

EAP Task Force

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

1 April 2004, Paris, France

Draft Summary Record

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

The representatives of Facilitating Organisations held their first Meeting on Facilitation and Support of the Implementation of the EECCA Environmental Partnership Strategy in Paris (France) on April 1, 2004 (a list of participants is attached). Mrs. Soledad Blanco (the European Commission) the Co-Chair of the EAP Task Force, chaired the meeting. In opening the meeting, she stressed that while the primary responsibility for achieving EECCA Environment Strategy goals lay with EECCA countries, there was also a need to establish new and improved forms of cooperation among international organisations to assist them in this task. She noted with regret that representatives of several Facilitating Organisations were not able to attend this meeting.

The Facilitating Organisations participating at the Meeting:

1. Adopted the draft agenda.
2. Took note of the preparations for the Conference of EECCA Environment Ministers and their Partners, to be held in Tbilisi on 21-22 October 2004, and in particular,
 - 2.1 emphasised the importance of identifying environmental priorities of EECCA countries for the implementation of the EECCA Strategy; stressed in this regard the importance of targets agreed upon in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other global forums; identified the need to comparing EECCA national priorities with donor priorities; noted the useful role that common regional priorities could play in addressing transboundary problems; reiterated that the political commitment and ownership of the EECCA countries are essential in this process and in this respect welcomed the organisation of an expert workshop to discuss the challenges of environmental priority setting in EECCA countries in relation to the EECCA Strategy implementation;
 - 2.2 agreed to provide information on completed and ongoing partnerships and action programmes in their areas of activity using the proposed format for reporting, and to identify successful models of partnerships, or any other approaches, that support the achievement of specific objectives of the Strategy and could serve as good examples for others;
 - 2.3 agreed to identify a limited number of indicators to develop the baseline against which progress in achieving EECCA Strategy objectives could be measured in their areas of activity; agreed that the information presented in reports for the Kiev Ministerial Conference in 2003 provided a valuable resource when preparing the baseline report; stressed the importance of working closely with the UNECE and the EEA in identifying indicators, preparing the baseline report and assessing progress.
3. Reported on the progress in facilitating the achievement of **specific objectives** of the EECCA Strategy, and agreed on the importance of:
 - 3.1 identifying the targets/benchmarks that might be achieved by 2007 (the time of the Belgrade Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference) for each of the objectives of the EECCA Strategy; such targets/benchmarks could help monitor progress and give a clear signal of areas where partnerships could usefully be developed;

- 3.2 strengthening facilitation activities at the level of specific Strategy objectives/sub-objectives, including Facilitating Organisations convening coordination meetings with Cooperating Institutions and other partners to facilitate co-operation and sharing information on activities implemented under each objective/sub-objective of the EECCA Strategy;
 - 3.3. developing a matrix on each objective/sub-objective as a tool to provide a “snapshot” of activities and work-sharing arrangements between the Facilitating and Cooperating institutions;
 - 3.4 providing updated information to the EAP Task Force Secretariat on the contact/focal points within the Facilitating Organisations/Cooperating Institutions supporting specific objectives of the EECCA Strategy (document 4 distributed at the meeting) by mid May 2004.
4. Took note of the programme of work of the EAP Task Force to Facilitate and Support the Achievement of EECCA Strategy Objectives Overall and discussed the role of the EAP Task Force (and of its Bureau) in overall facilitation, and more specifically:
- 4.1 discussed a proposal to establish an EECCA Strategy database by the Tbilisi Ministerial meeting (based on the existing database developed by the EAP Task Force); noted the important financial and human resources that such a tool would require ; agreed that the EAP Task Force Secretariat will not be able to complete this task without the support of other Facilitating Organisations; requested the EAP Task Force Secretariat to provide a plan with a timetable and a clear indication of possible costs and inputs required from the Facilitating Organisations for development and implementation of such a database.
 - 4.2 agreed that the annual EAP Task Force meetings should be used as a forum for the EECCA countries, donors and International Organisations to discuss policy and cross-cutting issues related to the EECCA Strategy implementation as well as to report on financial needs and on progress in achieving the EECCA Strategy objectives.
5. Took note of the dates and venue of the 2nd Preparatory Meeting – 26-27 August, 2004*, Chisinau (Moldova) and noted that next meeting with Facilitating Organisations, if needed, could be organised back-to-back with that meeting.

* New dates for the meeting proposed by the Moldovan Environment Minister will be 2-3 September 2004.