



**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 SECOND JOINT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL
AND EASTERN EUROPE (EAP TASK FORCE) AND THE PROJECT PREPARATION COMMITTEE
(PPC)**

2nd Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC, Tbilisi 20-22 October 2004

FOR INFORMATION.

EAP Task Force/PPC delegates will be invited to adopt the draft Summary Record of the Second Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC at their next Meeting to be held on 16-17 November 2005 in Yerevan.

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JOINT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (EAP TASK FORCE) AND THE PROJECT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (PPC)

20-22 October 2004, Tbilisi, Georgia

Draft Summary Record

Opening formalities

1. Mme Soledad Blanco, Co-Chair of the EAP Task Force and Mr. Rod Matthews, Chair of the PPC, welcomed participants and opened the Second Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the Project Preparation Committee (PPC). Representatives from 29 countries and the European Commission were present, as well as representatives from International Organisations, non-governmental organisations and the Regional Environmental Centres (see Annex 1 for the list of participants). In the absence of Mme Aitkul Samakova, the Co-Chair from Kazakhstan, Mr Georgi Arzumanyan, Armenia, was nominated to serve as EAP Task Force Co-Chair for this meeting.

2. The Co-Chairs pointed out that the main objectives of the meeting, to be held back-to-back with the Conference of EECCA Environment Ministers and their Partners, were to finalise preparations for the Ministerial Conference and to determine what further steps might be needed in light of the Conference conclusions; to adopt programmes of work and budgets for 2005 for the EAP Task Force and the PPC; to review overall progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy, including the work of Facilitating Organisations. They also stressed the importance of starting preparations for the Almaty+5 Ministerial Consultations in 2005. The first part of the Joint meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC was to be held immediately prior to the Tbilisi Ministerial meeting, and the final part immediately afterwards.

3. The EAP Task Force and the PPC adopted the Draft Annotated Agenda of the Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC [ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2004)1/Final] and the Draft Summary Record of the First Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC [CCNM/ENV/EAP(2003)36] without amendment.

Preparations for the Tbilisi Ministerial Conference

4. The EAP Task Force and the PPC took note of the oral report provided by Mr. Zaal Lomtadze (Georgia) on the status of preparations and organisational issues for the Tbilisi Ministerial Conference, to be held on 21st-22nd October 2004. Overall, about 30 countries and 18 International Organisations, International Financial Institutions and other stakeholder groups confirmed their participation in the Conference.

Facilitating and Supporting the Achievement of the EECCA Environment Strategy Objectives

5. In introducing this agenda item, the Co-Chairs reminded delegates that the EAP Task Force and the PPC oversaw the programmes of work and budget of these bodies that were related to the EECCA Environment Strategy but that for the work of other Facilitating Organisations the role of the EAP Task

Force was to facilitate the exchange of information in order to help avoid possible duplications and to promote synergies.

(i) *Activities of the EAP Task Force to support specific objectives of the EECCA Environment Partnership Strategy*

6. The EAP Task Force and the PPC took note of the progress in implementing EAP Task Force programme of work in support of specific EECCA Environment Strategy objectives in the areas of water supply and sanitation, public environmental finance and environmental policy reform since July 2003, as set out in the document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)1. The Secretariat took note of the many specific comments on the activities and agreed to integrate them into project plans.

7. The EAP Task Force discussed and broadly endorsed the proposed draft Programme of Work and Budget of the EAP Task Force for 2005 (see document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)2). More specifically, the Task Force and PPC:

- Stressed the importance of presenting the assessment of the work carried out by the EAP Task Force in achieving the water-related MDG at the Almaty+5 Ministerial Conference.
- Underlined the importance of involving sectoral ministries, as well as local governments in the work in order to achieve concrete results.
- Noted the joint work of the EAP Task Force and EECCA RECs and suggested that further coordination of their work could be useful. .
- Stressed the importance of demonstration projects and of the potential importance of the new EC/TACIS twinning programme, provided that capacities for its implementation exist in both EU and EECCA countries.
- Agreed that the Secretariat should present factual results and the outcomes of the work carried out by the EAP Task Force in EECCA countries to the next Joint Meeting. The Secretariat should produce a report on tools applied and results achieved by the EAP Task Force in EECCA countries for the 2007 Belgrade “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.

8. The EAP Task Force and the PPC took note of a report of the current budgetary situation of the EAP Task Force by Mr. Brendan Gillespie, and of the budget estimate for each programme area set out in the document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)2. It was agreed that there was overall support for the activities of the EAP Task Force and it was expected that donors would confirm the provision of the required financial resources soon. The importance of involving non-Environment ministries (Development, Economy, Finance, etc) to fund some Task Force activities was also stressed. It was agreed that the future budget reports of the Secretariat should provide budget information for the two previous years.

