

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

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE

15-16 October 2009, Paris (France)

The attached document presents the summary record of the EAP Task Force meeting of 15-16 October 2009. It was approved through a written procedure.

ACTION REQUIRED: for information

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE

15-16 October 2009, Paris

Draft Summary Record

Welcome and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

1. The co-Chair of the EAP Task Force, Mr Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) opened the Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force. During the meeting, Mr Sergei Samoylov, vice co-Chair (Uzbekistan), served as the EECCA co-Chair of the EAP Task Force, following the resignation of Ms. Ivanov as Minister of Environment of Moldova, and pending election of a new co-Chair.
2. Delegations from 20 countries were present, as well as representatives from EEA, EC, UNDP, UNECE, non-governmental organisations, business circles, and the EECCA Regional Environmental Centres (see Annex 1 for the list of participants).
3. The EAP Task Force adopted the draft annotated Agenda of the meeting [Document ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2009)2/REV1] with no modification.

Elections of the EECCA Co-Chair and designation of new Bureau Members

4. Following informal consultations held immediately prior to its annual meeting, the EAP Task Force elected the new EECCA Co-Chair and several Vice-Chairs. The new composition of the Bureau is as follows:

Co-Chairs	Mr. Simon Papyan (Armenia)	Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany)
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Gheorghe Salaru (Moldova) Mrs. Nino Sharashidze (Georgia) Mr. Anatoly Dernovoy (Kazakhstan) Mrs. Svitlana Nigorodova (Ukraine) Mr. Sergei Samoylov (Uzbekistan)	Ms. Helena Cízkova (Czech Republic) Ms. Ann-Britt Ylinen (Finland) Mr. Edwin Koning (the Netherlands) Mr. Jon Opem (Norway) Mr. Gheorghe Constantin (Romania)

5. The EAP Task Force expressed its appreciation for the leadership Mrs. Violeta Ivanov had shown during her term as Co-Chair of the EAP Task Force. The EAP Task Force also expressed appreciation for the work of the outgoing Bureau members: Mrs. Ruzanna Davtyan (Armenia), Mr. Giorgi Kolbin (Georgia), Mr. Andrey Korchevsky (Kazakhstan), Eldrid Nordbo (Norway), and Ms. Natalia Vavilova (Russia).

Approval of the Summary Record of the EAP Task Force Meeting, 23-24 October, 2008

6. The EAP Task Force approved the Summary Record of the Annual EAP Task Force Meeting, 23-24 October, 2008 [Document ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2008)2]

Work Programme Implementation by the OECD Secretariat

i) Progress achieved by the OECD Secretariat in 2009

7. The Task Force took note of the Progress made by the OECD Secretariat in 2009 [Document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2009)1/REV1].

ii) Progress achieved by EECCA RECs

8. The EAP Task Force:

- Noted that EECCA RECs had not received any financial support to implement activities within the framework of the EAP Task Force since a joint work programme with OECD was developed after the 2007 Belgrade Ministerial meeting;
- Noted that EECCA RECs nevertheless had managed to raise finance to implement their activities outside the EAP Task Force framework, generally for national-level and sub-regional work, and from different funding sources than those that supported work carried out by OECD;
- Agreed that a new approach was needed within the EAP Task Force that was better adapted to the different yet complementary strengths of OECD and EECCA RECs;
- Agreed that, in future, the EAP Task Force should provide a common platform for the work of OECD and EECCA RECs to support environmental policy reform and capacity development in EECCA countries, based on multi-stakeholder dialogue.

iii) Work Programme for 2010 for the OECD Secretariat

9. The EAP Task Force:

- Took note of the Proposed Work by the OECD Secretariat in 2010 [Document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2009)3/REV1];
- Recognised that the financial crisis was affecting some donors' ability to support activities carried out in the EAP Task Force framework;
- Agreed that whilst the main lines of the work programme should remain broadly the same, activities could be re-presented in a way that facilitated access to alternative sources of finance, for example for climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Requested the secretariat to consult with donors on how they could support implementation of activities and to circulate a revised programme of work and budget for 2010 as soon as possible.

