

**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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THE EECCA REPORT - CONCEPT, PROCESS AND STRUCTURE

Fourth 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)

21-22 September 2006, Berlin

Agenda Items 4 (i) and 5 (ii)

This document presents the concept, process and structure of the 2007 EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment Report (EECCA Report) that will be prepared for the Belgrade Conference. It will support the discussion of agenda items 4 (i) and 5 (ii).

ACTION REQUIRED: *Delegates are invited:*

(a) to take note of the paper;

(b) to provide further guidance on the finalisation of the EECCA Report

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English - Or. English

The EECCA Report – Concept, Process and Structure

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The OECD / EAP Task Force Secretariat was invited by Ministers in the 2003 “Environment and Europe” Ministerial Conference to monitor progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The Strategy specified that monitoring progress should be done in cooperation with relevant international bodies, and on the basis of information provided by East European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries.

2. In order to establish the baseline for assessing progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy, the OECD / EAP Task Force Secretariat produced in 2004 a “Stocktaking” Report. This report brought together the analysis documented in different sectoral reports (most of them produced by international organisations for the 2003 Kiev Conference), data available in several international databases, and some limited new information to offer a picture of environmental conditions and policies in EECCA countries at the outset of the implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The Stocktaking Report served as a background document for the Conference of EECCA Environment Ministers that took place in Tbilisi in 2004. It was published in 2005 as a book, in both English and Russian versions, with the title “Environmental Management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”.

3. A new report (preliminary known as EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment Report, or EECCA Report) is being produced for the next “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, to be held in Belgrade in October 2007. The EECCA Report is being prepared in partnership with the Facilitating Organisations of the EECCA Environment Strategy. It will use the Stocktaking Report as a baseline against to which measure progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy.

2. THE EECCA REPORT: CONCEPT

4. The general aim of the EECCA Report is to provide an assessment of progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. It will focus on assessing progress in implementing environmental policy responses¹. It will do so mainly by tracking environmental policy responses as well as policy responses within the broader socio-economic, political and institutional context of EECCA countries.

5. The EECCA Report is being prepared in close co-operation with the Facilitating Organisations as a joint input to the Belgrade Conference. Specific ways of contributing have been explored bilaterally – they include providing input to the outline, helping to design the questionnaire, providing early drafts of

¹ Progress in implementing the EECCA Environment Strategy could also be assessed by focusing on environmental outcomes (How much have environmental conditions improved?). The European Environment Agency’s *Belgrade Report* will provide an assessment of progress in improving environmental outcomes. In turn, tracking policy responses is only a first step towards comprehensive policy analysis; it is limited to answering the question “What policy responses are being implemented?” Even if tracking policy responses looks like a modest effort, it is not without challenges – as environmental assessments have traditionally focused on the state-of-the-environment, information on policy responses tends to be less systematically collected and analyzed.

technical reports, developing indicators and case studies, and peer reviewing the report. In any case, the report will draw on any relevant material made available by any of the Facilitating Organisations.

6. The EECCA Report will rely on information provided by countries. The OECD/EAP TF is currently reviewing the information provided by EECCA countries through different international processes (such as through multilateral environmental agreements; UNSD/UNEP environmental statistics; or UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews). In addition, a dedicated questionnaire has been distributed by the OECD/EAP TF to the EECCA Environment Ministries to collect additional information and fill in possible information gaps.

7. The EECCA Report will complement the European Environment Agency's new pan-European assessment (*Belgrade Report*), which will focus largely on state of environment and trends in the whole pan-European region and in EECCA as one of the sub-regions.

8. The report will build on the strengths of the Stocktaking Report (brevity, breadth of coverage, use of graphs), while trying to overcome its weaknesses. Planned improvements with respect to the Stocktaking Report include:

- focus even more on response indicators
- make a broader use of analytical tools such as checklists and policy matrixes to assess progress
- track more closely the "planned actions" specified in the EECCA Environment Strategy
- showcase good policy practices (case studies).

9. It is expected that the EECCA Report will generate a range of benefits. It could contribute to raise the visibility of the EECCA Environment Strategy process as well as that of environmental policy in EECCA countries. The report could also facilitate dialogue within countries, as well as benchmarking across countries. While tracking policy responses will not tell EECCA countries whether those responses are effective or efficient, it can help them to (i) identify possible imbalances across policy areas, (ii) identify innovative actions that could be taken in a particular policy area by a wider set of countries, (iii) improve accountability, and (iii) improve reporting to the "Environment for Europe" process.

