

Annual report 2003

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The European Environment Agency

Our mission is to:

- *be the leading public body in Europe committed to providing environmental information to policy-makers and the public, to support sustainable development, and to help achieve significant and measurable improvements in Europe's environment;*
- *assist the European Community institutions and EEA member countries to identify, frame, prepare and implement sound and effective environmental policy measures and legislation; and to monitor, evaluate and assess actual and expected progress in the implementation and results of such measures;*
- *establish and coordinate the European environment information and observation network (Eionet), based on an information infrastructure for collection, analysis, assessment and management of data shared with European Commission services, EEA member countries and international organisations, agreements and conventions.*



Jacqueline McGlade
Executive Director

Our strategic goals for the 2004–2008 period are to:

- *further develop information systems and networks;*
- *provide information to help tackle climate change; on biodiversity loss and towards understanding spatial change; on sustainable use and management of natural resources and waste; and to protect human health and quality of life;*
- *provide information about the EU in the wider world, including support to sustainable development and environment policies;*
- *improve balance and diversity of staffing;*
- *be the leading organisation reporting on environmental performance.*

We will do this by delivering:

- *a core set of indicators for measuring progress, streamlining the information system and improving communication services for the public;*
- *assessments of progress to the Kyoto and burden sharing targets, including information on climate change impacts, adaptation and scenarios;*
- *information and assessments on biodiversity, landscape and spatial change;*
- *information and assessments on: the environment and human health; chemicals; the water quality and water framework directive; the marine environment; air quality; urban areas and noise; and natural and technological hazards;*
- *waste and material flow assessments and information on best practice in waste prevention and management;*

- *support to the EU wider Europe neighbourhood policy, the external dimension of the sustainable development of the EU, and partnerships to support global environmental governance;*
- *analyses on sustainable development, support to the challenges of enlargement, cross-cutting assessments, sectoral assessments, policy effectiveness analysis, information on emerging issues, research agendas, horizon scanning, and scenarios and prospective studies.*

Chairman of the board message

For the EEA, 2003 was a time of challenges and change. The launch and implementation of the European Community's sixth environment action programme in 2002 underscored the need for the EEA to align its activities with the programme. For the EEA, this has translated into a special focus on four priority areas that are key to meeting the challenges in the European Community programme. These areas are climate change; nature and biodiversity; environment and health and quality of life; and natural resources and waste. Working with key partners, the EEA has delivered substantial support to the implementation of the programme. The 2003 annual report showcases examples of these results and demonstrates how the EEA is making a difference and adding value to the information on Europe's environment.

One of the major events in 2003 was the delivery of the report 'Europe's environment: the third assessment'; this is the most comprehensive assessment of Europe's environment available. It was prepared for the 'Environment for Europe' ministerial conference in Kiev under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The entry of Poland and Turkey as members of the EEA was another major event in 2003 bringing the total number of EEA member countries to 31.

Considerable media attention was focused on the launch of the report on tracking the progress of EU and acceding/candidate countries towards their Kyoto targets. The launch took place in Milan at the ninth conference of the parties to the UN framework convention on climate change. The EEA also presented its new strategy which sets out its direction and priorities for the next five years. To align the organisational structure with the new strategy, the EEA undertook a 'making it happen' process. The new structures took effect in January 2004. The role of the scientific committee watching over and promoting the scientific quality of the output of the EEA and the good functioning of the Eionet and the European topic centres remain essential elements of the structure.

In delivering EEA events and results in 2003, the EEA was dependent on close cooperation with many partners, especially the Eionet members in Member countries. Furthermore the European Commission, European Parliament, OECD and the United Nations Environment Programme in particular, played key roles in providing information and the context for delivering the results outlined in this annual report. In the course of the past years, effective cooperation between the EEA and the services of the European Commission, in particular DG Environment, materialised. Active support of the Presidencies and better information of the European citizens on the quality of their environment was accomplished.



Kees Zoeteman
Chairman of EEA
management board
1 January 2000 to
31 December 2003

2003 was the year when I stepped down from the board at the end of my term as chairman and welcomed my successor. Lars-Erik Liljelund took up his duties as chairman on 1 January 2004. I also welcomed Jacqueline McGlade to the post of Executive Director on 1 June 2003. In the short period from June to December 2003 Jacqueline McGlade has shown great initiative and ability to spearhead the EEA in meeting its future challenges.

On behalf of the board I would like to thank the Interim Executive Director, Gordon McInnes for his dedicated leadership of the EEA in the period from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003. He provided a smooth transition towards the new strategy for the new Executive Director Jacqueline McGlade.

Kees Zoeteman

Major events in 2003

Europe's environment: the third assessment

The main EEA report in 2003 was 'Europe's environment: the third assessment'. It was prepared for the 'Environment for Europe' ministerial conference held under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Kiev, Ukraine on 21–23 May 2003. This assessment is the most comprehensive, up-to-date overview of the environment on this continent. It extends the range of previous reports issued in 1995 and 1998, as it covers for the first time the entire Russian Federation and the 11 other eastern European, Caucasus and central Asian (EECCA) countries.

Trends and projections of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe

Considerable media attention was directed towards the report on tracking the progress of EU and acceding/candidate countries towards meeting their Kyoto targets. On 1 December, the EEA presented the report in a side event at the ninth conference of the parties to the UN framework convention on climate change, in Milan.

Air pollution by ozone in Europe

The EEA report on summer 2003 ozone was submitted to the European Commission, under Directive 92/72/EEC on air pollution by ozone. The report was in support of the thematic strategy on air pollution; a summary of the assessment was sent to the European environment ministers who discussed the summer ozone episodes at their meeting on 27 October 2003.

New EEA membership of Poland and Turkey

On 1 January and 1 May 2003 respectively, Poland and Turkey became members of the EEA bringing the total number of EEA member countries to 31.

European nature information system (EUNIS)

The EUNIS database was launched as a web application in 2003. It provides access to information collected and used by the EEA Topic Centre on Nature Protection and Biodiversity for work on Natura 2000 evaluations and for EEA indicators and assessments. EUNIS consists of three fully interlinked parts: nature sites, habitats and species.

European pollutant emission register (EPER)

During 2003, the EEA worked closely with DG Environment to coordinate and manage the construction of EPER and its website as well as the first reporting of EPER data from EU Member States and Norway. To comply with EPER, Member States have to produce a triennial report on emissions from industrial facilities into the air and water. EPER obliges the European Commission to make these data publicly accessible on the Internet. The EPER website, which is hosted by the EEA, was created to fulfil this obligation (and was officially launched at the EEA on 23 February 2004).

EEA strategy 2004–2008

The EEA strategy was launched in late 2003 and outlines the strategic areas and priorities for the next five years. The strategy is aligned with the European Community's sixth environment action programme and works across four 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. Overall, the EEA has been seeking to make its activities in the new strategy more effective by concentrating resources on a narrower range of issues. This will enable the EEA to better reflect the changing needs of its main clients and provide a more transparent level of access to data, information and individual experts.

Review of the European Environment Agency

In 2003 the European Commission delivered a report to the Environment Council for its review of the EEA. The report concluded that the EEA priorities broadly matched those of the European policy agenda and further recommended that the EEA should move towards supporting all stages in the policy cycle.

Review of the European topic centres

A review of the EEA European topic centres was carried out to identify structural changes and improvements needed to match the new EEA strategy 2004–2008. A differentiated approach to task description and management of each centre was recommended in the review.

Reorganisation — the 'making it happen' process

To align the EEA with the new strategy and annual management plans, a substantial reorganisation took place during 2003. Management established groups within six programmes to bring together individuals to work on more integrated activities. The new structure included a new programme on corporate affairs to provide more effective communication with the European Parliament, European Commission, other Community institutions, EEA member countries and partners throughout the world.

Events

Total number of published reports:	21
Total number of major exhibitions:	4

EEA website

Subscribers for electronic notification:	9 000
Visitors:	1 100 000
Hits:	23 690 800
Downloads from internet (PDF files):	458 020
Files downloaded from the data service:	55 000
Most downloaded report:	<i>Europe's environment: the third assessment</i>
Most popular theme:	Water

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1. Introduction

The EEA contributed to the European Community's sixth environment action programme in a number of areas: climate change; nature and biodiversity; environment and health and quality of life; and natural resources and waste. In addition, the EEA developed further its information systems and networks to help implementation of the Aarhus Convention by the European Community. Other policy areas have been supported through contributions to sustainable development and sectoral integration; support to the European Parliament and European councils; and initiatives in the wider world. The EEA has also provided support to member countries and to the European Commission, both as clients and through partnerships.

2. Information systems and networks

Information systems and networks provide the infrastructure for effective information from countries and others to the EEA. This infrastructure enables the dissemination of the assessments and knowledge back to the countries, and to the European Community institutions and other stakeholders. It supports the implementation of the Aarhus Convention covering public access to information. Specific outputs in 2003 included:

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)

Eionet is a partnership network of the EEA and its member countries consisting of a network of experts in national environment agencies and other national bodies dealing with environmental information. The partnership with Eionet is crucial to EEA in supporting the collection, development and distribution of data and information. The Eionet contributed significantly to the report *Europe's environment: the third assessment* and to the new structure and content of the Signals series in 2003 and onwards. The Eionet

also contributed substantially to the preparation of the EEA strategy 2004–2008, the annual management plan for 2004, the evaluation of the European topic centres, and the European Commission's review report on the EEA. A set of meetings and workshops were carried out to overview, discuss and prepare inputs to the implementation of the EEA annual management plan 2003 and the EEA support to the European Commission thematic strategies. During the year, the Eionet expanded further, with Poland and Turkey joining as new member countries. In addition, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro joined the extended Eionet as cooperating countries alongside with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia and Switzerland.