Roundtable discussion on environmental cooperation in the context of green growth

10. The EAP Task Force:

- Welcomed the discussion of “green growth” and agreed that the green growth agenda was an opportunity for promoting economic recovery while working to achieve longer-term environmental objectives such as establishing a low-carbon economy;
- Took note of the fact that EECCA countries were the hardest hit by the ongoing global economic crisis and that, unlike many OECD countries, there are limited opportunities to use fiscal stimulus for economic recovery and green growth;
- Shared their country experience, suggested a number of possible elements for further exchange between OECD and EECCA countries, and requested the OECD/EAP Task Force secretariat to facilitate dialogue on these issues (see Annex 2);
- Took note of statements by donor countries on their bilateral, sub-regional and regional aid programmes and their evolution in the context of the global crisis and the green growth agenda; and
- Underlined the importance of working with other partners, particularly ministries of economy and finance, the domestic finance sector, and IFIs.

The Astana Ministerial Conference: possible contributions from the EAP Task Force

11. The Task Force:

- Took note of the statement from the UNECE secretariat on the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP).
- Took note of the statement of the Kazakh delegate that preparations for the forthcoming Astana “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Meeting are on track; and that Kazakhstan will host a Ministerial Meeting of Asia and the Pacific region in September 2010, organized within the framework of UNESCAP. An *ad-hoc* Advisory Council to the National Working Group, which supports preparations for the two Ministerial Conferences, was established as a platform for interaction with non-governmental partners. The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia will facilitate activities of this Advisory Council;
- Agreed that the EAP Task Force would prepare three flagship reports for the Astana Ministerial:
 - Will EECCA countries achieve the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015?
 - Mainstreaming environmental programmes into public budgets;
 - Environmental governance in EECCA countries: Trends and outlook.

The way these reports could support discussion would depend on the two main themes of the Astana Ministerial that were due to be decided at the next meeting of the UNECE CEP¹.

- Took note of the EEA's presentation on the “Assessment of Assessments” proposal that aims to prepare a report for the Astana Conference and to gradually develop a sustainable long-term process to keep the pan-European environment under continuous review.

Dates and location of the next EAP Task Force meeting

12. The EAP Task Force agreed that the next annual meeting will be organised on 14-15 October 2010 by the EECCA RECs at CAREC premises in Almaty and that EECCA RECs will finance the meeting.

Special Session on Water Sector Reform

13. The Task Force took note of the following conclusions:

- The EU Water Initiative EECCA component and EAP Task Force work on water is now effectively functioning as an integrated programme; it is targeted on some of the key challenges in the EECCA water sector, and is delivering good results by effectively and positively influencing the policy making process in a number of EECCA countries;
- The work provides a neutral platform for sound, facts-based dialogue and strategic discussions, through its main working method, i.e. National Policy Dialogues. These dialogues:
 - provide multiple opportunities for donors and IFIs to synergise with these processes and are significantly strengthened when donors decide to engage strongly with them, as has been the case in Moldova and Kyrgyzstan;
 - Proved to be most influential when government stakeholders are represented at a high level (ideally Deputy Ministers);
- The proposed EUWI programme of work for 2010 well reflected EECCA countries needs and should be further discussed at the next joint meeting of the EAP Task Force Group of Senior Officials for Water Sector Reform and the EUWI EECCA Working Group on the 24-25th of November in Bucharest.

¹ The UNECE CEP meeting that took place on 20-23 October 2009 in Geneva agreed on the following two themes for the Astana Ministerial: (i) Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and (ii) Greening the economy: Mainstreaming the environment into economic development.

Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force
15-16 October 2009, Paris, France

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEN GROWTH: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Annual EAP Task Force Meeting discussed the challenges of international cooperation and development assistance to EECCA countries in the context of the newly emerged 'green growth' agenda, as well as considered whether and how responses to such challenges may find their reflection in the EAP Task Force activities. The current Annex summarises the outcomes of this discussion.

