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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
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English - Or. English

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

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**DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND
EASTERN EUROPE (EAP TASK FORCE)**

7-8 February 2008, Paris

English - Or. English

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE

7-8 February 2008, Paris

Draft Summary Record

Opening formalities

1. In the absence of elected co-Chairs of the EAP Task Force, Mr Brendan Gillespie, Head of OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Representatives from 19 countries and the European Commission were present, as well as representatives from international organisations, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), non-governmental organisations and the Regional Environmental Centres (see Annex 1 for the list of participants).

Election of EAP Task Force co-Chairs and Bureau members

2. Following informal consultations held immediately prior to its annual meeting, the EAP Task Force elected the new co-Chairs and the Bureau:

Co-Chairs	Ms. Violeta Ivanov (Moldova)	Ms. Eldrid Nordbo (Norway)
Vice-Chairs	Ms. Ruzanna Davtyan (Armenia) Mr. Giorgi Kolbin (Georgia) Mr. Andrey Korchevsky (Kazakhstan) Ms. Natalia Vavilova (Russia) Mr. Sergei Samoylov (Uzbekistan)	Ms. Helena Cízkova (Czech Republic) Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) Mr. Edwin Koning (the Netherlands) Ms. Ann-Britt Ylinen (Finland) Mr. Gheorghe Constantin (Romania)

3. Delegates also took note of a statement made by Ms. Malak Shukurova, representative from Azerbaijan, to the effect that any messages, statements or comments on EAP Task Force activities from Azerbaijan will be transmitted to the Bureau through the EAP Task Force Secretariat. The Task Force also agreed that the European Commission, EBRD/Project Preparation Committee (PPC) and European Eco-Forum may be invited to participate in Bureau meetings at the discretion of the Bureau, in order to ensure good coordination of their activities with those of the Task Force.

4. The EAP Task Force also expressed its deep appreciation for the leadership Ms. Soledad Blanco (European Commission) and Mr. Nurlan Iskakov (Kazakhstan) had shown during their term as Co-Chairs of the EAP Task Force. The EAP Task Force also expressed appreciation for the work of the outgoing Bureau members: Mr. Rasim Sattar-zade (Azerbaijan), Mr. Abdugarim Kurbanov (Tadjikistan), Mr. Adriaan Oudeman (the Netherlands) and Ms. Olga Marushevska (Ukraine).

Adoption of the draft Agenda

5. The EAP Task Force adopted the draft annotated Agenda of the meeting [ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2008)1] with no modification.

Main outcomes of, and follow-up to, the Belgrade “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

6. The EAP Task Force took note of a presentation by Mr. Brendan Gillespie about the inputs of the OECD/EAP Task Force to the Belgrade Ministerial Conference, held in October 2007, and discussed the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference related to the activities of the EAP Task Force. Delegates expressed appreciation for the OECD/EAP Task Force inputs to the Ministerial Conference.

7. The EAP Task Force also took note of a presentation by Ms. Natalia Golovko of UNECE Secretariat on the organisation of the reform of the “Environment for Europe” process and its major milestones¹. A number of delegations raised questions about the involvement of stakeholders in the reform of the process. The EAP Task Force agreed that it, and its Bureau, would review results emerging from this review and their implication for the work of the EAP Task Force.

EAP Task Force Programme of Work and Budget in 2008

8. The EAP Task Force discussed and broadly endorsed the proposed draft Consolidated Programme of Work and Budget of the EAP Task Force for 2008 (ENV/EPOC/EAP(2008)1) that was jointly prepared by the OECD/EAP Task Force secretariat and Executive Directors of EECCA RECs. The Task Force noted that the programme was now organised in three parts: (1) activities to be jointly implemented by OECD and EECCA RECs; (2) activities to be implemented by OECD alone; and (3) activities to be implemented by EECCA RECs alone. The Task Force also took note of the draft Programme of Work of the EAP Task Force that the OECD secretariat had prepared for the period 2008-11 which gave some perspective on how those parts of the programme supported by OECD might evolve. The EAP Task Force took note of country priorities with regard to various projects of the EAP Task Force (see ENV/EPOC/EAP/RD(2008)1/REV1), and agreed that, in case there was a shortfall in the funding required in 2008, the priorities would provide a useful reference if decisions needed to be made about cancelling or delaying project implementation.