Source: Vladimir Benko, National Focal Point Slovakia.

Launches and meetings:

The NFP/Eionet Group held three meetings in 2003:

- Copenhagen, 4–5 February 2003
- Barcelona, 7–8 May 2003
- Copenhagen, 6–8 October 2003

Description of key terms:

- Eionet weblink: <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/E/Eionet>

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)



Eionet priority data flows and Reportnet tools

The EEA has, in cooperation with the Eionet, identified a set of priority data flows and is developing Reportnet tools to ensure harmonised data dictionaries, data exchange, and data management. The sixth progress report on Eionet priority data flows

was developed in 2003. The report covers data deliveries from 31 countries in Europe. Progress on timely data deliveries from the countries have in 2003 been evaluated for 10 priority data collection areas. Information on two additional data flows (Corine land cover 2000 and contaminated soil) has again been provided in the report.

The Reportnet tools serve the processes in the monitoring-to-reporting chain and have facilitated and improved data flows from the countries. In particular, the central data repository and the reporting obligation database service have helped the countries improve their

reporting within Eionet. The content of the reporting obligation database was quality assessed, streamlined and updated. The web interface to the database was improved and better integrated with other Reportnet applications. Work was undertaken aiming to extend the coverage, and user and administrative guidelines were prepared to support the application in its operational phase. The data dictionary progressed from the design to an operational prototype. The prototype was populated with some initial data specifications for priority data flows and work was done to make a simple service operational at the beginning of 2004.

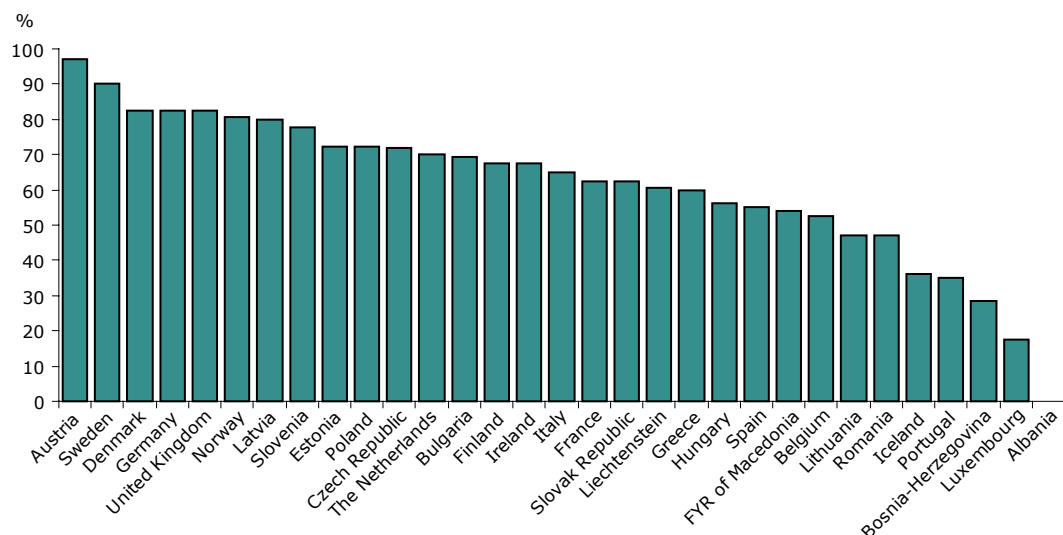
Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Eionet priority data flows — Sixth progress report to the management board.*
Weblink: http://eea.eionet.eu.int:8980/Public/irc/eionet-circle/nfp-eionet/library?l=/eionet_priority/eionet_progress/2002/data_flows_prog06/_EN_1.0_&a=i

Description of key terms:

- Reportnet weblink: <http://www.eionet.eu.int/rn/reportnet2003.pdf>

Eionet priority data flows provide the data needed for regular EEA products in 10 thematic areas. Overall performance in data delivery from the countries by the agreed deadlines of countries in 2002



Note: The web version of this annual report will include the 2003 figures.
Source: Eionet priority data flows — Sixth progress report to the management board (EEA, 2003).

Global monitoring for environment and security (GMES)

EU Member States have shown a keen interest in GMES as a tool to assist policy-makers in the formulation, monitoring and enforcement of policies, and to better assess the impact of existing and planned policies. The GMES initiative began over the period 2001–2003. The EEA contributed to the preparation

of the European Commission Communication: 'Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): Establishing a GMES capacity by 2008', particularly to the chapters on information needs, in-situ observing systems, and data integration and information management. The EEA also participated in GMES steering committee and stakeholders meetings, and in strategic discussions with the European Space Agency and DG Research on GMES pilot projects.

Launches and meetings:

- Third GMES Forum, Athens, 5–6 June 2003
- Fourth GMES Forum, Baveno, 26 November 2003

Description of key terms:

- European Space Agency weblink: www.esa.int
- GMES weblink: <http://www.gmes.info/>

Infrastructure for spatial information in Europe (Inspire)

Inspire is intended to set the legal framework for the creation of a spatial information infrastructure and the Commission wishes here to address technical standards and protocols, organisational and coordination issues, data policy issues including

data access and the creation and maintenance of spatial information. The EEA has been supporting the European Commission since 2002 in developing the environment aspects of the initiative. It produced a position and scoping paper on thematic user needs for environmental policies, and participated in the working groups on defining, implementing and assessing the extended impact of the proposed framework directive.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- Environmental thematic coordination position paper.
Weblink: <http://inspire.jrc.it/>

European pollutant emission register (EPER)

To comply with the European pollutant emission register (EPER) established by the European Commission and required by the Directive concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), Member States have to produce a triennial report on the emissions of industrial facilities into the air and waters. In 2003, the register covered approximately 10 000

industrial facilities and emissions of 50 pollutants. The European Commission is required to make these data publicly accessible via the Internet. A website, hosted by the EEA, was created to fulfil this obligation and was officially launched at a high-level event at the EEA on 23 February 2004. During 2003, the EEA worked closely with DG Environment to coordinate and manage both the construction of EPER and its website as well as the first reporting of EPER data from EU Member States and Norway.

Launches and meetings:

- EPER launch, Copenhagen, 23 February 2004.
Weblink: <http://eper.eea.eu.int/eper/default.asp>

Media coverage:

- Wide coverage by newspapers and news organisations in many countries, e.g. France (RTL2), Germany (FAZ, ARD Tagesschau), Portugal (Publico), Spain (El País, Expansion), the Netherlands (Financieele Dagblad). Coverage also by environment websites, newsletters and magazines and EU news websites. Strong demand for EPER video news release from TV stations.

Description of key terms:

- Weblink: <http://eper.eea.eu.int/eper/introduction.asp?i=>

European nature information system (EUNIS)

The EEA launched the EUNIS database as a web application in 2003. It consists of three entirely interlinked parts: nature sites, habitats and species. EEA priority data on nationally designated areas can all be found within EUNIS. Also the threat and legal status of all habitats and species listed

in EU birds and habitats directives and the Bern Convention and other site information (i.e. Ramsar convention on wetlands, Corine biotopes database) are included in this system. A special section contains all national site protection types in national languages. The information can be accessed by an easy search facility or by more advanced search tools.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- EUNIS (European nature information system). Weblink: <http://eunis.eea.eu.int/index.jsp>

Launches and meetings:

- Joint meeting and workshop with the secretariat of the Convention on biological diversity clearing-house mechanism (CBD CHM), Prague, 9–11 September 2003 (all European countries invited)
- NFP/Eionet meeting, Copenhagen, 7 October 2003

Description of key terms:

- Ramsar weblink: http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/R/Ramsar_Convention
- Corine biotopes weblink: <http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/metadetails.asp?table=biotopes&i=1>
- EU birds and habitats directives weblinks: http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/B/Birds_Directive; http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/H/habitats_directive
- Bern Convention weblink: http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/B/Bern_Convention

Electronic Eionet (e-Eionet) meeting

The e-Eionet meeting was held in September in Bulgaria, and included 83 participants representing 40 European countries. The purpose of the meeting was to share with national representatives the latest developments in the electronic tools and processes enabling efficient exchange of environmental information and data. The main focus was on existing and emerging Reportnet

tools (to ensure harmonised data dictionaries, data exchange and data management), data flows, and CIRCA groupware (which is the main IT-tool for EEA/Eionet to share documents). The meeting also explained the key open source technological platforms used in Eionet and the appropriate information technologies for eastern European, Caucasus and central Asian (EECCA) countries. The EEA invited these countries to attend this annual work conference for the first time, joining the EEA member countries and the Balkan countries.

