our performance in managing our own impact on the environment over the year (beginning 2004)	Our commitment to Europe's institutions, EEA member countries and society	A more detailed look at our operational performance plus summary finance and human resources data

Data policy (2004)

Data used in EEA products are freely available from the data service on the EEA website, provided that EEA's agreement with the data provider does not include any access or use constraints. New EEA products on the website will include links to the original data sets or, in case of use or access constraint, links to metadata including information about the data provider.

European Environment Agency

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