3. THE EECCA REPORT: PROCESS

10. Engaging EECCA governments and other national stakeholders in the design, preparation and review of the EECCA Report is important if the report is to be accurate and to have impact. To request early guidance for the development of the report, three sub-regional consultations were carried out in Moscow, Almaty and Tbilisi in May-June 2005. The views of EECCA governments on the suggested structure of the report as well as their substantive input were sought during the Regional Meeting on Progress in Achieving the Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy (Kiev, 18-19 May 2006). In that meeting, EECCA governments agreed to provide information on actions taken (through a dedicated EECCA Questionnaire) by 30 September 2006. They also provided early input on main messages across objectives – as recorded in the Summary of the Meeting Outcomes (available through www.oecd.org/env/eap). A follow-up meeting to work on the country profiles will be organised in November-December 2006. Finally, EECCA governments and other national stakeholders will be asked to review the draft EECCA Report in early 2007. Among national stakeholders, the NGO network ECO-Forum in particular is actively engaged in the preparation of the report.

11. The EECCA Report is a collaborative effort of the Facilitating Organisations. Its preparation started in February 2005 with a Brainstorming Meeting of selected international and EECCA experts and was further discussed during the Second Meeting of Facilitating Organisations in September 2005. In February-March 2006 further bilateral consultations were carried out with the Facilitating Organisations on

the structure of the report and possible information sources. Experts from the Facilitating Organisations provided input to help prepare the Regional Meeting of May 2006, acted as session leaders during the Regional Meeting, and provided input to the design of the questionnaire in May-June 2006. Additional input from the Facilitating Organisations will be sought throughout Sept-Nov 2006, to develop the individual chapters of the EECCA Report and in January 2007 to peer review the full draft report. The network of EECCA RECs is providing particular support on information collection and analysis. In addition, close coordination with the European Environment Agency has been actively pursued – staff from OECD and EEA have contributed to each other's reports and have explored ways to explicitly link the two reports and exploit synergies in information collection and analysis.

Table 1. Timeline: Next steps

| Phase | Activities/Milestones | Time |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Information collection | Responses to EECCA Questionnaire sent to OECD by EECCA countries | 30 Sept 2006 |
| Analysis | Review of relevant material generated through regular processes, EECCA country responses to questionnaire, and dedicated inputs by Facilitating Organisations and NGOs | Aug-Nov 2006 |
| | Follow-Up Meeting to discuss country profiles on the basis of EECCA Questionnaire responses | Nov-Dec 2006 |
| Writing and review | First draft (to be distributed to Facilitating Organisations for peer review) | 22 December 2006 |
| | Second draft (to be distributed to EECCA countries for country review) available in English and Russian | 10 February 2007 |
| | Discussion and endorsement of the draft Report by the EAP Task Force | Mid-March 2007 |
| | Final draft (English) | 30 March 2007 |
| Production, launch and dissemination | Report sent to Working Group of Senior Officials (three languages) | 1 May 2007 |
| | Lay-out, printing, translation | April-June 2007 |
| | Launch at the Belgrade Conference | October 2007 |
| | Other dissemination activities (to be discussed) | Sept-Dec 2007 |

4. THE EECCA REPORT: STRUCTURE

12. The general structure of the EECCA Report is based on the guidance received from EECCA countries and Facilitating Organisations. It was discussed and agreed by EECCA governments during the Regional Meeting of May 2006. The structure will be similar to the one of the Stocktaking Report, focusing on the Strategy Objectives (see Annex 1 of this document.). The report will include a brief “socio-economic section” in the beginning of the report putting environment in the broader development context (to reach out to local constituencies beyond Ministries of Environment).

13. The main section of the report will examine progress objective by objective. Each thematic chapter will look at the relevant policy issues, available policy actions, progress made since Kiev, barriers to progress, knowledge gaps and main recommendations developed in the context of more technical reports.

To illustrate progress, the report will make use of quantitative indicators, scorecards/checklists and case studies. (Annex 2 of this document reproduces the suggested template for the Thematic Chapters).

14. At the request of EECCA countries, the report will try to look more closely to specific country progress. To that end, country profiles will be developed. They will include brief sections dedicated to describing the country, listing environmental priorities and international cooperation activities, showcasing implementation successes and mapping implementation progress through the use of a policy matrix. (Annex 3 of this document reproduces the suggested template for the Country Profiles).

15. The EECCA Report will contain recommendations. For the most part, these will not be new recommendations, but rather recommendations that would have already been developed in in-depth sectoral analytical work. New recommendations could eventually emerge from looking across issues.