Participants in the e-Eionet meeting in Bulgaria

Launches and meetings:

- e-Eionet work-conference 2003 — Pan European Environmental data exchange and handling, Sofia, 18–19 September 2003. Weblink: <http://www.eionet.eu.int/events/eEIONET2003/>

Description of key terms:

- e-Eionet weblink: <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/E/Eionet>
- CIRCA weblink: <http://eea.eionet.eu.int:8980/Public/irc/eionet-circle/Home/help?s=>



EnviroWindows

EnviroWindows is the web-based 'marketplace' for businesses, local authorities and their stakeholders. It is based on two main web services: interest groups and information portals. Several interest groups used the collaborative work environment in EnviroWindows. A partnership under the United Nations Commission

on Sustainable Development was organised to meet a growing interest from voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives to contribute to implementing sustainable development. On information portals the web-based communication and information interface for businesses and local authorities was consolidated and improved.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- EnviroWindows weblink: <http://www.ewindows.eu.org/>

European environmental protection agencies (EPA) network

A first meeting of heads of national EPAs, the Executive Director of EEA and representatives of the European Commission was held in 2003 as a first step in establishing a network to facilitate high-level dialogue on critical issues surrounding environmental policy implementation. It was agreed that the establishment of such a network would contribute to the development of more effective implementation through sharing of

experiences, problems, approaches and solutions. The network is to complement the IMPEL network (for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law). Four top priority topics for discussion were identified by the EPA network: environmental impacts of agriculture; performance evaluation of institutions and organisations; environmental damage and subsidiarity. The EPA network also had discussions on the implementation of various directives, best practice and lessons learned. It was agreed that the network should continue to meet every six months.

Launches and meetings:

- EPA meeting, Copenhagen, 6–7 November 2003

3. Tackling climate change

The European Union is currently responsible for 15 % of the world's greenhouse gas emissions but has only 5 % of its population. The EU has therefore decided to take the lead in reducing emissions by meeting the targets set in the Kyoto Protocol. For the EU, this requires an 8 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2008–2012 compared with 1990 levels. The key question is whether this target is achievable.

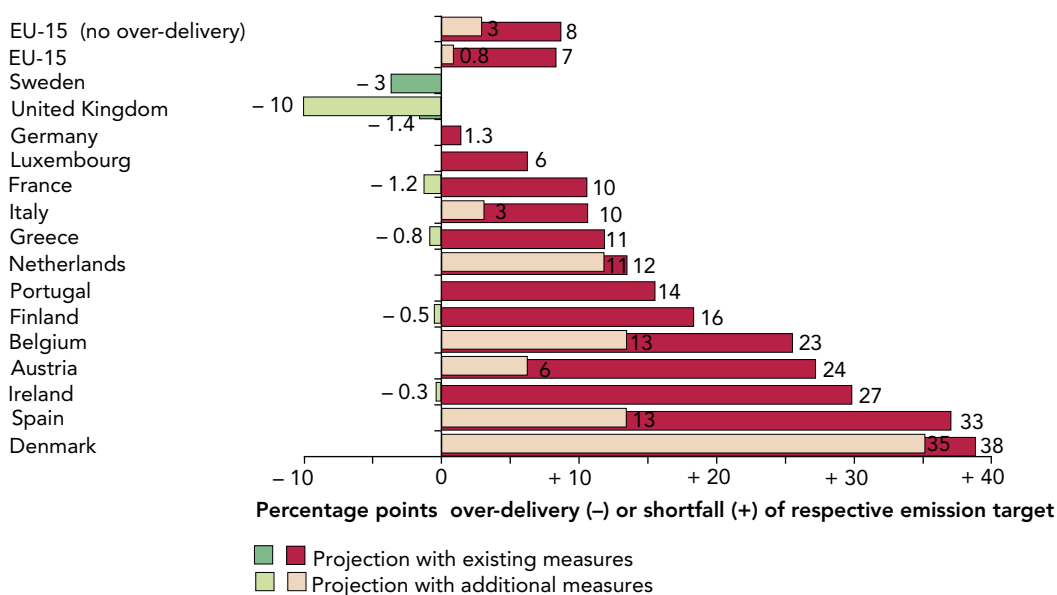
Progress of EU to meet their Kyoto Protocol targets

The EEA report, *Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe*, stresses that the EU and many of its Member States will fail to meet their Kyoto Protocol targets on the basis on domestic policies and measures implemented or planned so far. The latest projections show that existing domestic policies and measures will reduce the EU's total emissions in 2010 to only 0.5 % below the 1990 levels, leaving it 7.5 % short of the Kyoto target. The EU emissions trading scheme (starting in 2005) is

an important measure planned, as are the 'Kyoto mechanisms', but these measures are not as yet included in the projections.

The report was presented in a side event at the ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Milan. The report and a number of other EEA products were widely distributed (the conference attracted 5 000 participants) and launched through coordinated EEA and European Commission press releases in December 2003.

Relative gap between greenhouse gas emission projections and 2010 targets for EU-15 and Member States



Source: Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe (EEA, 2003).

Emissions of greenhouse gases and ammonia from agriculture

The EEA contributed to a successful workshop on past and projected emissions of greenhouse gases and ammonia from agriculture held under the EU Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism Committee. The workshop showed that countries use quite different emission estimation methods for nitrous oxide and methane from agriculture. The EEA and the Joint Research Centre were recommended to undertake further work on possible harmonisation of approaches; statistical institutes should collect additional agricultural statistics.

Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy

An EEA workshop was held on improvement of energy balances and emission estimates of energy related greenhouse gas emission inventories, with participants from many EEA member countries, the European Commission, EEA, the European Topic Centre for Air and Climate Change, the International Energy Agency and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat. The workshop resulted in recommendations for improvements at the national level and on the annual energy questionnaires from Eurostat and the International Energy Agency.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe*. Environmental issue report No 36. Weblinks: Final draft: http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_issue_report_2003_36/en. Summary: http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_issue_report_2003_36/en/tab_summary_RLR
- *Annual European Community greenhouse gas inventory 1990–2001 and inventory report 2003*. Technical report No 95. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_95/en
- *Greenhouse gas emission — projections for Europe*. Technical report No 77. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_77/en
- Briefing for European Parliament *Ancillary benefits of the Kyoto Protocol*. Weblink: <http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/briefings/briefing2>

Launches and meetings:

- Workshop on past and projected emissions of greenhouse gases and ammonia from agriculture under the EU greenhouse gases monitoring mechanism committee, Copenhagen, 27–28 February 2003
- Joint informal meeting of environment and energy ministers, Montecatini, 18–20 July 2003
- Ninth conference of the parties to the UN framework convention on climate change, Milan, 1 December 2003

Media coverage:

- Very wide media coverage, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom and some non-European countries (Canada, New Zealand). Organisations/publications included Associated Press, Agence France-Presse (France), BBC Online (UK), Corriere della Sera (Italy), Der Spiegel (Germany), The Times (UK)

Description of key terms:

- Kyoto Protocol weblink: http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/K/Kyoto_Protocol

4. Biodiversity loss and understanding spatial change

To protect nature and biological diversity the European Community has adopted a multi-track approach in its sixth environment action programme. Two major developments in information on biodiversity, relating to the European Community biodiversity strategy and the convention on biological diversity, can be highlighted.

Biodiversity indicators

There are now global, pan-European and EU targets to substantially reduce or to halt the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Indicators need to be developed to help monitor progress towards the 2010 target. The most critical issues concern protection of and pressures on sites and habitats. For habitats, Corine land cover data are being used, whilst for species,

information is mostly derived from international conventions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Forest indicators are being developed in association with the ministerial conference for protection of forests in Europe. The EEA is working on a core set of indicators for biodiversity and on closely interlinked indicators in the implementation of the European Community biodiversity strategy and action plans (Bio-IMPs).

Published reports papers and web pages:

- *EEA briefing 1/2004 — Halting the loss of biodiversity in Europe.*
Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/briefing_2004_1/en
- European Community biodiversity clearing-house mechanism (EC CHM).
Weblink: <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int>

Launches and meetings:

- International working group on biodiversity, indicators and monitoring, Copenhagen, 26–27 June 2003
- Joint meeting and workshop with the CBD CHM secretariat, Prague, 9–11 September 2003 (all European countries invited)
- Technical workshop, Copenhagen, 23–24 October 2003 (Eionet countries and CBD secretariat)
- Bio-IMPs expert meeting/BEG working group 5 interim meeting, Copenhagen, 8 December 2003
- European Commission biodiversity expert group (BEG) and its working groups 1–5, Brussels
- Technical meetings in interested countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Albania, Italy, Denmark)

Description of key terms:

- Corine land cover weblink: http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/C/Corine_land_cover

Monitoring and indicators of forest biodiversity in Europe

A wide range of topics was investigated for possible implementation in the biodiversity module of the forest focus regulation, and to further improve the biodiversity indicators at the ministerial conference on the protection of forests in Europe. In-depth studies were contracted by the EEA to help establish a scheme of forest types for biodiversity assessment, developed from the EUNIS habitat classification.

Studies were also carried out on the new ministerial conference's indicator on deadwood. These issues were discussed at the conference on 'Monitoring and indicators of forest biodiversity in Europe — from ideas to operationality', organised by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). The EEA, the European Commission, and the European Forest Institute were among the coorganisers. The conference was linked to a scientific committee led by the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences.

Launches and meetings:

- Conference under the Italian Presidency of the EU 'Monitoring and indicators of forest biodiversity in Europe — from ideas to operationality', Florence 12–15 November 2003.