(ii) *Activities of the PPC*

9. The PPC presented an overview of PPC activities carried out since the First Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the Project Preparation Committee, as set out in document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)3. The PPC further outlined the revised PPC Strategy for 2004-2007, as set out in the same document. The PPC Secretariat took note of comments on its Strategy and Progress Report. In particular, the PPC stressed the importance of ensuring that PPC Officers are based in the SEE and EECCA regions, as well as at IFI headquarters.

10. The PPC and EAP Task Force took note of a report of the current budgetary situation of the PPC by Ms Sara Browning, and of the budget estimates for, notably, the PPC Officers, the PPC Secretariat and a number of capacity building activities (ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)3). It was agreed that there was general

support for the activities of the PPC, and that the PPC would work with the donors to secure funding for specific PPC Officer positions and activities.

(iii) Co-operation between the EAP Task Force and the PPC

11. The EAP Task Force and the PPC noted and broadly endorsed the programme of cooperation between the two bodies (see document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)4). The importance of building closer linkages and exploiting synergies of these two bodies to bring more resources and concrete results in the EECCA region was stressed by the delegates.

12. The EAP Task Force and the PPC agreed that a programming meeting between the Secretariats should be organised in the near future.

(iv) Activities of Other Facilitating Organisations to Support Specific Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy

13. The EAP Task Force and the PPC noted the “snapshot” of activities and work-sharing arrangements between the Facilitating and Cooperating Institutions (as set out in the room document ENV/EPOC/EAP/RD(2004)1) and provided specific comments to the Secretariat. In particular, it was agreed that the document should provide more specific information on the projects carried out by Facilitating Organisations under each objective of the Strategy. It was recognised that this document could help Facilitating Organisations to establish good working relationship with other organisations and Cooperating Institutions active in their respective areas. It was also agreed that the Facilitating Organisations would need to provide updated information (including budget information) to the Secretariat so as to make the “snapshot” a living document.

14. The EAP Task Force and the PPC welcomed the World Bank as a Facilitating Organisation for the Objective on Forestry and Agriculture.

(v) Progress on Overall Facilitation of the EECCA Environment Strategy and Proposed Future Activities

15. The EAP Task Force and the PPC noted the progress made by the Secretariat of the EAP Task Force in implementing its Programme of Work to facilitate and support the achievement of the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy in 2004 (document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)1)

16. It was agreed that the future activities of the EAP Task Force in facilitating and supporting the achievement of the EECCA Environment Strategy objectives overall should be addressed when discussing the outcomes of the Tbilisi Ministerial Meeting.

Mobilising Finance

17. Mr Rod Matthews introduced the PPC session on Mobilising Finance, and stressed its objective to promote a dialogue between EAP Task Force and PPC members about financing opportunities and constraints to mobilising finance. A presentation was given by the PPC on financing flows and innovative funding mechanisms. Following a brief session of questions and discussion, delegates were invited to join one of three break-out groups, covering sectors that PPC Officers have been active in, including water supply and sanitation, climate change and biodiversity. Three key presenters were invited to report back to the plenary following the break-out sessions. The PPC Secretariat took note of issues raised by the break-out groups and in plenary with an eye to informing future work of the PPC and EAP Task Force.

18. Specific financing gaps in PPC projects were presented for two key areas of PPC activity: (i) Russia, and (ii) Central Asia, Caucasus and Moldova. In each area, the PPC is working in close cooperation with other initiatives, specifically the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) and the EBRD's Early Transition Country (ETC) Initiative. PPC and EAP Task Force Delegates were invited to discuss particular finance gaps and potential finance options.

Outcome of the Tbilisi Ministerial Conference: Assessment of the Conference and Next Steps

19. The Task Force and the PPC took note of brief presentation by the Secretariat highlighting the main outcomes from the Ministerial Conference, held in Tbilisi on 21-22 October 2004, and discussed their implications for the activities of the EAP Task Force, PPC and other stakeholders. Delegates noted that the EAP Task Force was "called upon to continue its efforts to facilitate and support the achievement of the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy, and to develop a programme of work to this end" in light of the discussion at the Ministerial Conference. More specifically, the delegates agreed that the EAP Task Force should concentrate its efforts in the following areas: (1) monitoring and facilitating partnerships, (2) assessing progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Strategy, and (3) promoting effective co-operation and communication among partners. It was agreed that the work on assessing progress and the stock-taking report in particular, would be carried out in close co-operation with the EEA and UNECE to avoid overlaps and duplications. It was noted that the Partnership database which is being developed by the EAP Task Force Secretariat could be an important tool for exchange of information between various partners. Further work would be needed to elaborate a detailed programme of work to facilitate the achievement of EECCA Strategy objectives overall for 2005, and the Bureau was mandated to adopt this new programme of work at its next meeting.