ANNEX 1. OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE EECCA REPORT

| Section | Focus | Target length |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Bilingual Executive Summary | | 8 pages |
| Section I. Environment and Development in EECCA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the socio-economic context for environmental management in EECCA, including issues of economic growth, poverty, trade/investment and governance, and their links to environmental management. Highlight that sound environmental management is relevant for achieving development outcomes. • Introduce the EECCA Environment Strategy and the report. | 8 pages |
| Section II. Progress in Achieving the Objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the different topics in a “policy brief” fashion • 15 chapters, one for each sub-objective of the Strategy ⁽¹⁾. Each will cover: policy relevance, policy options, progress made, barriers to faster progress, information gaps. • Highlight recommendations provided by in-depth studies | 60 pages |
| Section III. Country Profiles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide differentiated information for each country • 12 country profiles, each covering: specific socio-economic context, environmental priorities, cooperation/partnerships, implementation highlights | 24 pages |
| Section IV. Conclusions and Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight emerging patterns across objectives • Indicate that progress is different across countries • Summarize key recommendations from sectoral analysis • Eventually, make recommendations about streamlining the EECCA Strategy | 4 pages |
| Total (excluding executive summary) | | 96 pages ⁽²⁾ |

(1) The objectives/sub-objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy refer to: 1. Environmental policies and institutions; 2.1 Urban air pollution; 2.2. Water supply and sanitation; 2.3 Waste and chemicals; 3.1 Integrated water resources management; 3.2 Biodiversity; 4.1 Overall issues of sectoral integration; 4.2 Integration in Energy; 4.3 Integration in Transport; 4.4 Integration in Agriculture and Forestry; 5. Financial resources for environment; 6.1 Environmental information; 6.2 Public participation; 6.3 Education; 7. Co-operation on transboundary issues.

(2) The length of “Environmental Management in EECCA” excluding executive summary and annexes was 65 pages.

ANNEX 2. TEMPLATE FOR A THEMATIC CHAPTER

OBJECTIVE A.**Name of EECCA Strategy objective**

SUB-OBJECTIVE A.1 Name of EECCA Strategy sub-objective

[Each chapter is thought as a “policy brief” and making reference to more detailed work.

Estimated length: 3-6 pages]

Policy issues

Why should policy makers read this chapter?

Urgency and size of the policy challenge.

- Links to development outcomes (health, poverty) and global environment (climate change, biodiversity) outcomes.
- Links to other objectives in the EECCA Strategy
- References to relevant international targets and processes

Policy options

What are the main policy options to achieve this objective?

- Bullet points summarizing “planned actions” from the EECCA Environment Strategy document.
- Other relevant policy options (if the policy options are not well covered in the Strategy document)

Who are the main policy actors? This section could also structure the policy options according to actor.

The (environmental) challenge

Here some text linking this chapter with some relevant chapter in the EEA’s Belgrade Assessment. Remind that the focus of the chapter is on policy actions, rather than on environmental outcomes, and that environmental outcomes are covered in the EEA’s Belgrade Assessment.

Figure A1.1

For the chapters dealing with policy areas (air, WSS, waste/ chemicals, IWRM, biodiversity) the figure would refer to the corresponding environmental trend. For the chapters dealing with policy levers (legislation, integration, finance, information/ participation/education, international cooperation) it is less clear what the figure could cover.

Source: EEA Belgrade Assessment

Figure A1.2 Partnerships for achieving this objective

Number of partnerships

2003

2006

Funding mobilized

2003

2006

Source: EECCA Partnerships Database

What has happened since Kiev?

This is the most important part of the chapter. To what extent have those policy options been used? What are the main trends?

This section should include 4-6 main messages, each taking up one paragraph. Hopefully the main messages will be somehow related to the messages in corresponding chapter in Stocktaking report.

Sources will include sectoral reports (such as the ones the relevant Facilitating Organizations will prepare for Belgrade) and, potentially, the dedicated questionnaire. The text will make the link to the scorecard and quantitative indicators covered in the "figures".

Figure A1.3 Scorecard

A graph plotting the number of countries that display each one of about 5 key characteristics (Yes/No variables). See figure 9 and 29 in "Environmental Management in EECCA" report for a similar exercise in other objectives. In principle, the selection of the key characteristics needs to be related to the policy options discussed in the main text. (Alternatively, we could use a more information-intensive tool, such as a matrix / rating). The information would need to refer both to end-2002/mid-2003 and end-2005/mid-2006.

CASE STUDY:

An example of a success story

In order to provide for geographical balance, two-three case studies need to be identified for each chapter, even if only one will be written up. Brief guidelines to write up the case studies will be developed in advance.