Weblink: http://www.efi.fi/events/2003/Monitoring_and_indicators/

Description of key terms:

- Forest Focus regulation weblink: <http://www.cebec.be/en/pdfs/R%202003-2152%20Forest%20focus%20EN.pdf>

Flowering scrub and dry open hills in Spain



5. Protecting human health and quality of life

The European Community's policy on the environment has resulted in a stream of policies and measures aimed at reducing emissions and concentrations of contaminants. But despite the many achievements there are still issues that require urgent attention, e.g. ground-level ozone which may affect health and provoke premature death; man-made chemicals including pesticides potentially causing birth defects and increasing cancer incidents and allergies, etc. The EEA provided support to the European Community's sixth environment action programme in the following areas in 2003:

Reproductive toxicology and chemicals

Concern over possible threats to reproductive performance in humans as well as in wildlife has increasingly caught public attention. Reproductive toxicology of chemicals has been identified as particularly crucial in this

respect. The EEA coorganised with the Swedish EPA a workshop in support of the European environment and health strategy. The workshop stressed the importance of integrated research into and more assessments of reproductive toxicology and chemicals, especially with regard to exposure timing. Work for the 2004 ministerial conference on environment and health in Budapest also began.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Reproductive toxicology and chemicals — a matter of timing.*
Weblink: <http://www-cru.slu.se/RSact.htm>
- Briefing for European Parliament *Chemicals in the environment.*
Weblink: <http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/briefings/briefing3>

Launches and meetings:

- Workshop on 'Reproductive toxicology — a matter of timing', Copenhagen, 2–3 October 2003
- Seminar on 'Uncertainty Management', Copenhagen, 22 October 2003

Description of key terms

- Reproductive toxicology weblink: <http://www-cru.slu.se/RSTime.pdf>

Ozone pollution

Harmful ozone pollution during summer 2003 was the worst for almost a decade in large parts of Europe, particularly during the long August heatwave. The unusually hot and sunny weather, combined with air pollutants emitted mainly by traffic and industry, caused very long lasting and geographically extensive 'episodes' with high concentrations of harmful ground-level ozone. The EEA report *Air pollution by ozone in*

Europe, based on data submitted to the European Commission under Directive 92/72/EEC on air pollution by ozone, was provided to European environment ministers who discussed the summer ozone episodes at their meeting on 27 October 2003. At this Council meeting, the environment ministers also agreed to set maximum limits on organic solvents in paints and varnishes from 2007 under a new EU directive, which will form part of the EU strategy to combat ground-level ozone formation.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Air pollution by ozone in Europe in summer 2003*. Topic report No 3/2003. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/topic_report_2003_3/en
- *EuroAirnet — Status report 2000*. Technical report No 90. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_90/en

Launches and meetings:

- Eionet annual workshop on air quality management, Oslo, 6-7 November 2003
- Joint UNECE/Eionet annual workshop on air emission inventories, Warsaw, 22-24 September 2003

Media coverage:

- El País (Spain), ABC news website (Australia), environment publications and websites, EU news websites

Marine environment

The EEA, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and marine conventions are cooperating further within the European marine monitoring and assessment working group (EMMA), in support of the European thematic strategy for protection of the marine environment.

The EEA and the European Topic Centre for Water provided a working document to the group: 'Towards a European approach on marine monitoring and assessment'. Several reports published in 2003 also provided relevant information on the state of Europe's marine environment and the development of relevant indicators and monitoring.



Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Hazardous substances in the European marine environment — Trends in metals and persistent organic pollutants*. Topic report No 2/2003.
Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/topic_report_2003_2/en
- *Testing of indicators for the marine and coastal environment in Europe — Part 2*. Technical report No 85. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_85/en
- *Testing of indicators for the marine and coastal environment in Europe — Part 3*. Technical report No 86. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_86/en
- *An indicator-based approach to assessing the environmental performance of European marine fisheries and aquaculture*. Technical report No 87. Weblink: http://repository.eea.eu.int/reports/technical_report/87/full_report/en/html/abstract
- *Eurowaternet: Technical guidelines for implementation in transitional, coastal and marine waters*. Technical report No 97. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_97/en

Launches and meetings:

- Meeting between the EEA and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Copenhagen, 3 April 2003

Europe's water

The protection and quality of Europe's water is generally improving but there is little or no progress in combating some types of pollution or overuse of water in certain regions. Many of these problems are linked particularly to agriculture. It will therefore be essential to monitor the effects of the EU enlargement in 2004 on the agricultural sector. The first EEA indicator-based assessment of Europe's water (fresh and marine) highlights these issues. The report, prepared as a contribution to the development of the water framework directive,

presents an assessment based on the core set of EEA indicators. Additional products were also published, including an executive summary of the report which was presented at a conference during the Hellenic Water Week under the Greek presidency and an EEA briefing on the status of Europe's water. Supporting fact sheets were made available online. In addition, the EEA provided inputs to a number of technical guideline documents developed by working groups under the water framework directive strategic implementation group.



Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Europe's water: An indicator-based assessment*. Topic report No 1/2003.
Weblinks: Full report:http://reports.eea.eu.int/topic_report_2003_1/en
Summary: http://reports.eea.eu.int/topic_report_2003_1/en/tab_summary_RLR
- *Eurowaternet: towards an index of quality of the national data in Waterbase*.
Technical report No 98.
Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_98/en
- *Eurowaternet Quantity – Technical guidelines for implementation*. Technical report No 99.
Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_99/en
- *EEA briefing 1/2003 – Status of Europe's water*.
Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/briefing_2003_1/en

Launches and meetings:

- Informal meeting of environment ministers, Langonissi, 2–4 May 2003
- International conference on the sustainable development of the Mediterranean and Black Sea environment, Thessaloniki, 29–31 May 2003
- Global monitoring for environment and security, 3rd GMES Forum, Athens, 5–6 June 2003
- Hellenic Water Week/Informal water directors meeting, Athens, 17–20 June 2003

6. Sustainable use and management of natural resources and waste

There is growing evidence that natural resources are under pressure and their extraction or use moves beyond the carrying capacity of the environment. Waste volumes are predicted to increase and waste prevention is thus considered a key element of an integrated product policy approach. Further measures are also encouraged in recycling and recovery of waste. The EEA provided support in the following areas in 2003:

Resource use in European countries

The material flows into the EU-15 economy — measured as direct material input — have been nearly constant since 1980 with approximately 16.5 tonnes per capita annually. The total material requirement has remained at about 50 tonnes per capita annually. The direct material input and the total material requirements have thus been decoupling from economic growth in relative terms. This relative decoupling shows that market forces already

favour resource efficient production. But resource use levels still seem unsustainably high. Concerted policy initiatives have been behind all cases where resource use has fallen in absolute terms. These are the conclusions of the EEA report *Zero study: Resource use in European countries*. The study provides a comprehensive overview of material use based on several data sets to support further development of the European thematic strategy on sustainable use and management of resources.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Zero-study: Resource use in European countries.*
Weblink: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/natres/pdf/zero_study_final.pdf



Recycling of waste

The EEA provided support to the thematic strategy on waste prevention and recycling in several areas. An inventory was compiled of existing information on recycling of materials to advise about the availability of statistical data for setting up targets in the thematic strategy. A review of life cycle assessment studies on paper was undertaken, to examine the usability of a life cycle assessment approach

for determining the best options for disposal/recovery of used paper. The studies will be continued into 2004, focusing on the applicability of a cost-benefit analysis as a decision-support tool. In addition, data were collected and processed for DG Environment on generation of packaging waste in support of the review of the packaging waste directive. A database of waste prevention cases was made available on the EEA/European Topic Centre website in November 2003.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Assessment of information related to waste and material flows – a catalogue of methods and tools.* Technical report No 96. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_96/en
- A database of waste prevention cases was put on-line in November 2003. Weblink: <http://waste.eionet.eu.int/wastebase/prevention>
- Briefing for European Parliament *Waste management planning and trends in waste in EU Member States.* Weblink: <http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/briefings/briefing1>

Soil

Most of western Europe suffers relatively little soil erosion. By contrast the Mediterranean basin (e.g. southern Italy and eastern Iberian Peninsula) and the mountain regions of central and eastern Europe are particularly vulnerable to erosion. To draw attention to these issues the EEA contributed to the development of the thematic strategy on soil. The EEA participated in the advisory forum and in four of the five technical working

groups (contamination, monitoring, erosion and research). It co-chaired the working group on contamination, and provided direct input to DG Environment documents. The EEA also elaborated a proposal for a monitoring and reporting system on soil as input to the discussion on the planned soil monitoring directive. In addition, the EEA organised a soil questionnaire, as part of three pilot Eionet priority data flows on local contamination. Results have been compiled in fact sheets to be published in 2004.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Assessment and reporting on soil erosion.* Technical report No 94. Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2003_94/en

Launches and meetings:

- Workshop to discuss the role of Eionet within the different working groups. Organised by the European Topic Centre on Terrestrial Environment, Barcelona, 5–6 May 2003

7. Sustainable development and other environmental policies

To achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to integrate environmental concerns into a wider arena, through stakeholder involvement and provision of sound scientific assessments. The European Community considers this issue to be important for the successful implementation of the European Community's sixth environment action programme. In 2003, the EEA supported the following areas:

Sustainable development

European policy on sustainable development urgently requires a greater impetus. Under the Italian presidency, the EEA delivered substantial support to organise a workshop in Rome 'A better sustainable development governance: indicators and other assessment tools'.