9. The EAP Task Force took note of the many specific comments on the activities, as well as expressions of interest from EECCA countries to participate in demonstration projects. The Task Force asked the secretariat to take account of these comments and to bring them to the attention of the EAP Task Force networks when they next meet: the Group of Senior Officials (GSO) for Water Sector Reform in EECCA, to be held in Bucharest (Romania) on 12-13 May 2008; and the Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN), to be held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan - TBC) on 18-20 June 2008.

(i) Roles of OECD and EECCA RECs

10. The EAP Task Force discussed the roles and working methods of the OECD secretariat and EECCA RECs in implementing the agreed activities in 2008, and welcomed the offer by EECCA RECs to circulate a document describing the roles of individual RECs, and their co-operation in implementing, activities in 2008.

¹ Proposed timeframe for the EfE reform: 21-23 April 2008 – meeting of the ECE Committee for Environmental Policy (CEP) and its Bureau; 23-24 June and/or 13-15 October 2008 – optional dates for discussion of an outline of the EfE reform plan; October 2008 – draft and circulation of the plan; December 2008/January 2009 – discussion and adoption of the plan by CEP; spring 2009 – endorsement of the plan by ECE

11. The EAP Task Force stressed that the draft consolidated Programme of Work and Budget of the EAP Task Force in 2008 represented a concrete step in implementing the Belgrade Ministerial Conference Declaration with regard to the gradual transfer of some of the EAP Task Force secretariat functions to EECCA RECs. The Task Force agreed to assess progress in this regard at its next meeting.

(ii) Financial situation in 2008

12. The EAP Task Force noted the proposed budget for implementing EAP Task Force activities in 2008, including the 25% reduction in financial resources requested by the OECD secretariat compared to previous years (ENV/EPOC/EAP(2008)1). It was also noted that with continued support from the main donor countries, the OECD hoped that the financial target for 2008 would be met.

13. The EAP Task Force also noted that, at this time, EECCA RECs had not secured any financial resources to implement EAP Task Force activities in 2008. The Task Force recognised that projects may have to be postponed or delayed if this situation continued. The OECD secretariat indicated that it would work with EECCA RECs to help raise funds for projects that were to be jointly implemented, but that it could not provide any guarantees in this regard, nor would it be in a position to allocate funds to EECCA RECs to implement projects.

Project Preparation Committee (PPC): Update on progress since the Belgrade Ministerial Conference and co-operation with the EAP Task Force

14. The EAP Task Force took note of the presentation by Mr. Craig Davies of the EBRD (formerly the PPC Executive Secretary) about the outcomes of the Belgrade Ministerial Conference related to the PPC and its internalisation within the EBRD. This involved creating a new team inside the EBRD's Environment and Sustainability Department dedicated to promoting sustainability. The staffing positions are funded by the EBRD and the team's activities will be funded by EBRD, and possibly some donor contributions. A draft workplan has been developed and a bid for funding from the EBRD's net income is pending approval by the EBRD's Board. Opportunities for possible co-operation with the EAP Task Force were also presented.

15. Delegates welcomed the progress made by the PPC since the Belgrade Conference and recommended to maintain close co-operation between the EAP Task Force and the EBRD. The EAP Task Force also invited the EBRD to continue participation in the annual meetings of the EAP Task Force and its Bureau, when there was a common interest. Equally, the EBRD invited the EAP Task Force to participate in the first Sustainable Development Forum planned for May 2008 in Kiev (Ukraine).

Dates and location of the next EAP Task Force meeting

16. The EAP Task Force agreed that the next annual meeting will take place on 23-24 October 2008 and thanked the Government of Kazakhstan for their generous offer to host it in Astana.

17. The EAP Task Force also noted that the next meeting of the Bureau of the EAP Task Force will take place on 5 September 2008 in Paris.

Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force
7-8 February 2008, Paris, France

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