Source: Relevant Facilitating Organisation

Major information gaps

For a number of sub-areas we don't have a good sense of what is happening. Which are those areas? Are they important?

Barriers to progress

What problems do EECCA countries encounter to implement these policy options?

Recommendations

We have been asked to provide recommendations. But some partners have stressed to be careful. Rather than coming up with original recommendations, this section provides an opportunity to highlight, let's say, the 5 most important recommendations in this area already put forward in sectoral reports.

We could highlight as well:

- Policy gaps / areas lagging behind
- Scope for streamlining the EECCA Environment Strategy

Further Information

KEY REPORTS

List of top 5 reports that policy-makers interested in the topic may want to consult.

REFERENCES

Other sources used in preparing the chapter

Figure A1.4
Quantitative policy indicator 1

Source: Databases of international organizations or dedicated questionnaire

Figure A1.5
Quantitative policy indicator 2

Source: Databases of international organizations or dedicated questionnaire

ANNEX 3. TEMPLATE FOR A COUNTRY PROFILE

COUNTRY PROFILE:

Name of country

Basic description

This sub-section will provide a short description of the country, mostly in socio-economic terms, to provide context. Possible variables to be included could be:

- GDP, GDP growth
- GDP per capita, poverty rate
- Population (rural, urban)
- Economic structure (Agriculture, Industry, Services)
- Foreign direct investment and trade flows

Environmental priorities

This sub-section will reproduce what the formal environmental priorities are. The source will be the latest National Environmental Action Plan or similar strategic document.

International cooperation/Partnerships

This sub-section will aim to list international cooperation projects in the area of environment. This information may help partners to identify gaps and overlaps. The potential sources will be the partnerships database, sector reports and the dedicated questionnaire.

Figure C1.1 Environmental priorities

This figure will show trends in one/two issues environmental issues identified as priorities by the country. It will provide a link to the EEA's Belgrade Assessment.

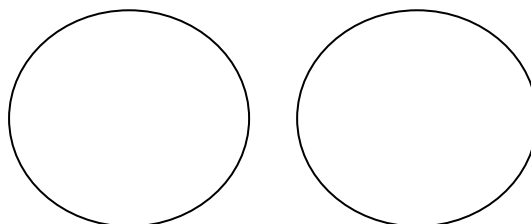
Source: EEA's Belgrade Assessment

Figure C1.2 Partnerships

This figure will show the number of partnerships (and related financial resources) developed to improve environmental management in this country – possibly according to objective

Either *bars*
 Policy 2003 Partnerships
 Funding
 2006 Partnerships
 Funding

Or *pie-charts*
 2003 2006



Source: EECCA Partnerships Database

Main Policy Actions since Kiev

Implementation highlights

This sub-section will list and briefly describe 5-10 actions that represent major achievements.

Policy Matrix

The matrix could show how actions taken are distributed across categories and policy areas. The columns offer a tentative classification of actions. The cells will name actual actions taken. The distribution of actions may help to identify gaps. The fact that actions are concentrated in a few cells may be an indication of focused policies. Introductory text could signal whether lack of action in some spheres in the 2003-2006 period is due to strong activity in the pre-2003 period. EECCA countries will not be asked to fill the cells, only to report information so that the matrix can be filled. The same number of actions (approx 15) will be reported for each EECCA country

| | Institutional strengthening (re-organisation, system creation, staffing, training, equipment) | Planning (analyses, targets, action plans, performance monitoring) | Command-and-control instruments (direct regulation, permitting) | Market-related instruments (property rights, tariffs, charges, taxes, deposit-refund schemes trading) | Information-related instruments (Information disclosure, labeling, public participation, education, technical advice) | Agreements (voluntary agreements, performance-based contracts) | Funding /Investment programmes |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Air | Air quality monitoring network upgraded | | Vehicle inspection programme launched | Charge system streamlined | Labelling scheme on energy efficiency of electric appliances launched | | |
| Water Supply and Sanitation | | | Water quality standards reformed | Tariffs increased, now covering 80% of O&M costs | | | USD20M WSS investment programme approved |
| Waste and Chemicals | | | Basel Convention principles incorporated in legislation | | Major public information campaign on chemicals | | |
| Water Resources | National Water Commission created | National IWRM plan developed | | | | | |
| Biodiversity | Extensive training programme for park rangers | National biodiversity strategy developed | Protected areas system expanded from 5 to 7% of national territory | | | | Budget for protected areas system increased 50% |
| Cross-cutting | Average salary of MoE officials increased 20% to USD120 per month | | | | EIA legislation reformed to allow for public participation | | |

Source: EECCA Questionnaire, background reports