This workshop gave an opportunity to consider and put together the needs of the different actors involved; obtain better insights into current sustainable development related policy processes in the EU and gather the information needed to strengthen these and discuss how current assessment and reporting systems can be improved, streamlined and better linked to policy cycles.

Launches and meetings:

- Workshop 'A better sustainable development governance: Indicators and other assessment tools', Rome, 25–26 September 2003. Weblink: <http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/sd/workshops/roma25sep/index.htm>

Cross-sectoral work

Agriculture is central to the environment in the 10 new EU Member States and the candidate countries. Large areas of farmland of high nature value currently exist

but, at the same time, certain types of farming are sources of serious pollution and environmental stress. A special analysis focusing on the issues between agriculture and environment in the acceding countries, including implications of applying the



common agricultural policy (CAP) was completed by the EEA in 2003, for publication in 2004. As part of the Indicator report on the integration of environmental concerns into agricultural policy (IRENA) work also continued on 35 agri-environmental indicators in 2003.

Energy policies, programmes and plans including their implications and impacts are important for policy-makers in shaping their development. The EEA has been participating in a worldwide project with the International Atomic Energy Agency, International Energy Agency, United Nations and Eurostat to agree on an international core set of sustainable energy indicators with corresponding methodologies and guidelines. These will be reflected in a report to be published in 2004 to be used by policy-makers, energy analysts and statisticians for their assessment of current conditions of energy systems.

Transport is closely linked with economic growth and the EEA therefore continues to support policies to improve the eco-efficiency of transport. The Transport and environment reporting mechanism, consisting of 42 indicators, was established in 2000 to track the environmental performance of the transport system as a whole and report on positive and negative developments. In 2003 indicator fact sheets were published and work on transport price signals completed for publication in 2004.

Tourism and environment are closely interconnected and tourism is becoming a main driver to transport demand. The EEA is developing a reporting mechanism based on indicators for tourism and environment. A review of indicators and description sheets was done in cooperation with Eurostat and the World Trade Organisation to support the development of a European Union sustainable tourism policy. In parallel, the EEA provided a service through EnviroWindows for the tourism industry and local stakeholders, where an internet portal (DestiNet) contains information on actions towards sustainable tourism.

Policy effectiveness

There are around 300 pieces of legislation in place in the EU covering the spectrum of environmental issues, from global climate change to stratospheric ozone depletion to the protection of local biodiversity. In 2001, the EEA published *Reporting on environmental measures: Are we being effective*. As a follow-up, the EEA initiated two pilot studies in 2003 to evaluate the effectiveness of wastewater and packaging waste policies in selected countries. The pilot studies will support the European Commission and the European Parliament in tracking progress on key policies and measures, and shed light on further experience in undertaking policy effectiveness analysis. The results will be published in 2004.

8. European Parliament and Council

With the co-decision procedure now applying to almost all areas of EU environmental legislation, the European Parliament has a crucial role to play in the development of EU policies. The EEA has also been proactive in proposing areas of cooperation and support for the Environment Council, especially its presidencies, as outlined in this section.

European Parliament

Three briefings were produced in response to specific requests from the European Parliament's Environment Committee: on waste management planning as a contribution to the European Parliament's own-initiative report on the waste framework directive; on chemicals in relation to the 'Registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals' (REACH) proposal; and on the ancillary benefits of complying with the Kyoto Protocol as a background briefing to a Parliamentary delegation to the Russian Federation. In October, a delegation from the Environment Committee visited the EEA under the leadership of the committee chairperson, Dr Caroline Jackson. Substantial discussions were held on the work of the EEA and on how to strengthen its contributions to the work of the European Parliament. An exchange of letters to define the basic principles of the working relationship between the EEA and the Environment Committee is to be made in 2004. There were many contacts through the year in connection with the budget for 2004, including a request from the European Parliament for the EEA to do more work on agri-environmental indicators in the context of cross-compliance under the common agriculture policy (CAP).

Greek presidency, January–June 2003

The informal environment ministers' meeting considered the possible weakening of measures relating to the environment and sustainable development in the draft constitution. Increased cooperation on transboundary water issues in south-east Europe was also addressed. The EEA attended the meeting of ministers from 15 Member States, 10 acceding countries, countries from the south-east of Europe and Norway.

The conference on sustainable development of the Mediterranean and Black Sea environment featured presentations on research, monitoring and action in the two sea basins. The EEA presented papers on proposals for a shared information system and on environmental needs of research.

For the third GMES forum the EEA assisted in developing proposals for global monitoring on environment and security, a European Space Agency/DG Research initiative to bring together remote sensing and ground monitoring systems and information.

In the international seminar on implementation of the water framework directive in the EU, the EEA presented the summary of *Europe's water: an indicator-based assessment* as part of the Hellenic Water Week in Athens.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Europe's water: An indicator-based assessment – Summary.*
Weblink: http://reports.eea.eu.int/topic_report_2003_1/en/tab_summary_RLR

Launches and meetings:

- Informal meeting of environment ministers, Langonissi, 2–4 May 2003
- International conference on the sustainable development of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Environment, Thessaloniki, 29–31 May 2003
- Global monitoring for environment and security, third GMES forum, Athens, 5–6 June 2003
- Hellenic Water Week/Informal water directors meeting, Athens, 17–20 June 2003

Italian presidency, July–December 2003

The EEA attended the informal meeting of environmental and energy ministers in Montecatini, and contributed with a presentation on greenhouse gases data and emissions. The meeting was organised to discuss how to integrate energy and environmental policies in order to achieve sustainable development in an enlarged Europe.

A workshop on 'A better sustainable development governance: indicators and other assessment tools' to obtain better insights into current sustainable development related policy processes

in the EU was coorganised by the EEA. The Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Environment, the Czech Environment Institute, and the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM) also contributed.

At the high-level workshop 'Enlargement and environment: Integration of the environment in the economy of the enlarged Europe', the EEA presented a background paper on agriculture and environment in the EU acceding countries. The paper briefly reviewed some key policy questions, providing an insight into the relationship between agriculture and environment in the acceding countries.

Launches and meetings:

- Joint informal meeting of environment and energy ministers, Montecatini, 18–20 July 2003
- High-level workshop on 'Enlargement and environment: Integration of the environment in the economy of the enlarged Europe', Trieste, 7–8 July 2003

9. EEA in the wider world

In the European Community's sixth environment action programme, it is recognised that economic globalisation calls for environmental action at an international level. Environmental concerns are also to be fully integrated into all aspects of the European Community's external relations. The EEA has contributed to the international dimension in the following areas:

Europe's environment: the third assessment

The state of the environment across Europe has improved in several respects over the past decade, but much of their progress is likely to be lost because the majority of governments have yet to make significant strides towards decoupling environmental pressures from economic activity. This is one of the key messages from the 2003 EEA third assessment of the environment in Europe. The assessment concludes that the formulation and implementation of policies which take full account of environmental concerns

needs to be accelerated if Europe is to ensure proper protection of its environment and succeed in making the transition to more sustainable development. The assessment was prepared for the 'Environment for Europe' ministerial conference held under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Kiev. It is the most comprehensive up-to-date overview of the state of the environment on this continent. It extends the range of previous reports issued in 1995 and 1998, covering for the first time the entire Russian Federation and the 11 other eastern European, Caucasus and central Asian (EECCA) states.

EEA presents the 'Kiev report'



Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *Europe's environment: the third assessment*. Environmental assessment report No 10.
Weblinks: Full report: http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_assessment_report_2003_10/en. Summary: http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_assessment_report_2003_10/en/tab_summary_RLR

Launches and meetings:

- 'Environment for Europe' ministerial conference, Kiev, 21–23 May 2003. The EEA/UNEP exhibition stand during the conference attracted around 1 000 visitors. EEA demonstrated the ability to work internationally, including having Russian-speaking EEA staff.

Cooperation with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro

External financial resources from the Regional environmental reconstruction programme for south-eastern Europe (REReP under Directorate General EuropeAid-Cooperation Office) supported EEA cooperation with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina,

Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. The five countries were integrated into major EEA activities and projects in 2003 to prepare the way for full participation in future years. Further support from the European Community assistance for reconstruction development and stabilisation programme (CARDS) is expected to finance the continuing cooperation of the five countries with the EEA.

Launches and meetings:

- 5th meeting of the task force for implementation of the regional environmental reconstruction programme for south-eastern Europe, Tirana, 30–31 January 2003
- Third LIFE Workshop 'Information systems', Sarajevo, 11–14 October 2003
- Eionet coordination meeting to support national Eionet development, Belgrade, 29 September–2 October 2003

Description of key terms:

- CARDS weblink: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/cards/index_en.htm
- LIFE weblink: http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/ar2001/glossary_2001

Cooperation with US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA)

A work plan was developed between US-EPA and the EEA around two main themes: Ecoinformatics standards and IT, and knowledge management. The former concerns registries and meta data, while the latter includes newer developments on content, covering topics such as indicators, children, environment and health, and long-term environmental

health monitoring. Experiences were exchanged on environmental reporting and indicators; and common areas of focus on web services and ecoinformatics were identified. In June, a meeting was held with high-level representatives of US-EPA to help ensure that the information produced by both agencies via Eionet and the US-EPA National environmental information exchange network (NEIEN) can be mutually accessed and understood, and to promote comparability and trust in each others' information.

