

EAP Task Force

**2nd Meeting on Facilitation and Support for the
Implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy**

**23 September 2005
*UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva***

Summary Record

**SUMMARY RECORD OF
THE SECOND MEETING ON FACILITATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE EECCA ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

23 September 2005, Geneva

1. The 2nd Meeting on Facilitation and Support for the Implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy was held on the 23rd September in Geneva, Switzerland at the UNECE Headquarters. The meeting was attended by some 20 participants representing different International Organizations facilitating the implementation of different Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. Although not a Facilitating Organisation, the European Environment Agency (EEA) was invited to participate in the meeting given the need to coordinate the 2007 EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment report with the new pan-European Assessment that EEA will prepare for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference. A list of participants is attached.
2. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the preparations of the 2007 EECCA Environment Strategy Progress Assessment Report (ESPA) and to agree on contributions by different Facilitating Organisations, as well as to discuss ways to strengthen communication among Facilitating Organisations and between different partners.
3. OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat presented the concept and a preliminary timetable for the preparation of the 2007 EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment report. The aim of the report is to assess the actions taken by EECCA countries to achieve the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. Based on the guidance received during the earlier consultations with experts from selected international organizations as well as the EECCA Strategy Country Focal Points, it was agreed that the OECD/EAP Task Force secretariat would take the lead in preparing the 2007 ESPA report, and that it will be prepared in close cooperation with EECCA countries and Facilitating Organisations. The contributions from contributing agencies would be flexible and adapted to their regular work program; they are invited to work together in a close interaction with OECD staff to (i) develop an annotated outline including main messages and supporting evidence, (ii) design a reporting tool for EECCA countries to provide information on implementation of the Strategy, (iii) provide dedicated inputs (such as topic summaries, case studies, indicators), and (iv) review drafts. Other key parameters of the report highlighted at the meeting include the importance of: (a) close coordination with EEA's Belgrade Assessment, (b) engaging EECCA countries in reporting on actions taken, and preparing the report designed to promote ownership of the assessment by EECCA countries, (c) the role of Facilitating Organisations in reviewing the analysis and recommendations in the report. It was agreed that the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat will work bilaterally with each Facilitating Organization in the identification of specific contributions and production of an annotated outline by January 2006.
4. The participants welcomed the close coordination already established for the preparation of the EEA Belgrade Report (which will contain a specific part dedicated to environmental trends in EECCA countries) and the EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment report (which will focus on policy actions taken by EECCA countries). They emphasized the importance of involving experts from the EECCA Environment Ministries in the preparation of the Report. The Facilitating Organisations exchanged views on the structure of the report and advised caution in the use of country profiles and in putting forward new recommendations. They agreed that the recommendations should emerge from previous work. They agreed that the annotated outline and internal peer review were key steps

to ensure the coherence of policy messages. They also noted the importance of maximizing the synergies of events planned to be held in EECCA countries over the next two years and requested the UNECE Secretariat to compile a list of those events as part of the preparations for the next Environment for Europe process.

5. The participants took note of the information provided by the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat on the forthcoming 3rd meeting of EAP Task Force and PPC and the progress in updating the Snapshot document. The Snapshot, a document requested by the EAP Task Force, is aimed at providing an at-a-glance overview of activities carried out by international organizations in EECCA region, as to identify gaps, facilitate synergies and avoid overlaps. Representatives from different Facilitating Organisations raised concern about the burden involved in providing the relevant information. At the same time, they recognized the value of mapping out the most important activities being carried out to support each Strategy objective, and that it is a core function of their role as Facilitating Organisations. The deadline for submitting the information for the next EAP Task Force meeting was extended until 30th of September 2005. The OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat will edit the information and liaise with different agencies in order to finalise the document by mid October 2005 for distribution to the EAP Task Force members.

6. OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat made a brief on-line presentation on the EECCA Strategy Partnership Database. The Facilitating Organisations noted with interest the possibilities that this information tool can provide for improving communication and information sharing on the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy between different partners. It was suggested that the Snapshot document could be integrated with the Partnership Database and that the database could be one of the EECCA Strategy related inputs for the Belgrade Ministerial meeting.

7. The UNECE Secretariat informed participants about the status of preparations for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference, including the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) and a recent visit of the UNECE Secretariat to Belgrade to meet with the local organizing committee. They also informed about the preparation of the Environment for Europe (EfE) Communication Strategy. The Communication Strategy is expected to be approved at the forthcoming meetings of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) and the Working Group of Senior Officials. After its approval, an action plan would need to be devised. The participants suggested that UNECE could consider how the different analytical and information management products that will be prepared for Belgrade (including the EECCA Environmental Strategy Information Tool) could be part of the action plan, for instance by making them available through a common Environment for Europe portal.

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23 September 2005, Geneva**

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