20. The delegates also noted that the PPC and Facilitating Organisations had been requested by the Ministers to assess how they could strengthen their efforts to support EECCA countries to achieve specific objectives of the Strategy. The delegates also invited EECCA RECs and NGOs to strengthen their cooperation.

21. Delegates noted the importance of implementing the decisions made by the ministers and preparing projects that could contribute to the next Belgrade "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference.

Preparations for the "Almaty+5" Ministerial Conference

22. In introducing this agenda item, the Co-Chair of the EAP Task Force referred to a decision taken at the last Consultation of Environment and Economy/Finance Ministers in 2000 in Almaty to organise a follow-up meeting in five years to review progress in implementation of the conclusions of the Consultations.

23. Delegates welcomed the offer of the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Russian Federation to host the Almaty+5 Ministerial Conference in the fall 2005¹.

24. The EAP Task Force and the PPC broadly supported the proposed approach set out in the Document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)6 for organising the Almaty+5 Ministerial Conference, the proposed preparatory

¹ Subsequently, the representatives of the Russian Federation and the Secretariat concluded that it was not feasible to organise the meeting in Moscow due to ongoing administrative reforms and restructuring. At its June 2005 meeting, the Bureau of the EAP Task Force and the PPC agreed to hold the Almaty+5 Ministerial Conference in Yerevan (Armenia) on the 18th November 2005.

process and documentation. The delegates noted that a meeting of the EECCA Working Group of the EU Water Initiative would take place on the margins of the Conference.

25. Concerning the date of the Ministerial Conference, the delegates agreed it should be discussed further so as to leave some “breathing” space in between the UNECE CEP Meeting, scheduled to take place during the week of 31st October, and other events to be organised on the margins of the Conference. The Secretariat would propose new dates for consideration by the Bureau at its next meeting.

Date of the Next Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC

26. The EAP Task Force and the PPC agreed to hold the 3rd Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC back-to-back with the Almaty+5 Ministerial Conference. The final decision about the dates of the next Joint Meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC will be taken at the next Bureau Meeting

Other Business

27. Ms. Helen Marquard (United Kingdom) informed delegates that Mr. Rod Matthews had assumed his previous duties with UK DFID and was prepared to continue as a Chair of the PPC. UK DFID and UK DEFRA secured funding for his position until 2006.

28. Mr. Brendan Gillespie of the EAP Task Force Secretariat introduced Mr. Xavier Leflaive, who was appointed as a Head of the Environmental Finance Programme at the EAP Task Force Secretariat.

ANNEX 1LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE 2ND JOINT MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE
AND THE PPC20-22 October 2004, Tbilisi, Georgia

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ANNEX 2

**LIST OF MAIN DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND JOINT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME (EAP TF) AND THE PROJECT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (PPC)
Tbilisi, Georgia, 20-22 October 2004**

| <i>Agenda Item No.</i> | <i>TITLE</i> | <i>CODE</i> | <i>AVAILABILITY</i> | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | | <i>Eng.</i> | <i>Rus.</i> |
| 1 | Draft Annotated Agenda | ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2004)1/Final | X | X |
| 2 | Draft Summary Record of the 1 st Joint Meeting of the Task Force for Implementation of the EAP TF and PPC | CCNM/ENV/EAP(2003)36 | X | X |
| 4 (i) and (v) | Progress Report on Implementation of Activities of the EAP Task Force in 2004 | ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)1 | X | X |
| 4 (i) and (v) | Revised Draft of the Programme of Work and Budget of the EAP Task Force for 2005 | ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)2 | X | X |
| 4 (ii) | PPC Strategy, Progress Report, and Budget (2004-2005) | ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)3 | X | X |
| 4 (iii) | EAP Task Force and Project Preparation Committee: Programme of Co-operation | ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)4 | X | X |
| 5 | Mobilising Finance: Introduction, Background and Projects | ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)5 | X | X |
| 7 | Status of Preparations for the Almaty+5 Ministerial Conference | ENV/EPOC/EAP(2004)6 | X | X |

ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2004)1

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND JOINT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME (EAP TF) AND THE PROJECT PREPARATION COMMITTEE (PPC)

Tbilisi, Georgia, 20-22 October 2004

| <i>Agenda Item No.</i> | <i>TITLE</i> | <i>CODE</i> | <i>AVAILABILITY</i> | |
|--|--|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | | <i>Eng.</i> | <i>Rus.</i> |
| Supporting documents for information and room documents | | | | |
| 4 (iv) | Snapshot of Activities Carried out by Different International Organisations under Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy | ENV/EPOC/EAP/RD(2004)1 | X | X |