Description of key terms:

- Meta data weblink: <http://www.grid.unep.ch/activities/metadata/mdd/definition.php>
- Ecoinformatics weblink: http://ecoinfo.eionet.eu.int/eco_terminology.html

Cooperation with UN bodies

To identify common understandings of expectations, roles and ways of working among UN bodies different meetings have been held in the follow-up of the Kiev 'Environment for Europe' ministerial conference. Work has continued with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to complete the two-year cooperation with the working group on environmental monitoring. A meeting between United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and EEA was also held in Copenhagen. At the meeting ideas were exchanged on current and future cooperation. It was agreed that

the main objective of the collaboration was to supply information for decision-making, particularly through regular joint reports, capacity building and to mutual cooperation activities such as the world summit on sustainable development, global environment outlooks and the 'Environment for Europe' process.



Cooperation with OECD

A new OECD/EEA database of economic instruments and voluntary approaches was launched, covering more than 40 countries and focusing on national studies, Eurostat reports and data, and European Commission reports. It contains information on the use of economic instruments such as environmentally related taxes and charges, environmentally motivated subsidies, tradable emission permits, and deposit-refund systems. It also outlines voluntary policy approaches such as environmental agreements

negotiated with industry, and public programmes in which firms can volunteer to participate.

An expert workshop was held to gather information and share views on the most pressing issues to be incorporated in the EEA's report on economic instruments in Europe, to be completed in 2004. The workshop explored the state of play of economic instruments, innovative developments which have occurred in the last six years, and interesting trends and developments that can be expected in the future.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- OECD/EEA database weblink: <http://www1.oecd.org/scripts/env/ecoinst/index.htm>

10. Internal developments

EEA strategy 2004–2008

The EEA strategy was aligned with the European Community's sixth environment action programme to focus on four major thematic areas: tackling climate change; tackling biodiversity loss/understanding spatial change; protecting human health and quality of life; and use and management of natural resources and waste. Work on information systems is to be improved to support more effectively the development of EEA

products and services and to extend the network and capacity requirements of users. EEA in the wider world sets out how activities will be developed to help to integrate all aspects of environmental concerns into the European Union's external relations and the impact of the EU on the rest of the world. Finally, work on sustainable development and other environmental policies will include scenarios development and support to the Cardiff and Lisbon processes and the EU sustainable development strategy.

Published reports, papers and web pages:

- *EEA strategy 2004–2008.*

Weblink: <http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/strategy.pdf>

Description of key terms:

- The Cardiff Summit weblink: [http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/C/ Cardiff_Summit](http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/C/Cardiff_Summit)
- Lisbon Strategy weblink: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/lisbon_strategy/ index_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/lisbon_strategy/index_en.html)

Reorganisation — the 'making it happen' process

A reorganisation of the EEA took place in 2003 (effective January 2004) to better tailor and focus the organisational structure towards implementation of the EEA strategy 2004–2008 and annual management plans. Management established groups within five programmes to bring together individuals to work on

more integrated activities. It was also decided to establish a new programme on corporate affairs to provide more effective level of communication with the European Parliament, European Commission, other EU institutions, member countries and partners throughout the world. The result of the reorganisation process is reflected in the organisational chart below including the groups that form a central part of the new structure. The new organisational chart entered into force on 1 January 2004.



Management board

The management board met five times. In February it appointed the new Executive Director Jacqueline McGlade who took up office on 1 June. In May, the management board held a seminar on the development of the third five-year programme (EEA strategy 2004–2008) and a review of the European topic centres. At the end of the year, the management board adopted the EEA strategy, the annual management plan 2004 and the budget 2004. In 2003 the management board welcomed Poland and Turkey as members of the EEA, bringing the total number of EEA members countries to 31.

Bureau

Six members of the management board form the bureau which met three times during 2003. The bureau undertakes in-depth discussions of selected issues in preparation of the board meetings, and takes executive decisions as delegated by the board.

Scientific committee

The scientific committee held three meetings. In October, the Committee delivered its opinion on the EEA strategy 2004–2008 and the annual management plan 2004. The chairman Bedrich Moldan was also appointed as chairman of the steering committee for the contract to prepare the EEA evaluation report used for the European Commission report to the Council referred to below. The chairman of the scientific committee is present in the board and bureau meetings.

Eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)

In 2003, the EEA initiated work towards EMAS registration. An EEA management conference and introductory workshop for all staff was held to identify the significant environmental impacts of the EEA. It is expected that the preparatory work will be completed in 2004.

Annual management system

An annual management system, aligning planning of human and financial resources with the annual management plan, was developed in 2003. Introducing this system has facilitated progress towards 'management by objectives', whereby objectives are shared and put into practice by all staff members. Individuals have personal key objectives directly derived from the overall organisational objectives. The annual management system provides an on-line database and links personnel, time recording and budget execution tools. The system will be further expanded in 2004 by the inclusion of productivity data.

Review of the European Environment Agency

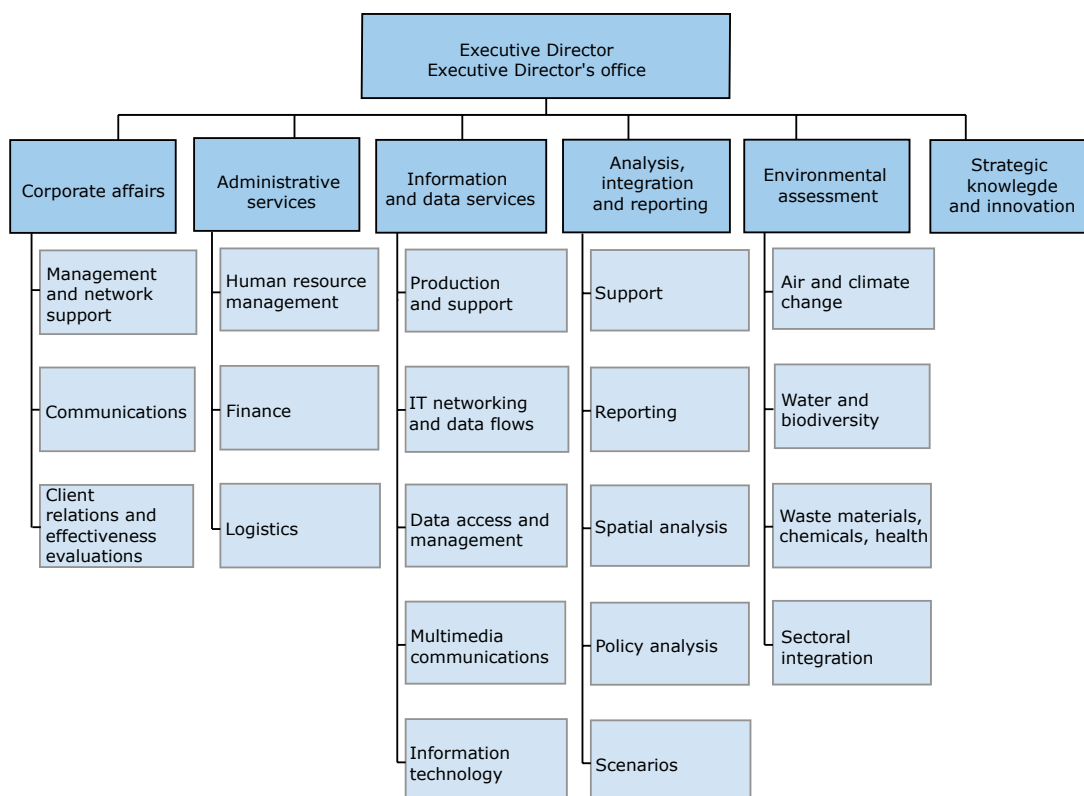
The European Commission delivered in December 2003 a report to the Council for its review of the EEA. It found that the EEA's priorities generally matched those of the European policy agenda. The availability and quality of environmental information

has improved considerably. The network of 'environmental information professionals' in EU and neighbouring countries has become closer. The review report from the European Commission recommended that the EEA should move towards supporting all stages of the policy cycle. It highlighted several other issues for future consideration and covered the EEA contribution to the European Community's environment policy from 1994 to 2003. The Commission report was based on an extensive report from consultants and the EEA worked with the Commission to ensure a comprehensive and useful evaluation report.

Review of the European topic centres

For the five EEA European topic centres (waste and material flows; nature; water, air and climate change; and terrestrial environment) the review carried out in 2003 with support from the scientific committee suggested a differentiated approach to task description and management of each centre. The review identified structural changes and improvements needed to match the new EEA strategy 2004–2008.

EEA organisational chart as of 1 January 2004



Annex A: Statement on financial position

Income

Table 1: Income 2000–2003

	(million EUR)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
EU subvention	17.9	18.6	19.2	21.4
EFTA contribution	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
New EEA member countries' contributions	—	—	2.3	5.7
Miscellaneous revenues	0.4	2.3	3.2	0.0
Total	18.6	21.3	25.1	27.5

Note: As the figures above are rounded, the sum of the individual figures may differ slightly from the total.

Expenditures

Table 2: Expenditure (E) 2000–2002, budget (B) 2003

	(million EUR)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
	E	E	E	B
Staff and administration	9.9	10.8	13.0	14.4
Operational expenditure	8.7	10.5	12.1	13.1
Total	18.6	21.3	25.1	27.5

Note: Figures for 2003 reflect the final status of the budget before the definitive closing of the 2003 accounts in June 2004.

