

## **Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Expert Consultation on the EECCA STRATEGY PROGRESS ASSESSMENT Report**

The following recommendations emerged from the informal discussion of international experts:

1. The *EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment* report should focus on policy responses. The report should complement EEA's *Belgrade Report*, which in turn will focus (for its EECCA component) on drivers, pressures, state-of-the-environment and impacts. While the final architecture of the Belgrade products still needs to be worked out, the different reports should be coordinated, presenting common messages.
2. Most experts agreed that the *EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment* report should become an inter-agency report. The *EECCA Progress Assessment* report should draw on inputs from other organisations – whether those inputs are presented as independent products (such as the UNECE's EPRs) or not (such as WHO or World Bank inputs). The roles and tasks of the EAP Task Force Secretariat (OECD) and Facilitating Organisations should be further clarified, taking into account resource constraints.
3. A more systematic analytical framework is needed to assess policy responses. It should cover directions of policy reform, progress in policy integration, barriers to policy implementation, and identification of gap areas. The indicators used in the Stocktaking report should be critically evaluated. The analytical framework could use innovative analytical tools, such as policy ratings and policy matrices, and track the policy actions specified in the EECCA Environment Strategy. Anecdotal information is also useful. Analysis across different policy areas should be more even than in the Stocktaking Report. The analysis should try to integrate the ecosystem approach and institutional capacity.
4. Information requests from countries should be coordinated. A Policy Module could be added to the Questionnaire that will be administered by EEA and UNECE in early 2006. UNDP experts could be involved to provide additional information.
5. There should be more intense consultations. Even though the report will not be formally country-owned, countries should be more substantially involved – including non-environment ministries (such as ministries of foreign affairs, or of economic development), NGOs and the business community. National consultations in all 12 EECCA countries could be organised to discuss the final draft of the report. International organisations should be given enough time to provide comments.

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