Overall, the green growth agenda is largely seen as a chance for promoting environmental policy integration and establishing a low-carbon economy, though implementation, and financing in particular, remains as problematic as ever, particularly in EECCA countries. Given that the use of public finance measures is likely to be very limited in EECCA, promotion of green growth in this region will need to be based on establishing more supportive policy incentives and developing innovative financing mechanisms together with IFIs and the domestic banking sector. In this context, the meeting participants underlined the crucial role of interaction with these partners, but also the ministries of economy and finance, and recalled the OECD's long-lasting experience in facilitating this kind of interaction and helping to establish investment priorities.

The EAP Task Force members expressed their views that the OECD secretariat could help EECCA countries in the following areas:

- Promoting a better understanding of the concept of “green growth” and how green growth is linked to economic development and finance sector restructuring;
- Analysing the overall context, opportunities, and capacity for adopting the green growth model – at both regional and country-specific level;
- Advising, based on the analysis of international experience, on how the transition to this new model of development could be organised, in particular on the sequencing of priority sectors and measures;
- Facilitating the improvement of policy incentives for green growth, by both helping to further reform existing policy instruments and to adopt new policy instruments, such as, for instance, instruments that would promote environmentally-friendly product policies;
- Fostering private sector participation, including work with Small and Medium-sized enterprises;
- Helping countries to use more effectively the existing finance instruments, and adopt new ones, along the investment priorities.

The participants suggested that the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat could assist countries to formulate and send a strong message regarding the green growth agenda to high-level policy-makers and non-governmental stakeholders attending the next “Environment for Europe” ministerial.

Table 1. Examples of issues that present interest as part of green growth agenda in EECCA countries

Issues	Possible elements of regional cooperation
Context analysis	<p>Defining the green growth potential for each country</p> <p>Analysing the budget situation and fiscal instruments that support green growth</p> <p>Strengthening economic arguments in favour of green growth, e.g. through the valuation of environmental goods and ecosystem services</p> <p>Considering the actual impact of donor aid and how to make a better use of donor assistance for promoting green growth measures</p>
Policy incentives for green growth	<p>Taking a more ample advantage of policy instruments that are already in place</p> <p>Strengthening the use of market-based instruments for green growth (environmental charges/taxes, subsidies, e.g. from Environmental Funds, etc.)</p> <p>Improving product policies (e.g. by using eco-labelling more widely) and further promoting sustainable production and consumption</p> <p>Introducing payments for ecosystem services</p> <p>Strengthening the implementation of climate change policies, particularly in Annex II countries</p> <p>Adjusting trade policies and environmental trade regimes</p>
Financing aspects	<p>Contributing to the re-structuring and re-orientation of the financial sector by providing incentives to the sector to support green investments</p> <p>Identifying methods that may increase the commercial attractiveness of green measures (e.g. by removing barriers to private sector participation)</p> <p>Making better use of existing and new finance instruments, e.g. linked to climate change adaptation</p> <p>Seeking to gain better access to, and use more effectively donor finance provided under the new instruments of assistance, such as sector-wide or general budget support</p> <p>Capacity building within the banking sector to promote a better understanding of benefits linked to green growth measures</p>
Partnerships	<p>Carrying out national-level policy dialogues on green growth with ministries of economy and finance</p> <p>Providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in light of green job creation</p> <p>Defining the role, responsibilities and powers of local authorities in designing and implementing green growth policies</p> <p>Seeking to achieve effective donor coordination and IFIs involvement in supporting effective green growth measures</p>
Transition process	<p>Identifying driving forces and highlighting benefits from promoting green growth</p> <p>Defining priority areas/sectors of intervention and “entry points” for green growth promotion (e.g. when structural adjustment are made to national economy)</p> <p>Spotting new business opportunities and areas for technology innovation</p> <p>Ensuring a full coherence between different environmental objectives, e.g. between a wider use of renewable sources of energy and biodiversity protection, and with sectoral objectives</p> <p>Increasing awareness-raising efforts among stakeholders</p> <p>Moving beyond political declarations: seeking to match planned activities with funds</p> <p>Building technical capacities and enhancing knowledge</p>