Table 3: Operational expenditure and related staff allocations (person-years) for 2002–2003 by programme area and project group

Programme area and project group	2002		2003	
	1 000 EUR	Person-years	1 000 EUR	Person-years
1. Topic databases and reporting	2 712	4.8	3 675	4.6
1.1. Socio-economic data	0	0	0	0
1.2. Pressures	800	1.2	1 123	1.5
1.3. State and quality	1 912	3.6	2 552	3.1
2. Integrated assessments	2 862	8.9	3 089	7.9
2.1. Environmental Issues	1 770	2.1	1 776	2.1
2.2. Regional assessments	240	0.5	125	0.2
2.3. Sectors and instruments	729	5.8	1 138	5.3
2.4. Research dissemination etc	123	0.5	50	0.3
3. Periodical reporting	835	4.8	516	4.2
3.1. The five year report	0	0.2	416	1.5
3.2. Regular indicator-based report	835	4.6	100	2.7
4. Reporting system support	1 221	12.9	1 999	12.0
4.1. Scenarios, methodologies, guidelines	418	2.8	541	2.7
4.2. Data and information management	270	3.1	580	2.9
4.3. Public assess to information	533	2.8	878	2.7
4.4. Institutional networking	0	4.2	0	3.7
5. Service and network infrastructure	1 979	9.2	2 393	10.3
5.1. Information and networking technology	981	3.5	1 369	3.5
5.2. Information capacities and services	998	5.7	1 024	6.8
Total allocated to projects	9 609	40.6	11 672	39.0
Expert meetings. translations	583	0	1 334	0
Total	10 192	40.6	13 006	39.0

Note: The figures for 2002 and 2003 are based on the actual commitments and hence slightly lower than the final budget, and the person-years are for grades A and B as recorded for the year.

Table 4: Breakdown of committed funds for ETCs

	(EUR)					
	Water	Air/Climate change	Nature protection and biodiversity	Waste and material flows	Terrestrial environment	Total allocation
1. Topic databases and reporting	630 000	755 000	821 150	483 350	460 000	3 149 500
2. Integrated assessments	350 000	1 030 000	205 000	190 000	240 000	2 015 000
3. Periodical reporting	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	100 000
4. Reporting system support	10 000	300 000	0	50 000	0	350 000
Total	1 010 000	2 105 000	1 046 150	743 350	720 000	5 614 500

Annex B: Status on human resources

Status on human resources — Officials, temporary agents and national experts

Table 5: Staff development, 1997–2003, by category

Category	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
A (academic staff)	25	27	30	28	33	37	43
B (technical staff)	12	16	16	17	17	24	26
C (secretarial staff)	19	20	22	20	18	20	22
D (service staff)	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
National experts	5	8	8	8	9	10	9
Total	63	73	79	76	80	95	104

Table 6: Staff by category and nationality on 31 December 2003

	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	Total
A		3			7	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	1		1	5		3	8	43	
B	1	2	2		8	1	1	2					1					2	2		1	3	26
C					9			2	1				2		3			3	2				22
D					4																		4
National experts				1		1		1	2					1			1			1	1		9
Total	1	5	2	1	28	1	2	7	8	1	1	1	5	2	5	1	1	6	9	1	5	11	104

Table 7: EEA promotions in 2003

Grade	A4 to A3	A5 to A4	A6 to A5	A7 to A6	B2 to B1	B3 to B2	B4 to B3	B5 to B4	C2 to C1	C3 to C2	C4 to C3	C5 to C4	D2 to D1	D3 to D2	Total
Number of staff promoted	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	8

Note: Officials and temporary agents only.

Annex C: Members of EEA management board

As of 31 December 2003

Austria	Heinz Schreiber Director General	Bundesministerium für Land und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft
Belgium	Philippe D'Hondt Director — Head of Department	Flemish Environment Agency Department Monitoring and Research
Bulgaria	Dimitar Vergiev Executive Director	Executive Environment Agency
Cyprus	Michael Constantinides Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Czech Republic	Tomáš Novotný Deputy Minister — Director General	Div. International Relations, Ministry of Environment
Denmark	Leo Larsen Permanent Undersecretary of State	Ministry of Environment
Estonia	Allan Gromov Deputy-Secretary General	Ministry of Environment
Finland	Markku Nurmi Director General	Ministry of the Environment
France	Dominique Bureau Directeur	Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement durable Direction des études économiques et de l'évaluation environnementale (D4E)
Germany	Hendrik Vygen (<i>Vice-Chairman, Bureau member</i>) Director General	Directorate for International Cooperation Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit
Greece	John Vournas Director General for Environment	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works
Hungary	Erzsébet Gergely (alternate) Head of Department	Department of Environmental Policy and Strategy Ministry of Environment and Water
Iceland	Óttar Freyr Gislason	Ministry for the Environment
Ireland	Geraldine Tallon Assistant Secretary	Environment Division Department of the Environment
Italy	Corrado Clini (<i>Vice-Chairman, Bureau member</i>) Director General	Sustainable Development and International Global Environment Ministero dell'Ambiente
Latvia	Einars Cilinskis Deputy State Secretary	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Liechtenstein	Felix Näscher Director General	Ministry for the Environment Department of Forests, Nature and Landscape
Lithuania	Aleksandras Spruogis Undersecretary	Ministry of Environment

Luxembourg	Jean-Paul Feltgen Attaché de Gouvernement	Ministère de l'Environnement
Malta	Godwin Cassar	Malta Environment and Planning Authority
The Netherlands	Kees Zoeteman (<i>Chairman</i>)	Tilburg University
Norway	Harald Rensvik Secretary General	Ministry of Environment
Poland	Krzysztof Zareba Chief Inspector for Environmental Protection	Ministry of Environment
Portugal	João Nobre Gonçalves Director-geral do Ambiente	Ministério das Cidades e do Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente
Romania	Ioan Jelev Secretary of State for Environmental Protection	Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection
Slovak Republic	Miroslav Toncik General Director	Slovak Environmental Agency
Slovenia	Marko Slokar State Secretary	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
Spain	Germán Glaría Galcerán Director General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Sweden	Lars-Erik Liljelund (<i>Vice-Chairman, Bureau member</i> – Chairman as of 1/1/2004) Director General	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Turkey	Prof. Dr. Hasan Zuhuri Sarikaya Undersecretary of State	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
United Kingdom	John Custance Chief Statistician Environment Protection Statistics Division	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
European Commission	Catherine Day (<i>Bureau member</i>) Director General	DG Environment, European Commission
European Commission	Jean-Marie Martin Director	Environment Institute, Joint Research Centre
Designated by the European Parliament	Nigel Haigh (<i>Bureau member</i>)	
Designated by the European Parliament	Michael Scoullos Professor Director	Environmental Chemistry Laboratory, University of Athens

Annex D: Members of EEA scientific committee

As of 31 December 2003

Prof. Teresa Andersen	Departamento de Botânica, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade do Porto, Portugal
Prof. André Berger	Institut d'astronomie et de Géophysique G Lemaître, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
Prof. Bernd Bilitewski	Institut für Abfallwirtschaft und Altlasten, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany
Prof. David Briggs	Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
Dr Constantinos Cartalis	Department of Applied Physics, University of Athens, Greece
Prof. Helmut Haberl	Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Klagenfurt University, Austria
Prof. Bo Jansson	Institute of Applied Environmental Research (ITM), Stockholm University, Sweden
Dr Pierre Laconte	Belgium
Prof. Franc Lobnik	Biotechnical Faculty, Center for Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Prof. Juan Martinez-Alier	Department of Economics and Economic History, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain
Prof. Bedrich Moldan	(Chairman), Environment Centre, Charles University, Czech Republic
Dr Margaret O'Mahony	Dept. of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, University of Dublin, Trinity College, Ireland
Dr Július Oszlányi	Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic
Prof. Katherine Richardson	(Vice-Chairman), Department of Marine Ecology, University of Århus, Denmark
Prof. László Somlyódy	Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary
MSc Theo Vermeire	National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM), Expert Centre for Substances/Stoffen Expertise Centrum, The Netherlands
Dr Tomasz Zylicz	Economics Department, Warsaw University, Poland
Member <i>ex-officio</i> : Jean-Marie Martin	Director, Environment Institute, Joint Research Centre, Italy

Annex E: EEA national focal points

As of 31 December 2003

Austria	Ulrike Stärk	Umweltbundesamt (UBA)/Federal Environment Agency
Belgium	Jan Voet	Intergewestelijke Cel voor Leefmilieu (IRCEL)
Bulgaria	Ioana Hristova Head of Unit	International Cooperation Executive Environment Agency
Cyprus	Christina Pantazi Environment Service	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Czech Republic	Josef Sejkàk	Czech Environmental Institute
Denmark	Bjarne Norup	National Environmental Research Institute (NERI)
Estonia	Leo Saare Director	Estonian Environment Information Centre
Finland	Tapani Säynätkari	Finnish Environment Institute
France	Philippe Crouzet	Institut Français de l'Environnement (IFEN)
Germany	Barbara Clark	Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
Greece	Mata Aravantinou	Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works
Hungary	Pál Bozo Chief Information Officer	Ministry of Environment and Water
Iceland	Ólafur Pétursson	Environment and Food Agency of Iceland
Ireland	Larry Stapleton Programme Manager	Office of Environmental Assessment Environmental Protection Agency
Italy	Claudio Maricchiolo	Agenzia per la Protezione dell'Ambiente e per I Servizi Tecnici (APAT)
Latvia	Ilze Kirstuka Director	Latvian Environment Agency
Liechtenstein	Hermann Schmuck	National Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape
Lithuania	Liutauras Stoskus Director	Environmental Protection Agency
Luxembourg	Eric De Brabanter	Ministère de l'Environnement
Malta	Godwin Cassar Director General	Malta Environment and Planning Authority
The Netherlands	Roel Thomas	National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection, MNP-LED (ipc 24)
Norway	Johnny Auestad	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority
Poland	Lucyna Dygas-Ciolkowska Deputy Director	Monitoring Department Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection

Portugal	Maria Leonor Gomes	Institute of Environment
Romania	Cornel Florea Gabrian General Commissar Deputy	General Commissariat of Environmental Guard Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection
Slovak Republic	Vladimir Benko Director of CEPI	Slovak Environmental Agency
Slovenia	Irena Rejec Brancelj Counsellor to Government	Environment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
Spain	Juan Martínez Sánchez Subdirector	General de Calidad Ambiental Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Sweden	Bernt Rödell	Environmental Assessment Department Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Turkey	Mustafa Soyulu	Ministry of Environment Republic of Turkey
United Kingdom	Stan Speller	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Extended Eionet NFPs		
Albania	Narin Panariti Director	Policy, Integration and Legislation Ministry of Environment
Bosnia- Herzegovina	Mehmed Cero Assistant to Minister for Environment	Federal Ministry for Physical Planning and Environment
Croatia	Jasna Butuci Assistant Director	Croatian Environment Agency
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Svetlana Gjorgjeva Head of Macedonian Environmental information Center	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
Serbia and Montenegro	Natasa Veljkovic Adviser	European Integration Office
Switzerland	Jean-Michel Gardaz	Environmental Monitoring Section Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL)
European Commission representation in the NFP/Eionet group		
European Commission	Hans Stielstra	DG Environment
European Commission	Palle Haastrup Head, Technology Assessment	Environment Institute, Joint Research Centre
European Commission	Rosemary Montgomery	Eurostat

Annex F: EEA European topic centres

As of 31 December 2003

Water	Tim Lack WRc plc Swindon United Kingdom
Terrestrial Environment	Stefan Kleeschulte European Topic Centre on Terrestrial Environment Barcelona Spain
Air and Climate Change	Rob Swart RIVM, National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection Bilthoven The Netherlands
Nature Protection and Biodiversity	Carlos Romão National Museum of Natural History Paris France
Waste and Material Flows	Birgit Munck-Kampmann European Topic Centre on Waste and Material Flows Copenhagen Denmark

Annex G: EEA staff

Officials, temporary agents, auxiliary agents and national experts as of 1 January 2004

Executive Director's office (EDO)	
MCGLADE Jacqueline	Executive Director
MCINNES Gordon	Deputy Director
FAGERHOLM Petra	Management support
ANDERSEN Hanne Koch	Secretary
GONIN Clara	Secretary
HOFFMANN Ulrike	Secretary
Corporate affairs (CAF)	
HUNTINGTON Jeffrey	Acting programme manager (Institutions and civil group relations)
KRISTENSEN Jette Lind	Operational support
MØLLER Helle	Secretary
RIVIERE Josiane	Brussels bureau
Management and network support	
BLAGOEV Stoyan	Operational support
GHEORGHE Adriana	EIONET coordination
HRISTOVA Galina Georgieva	Management support
KELDBORG Jytte	Group leader
OSTARIZ COLLADO Elena	Secretary
Communications	
BRUUN Malene	Information centre management
CARRITT Anthony	Media relations and communication
CASPERSEN Ove	Public information — Group leader
OLSEN Teresa	Public relations
Client relations and effectiveness evaluations	
DIGE Gorm	Corporate documents and effectiveness evaluation
KNUDSEN Tarja Porkka	Publications and translations
MEOZZI Paolo	EnviroWindows
Environmental assessment (EAS)	
BOSCH Peter	Programme Manager
BRYTYGIER Catherine	Secretary
FLINDT Jimmy	Operational Support
Air and climate change	
BARKMAN Andreas	Air emissions
ERIKSEN Bitten	Secretary
FIALA Jaroslav	Air quality
JOL André	Climate change — Group leader

Water and biodiversity	
LARSSON Tor-Björn	Forest and biodiversity
NOTENBOOM Josephus	Bio-IMPS
NYMAND Sys	Secretary
PINBORG Ulla	Biodiversity
THYSSEN Niels	Inland waters – Group leader
WERNER Beate	Indicators and coastal environment
Waste, materials, chemicals and health	
SCHÖNING Gabriele	Chemicals, environment and health
KAZMIERCZYK Pawel	Material flow
ZAMBRZYCKI Bartosz	Waste
Sectoral integration	
CAMPLING Paul	IRENA project coordinator
FERNANDEZ Ricardo	Sector support
FYRLUND JÖNSSON Anna	Secretary
GABRIELSEN Peder	Agri-environment data management
JENSEN Peder	Transport and environment
MOURELATOU Aphrodite	Energy and environment – Group leader
PETERSEN Jan-Erik	Agriculture and environment
Information and data services (IDS)	
BJARNASON Sigfús	Programme manager
Production and support	
JANDRUP Linda	Operational support – Group leader
MARCALETTI Lorena	Secretary, Information services
NILSSON PEDERSEN Henriette	Secretary
SCHMIDT Pia	Secretary, Translations and publishing
IT networking and data flows	
CRYAN Sheila	Eionet data flow
JENSEN Stefan	Data harmonization
PEIFER Hermann	Eionet data flow – Group leader
ROUG Søren	Unix systems and ReportNet developments
Data access and management	
BLIKI Jan	GIS and data service
DE ROOSE Cécile	GIS operation
HAIGH Timothy	Information resources – Group leader
SIMOENS David	Data operator
Multimedia communications	
DE MARINIS Antonio	Technical web development and support
JANSEN Albertus	Web manager – Group leader
KUCHLING Rolf	Graphical design and multimedia productions
Information technology	
LINDBERG Örjan	IT management – Group leader
RØRUP Lars	System administration

Administrative services (ADS)

MAES Jozef	Programme Manager
CLEMENT Marc	Legal advisor
HARTMANN-FITZGERALD Anne-Li	Internal Audit
LASSEN Bente	Receptionist
NIELSEN Søren Brostrup	Human and finance resource management
ORTIZ HUGUET Rosa	Secretary

Human resource management

DØSSING Birgitta	Secretary for competitions
KRANTZ Ulla	Personnel Officer — Group leader
PEDERSEN Lene Bang	Personnel Officer
TRINDADE Fátima	Secretary
WINTHER Kathryn	Personnel Officer

Finance

ELMEGAARD Harald	Accounting officer
FONTECHA Isabel	Travel Service Officer
LOUREIRO Rosario	Secretary
MULTALA Tommi	Finance Officer — Group leader
RAINER Gerda	Finance officer
SØRENSEN Lisa	Mission officer
URBAN Mark	Budget officer

Logistics

ANDERSEN Morten	Logistics assistant
HANSGAARD Bo	Technical assistant
HAUERSLEV Thomas	Logistics assistant
ZORRILLA Domingo	Building and Logistic Officer — Group leader

Analysis, integration and reporting (AIR)

MARTIN Colin	Acting programme manager (Work programme implementation)
SALAZAR José Luis	Legislative Instruments, international programmes and conventions

Support

CARLSON Eva	Operational support — Group leader
COLLIANDER Charlotta	Secretary
DALL'OZZO Cesarina	Secretary

Reporting

MARTINS Ivone Pereira	Regular state of the environment reporting
PIRC VELKAVRH Anita	Indicators, reportnet tools and data flows
RICKARD Louise	Indicators and reporting guidelines

Spatial analysis

GENTILE Anna Rita	Soil and contaminated sites
MEINER Andrus	Data management
STEENMANS Christiaan	Land and remote sensing
UHEL Ronan	International developments — Group leader
WEBER Jean-Louis	Environmental accounting/spatial assessment

Policy analysis	
DOM Ann	Sector integration/sustainable development – Group leader
MORTENSEN Lars	SEA/EIA tools/methodologies
VOS Johannes	Environment and economic integration
Scenarios	
HENRICHS Thomas	Scenario development and analysis
HOOGEVEEN Ybele	Agriculture and biodiversity
ISOARD Stéphane	Prospective analysis and scenarios
RIBEIRO Teresa	Scenarios and prospective analysis – Group leader

Strategic knowledge and innovation (SKI)

STANNERS David Andrew	Programme Manager
ANDERSSON Ingvar	Research links and cooperation
GEE David	Emerging issues and scientific liaison
ISLEV Charlotte	Secretary
MAENCHEN Svetlana	Secretary
SOCHIRCA Angela	TACIS monitoring programme

Note: The EEA staff is listed according to the organisational chart as of 1 January 2004. Two staff members ended their terms of service as of 31 December 2003:
Nicolas Perritaz – Cooperation with non-member countries
Alexey Kostin – TACIS monitoring programme.

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