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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

09-Aug-2013

English - Or. English

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 ANNOTATED AGENDA
of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force

17-18 September 2013 (Tbilisi, Georgia)

Agenda item: 1

ACTION REQUIRED: For discussion and adoption.

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English - Or. English

**DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE AGENDA OF
THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE
(TBILISI, 17-18 SEPTEMBER 2013)¹**

17 September 2013, starting at 13:30

1	Welcome and adoption of the Draft Agenda	13:30 – 13:45
2	Open high level segment on green growth	13:45 – 15:30
3	Programme implementation and plans for 2014	16:00 – 16:30
4	Green growth policies: Focus on removing fossil fuel subsidies	16:30 – 18:00
Dinner to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the EAP Task Force		19:00 – 21:30

18 September 2013, starting at 9:30

5	Water as a driver for green growth i. Cross-cutting issues ii. Focus on selected topics	09:30 – 13:00
6	Highlights of on-going and planned work by RECs	14:00 – 17:00
7	Other business and closing remarks	17:00 – 17:30
Meeting of the EAP Task Force Bureau		17:30 – 18:00

The EAP Task Force members are invited to attend a back-to-back meeting of the Steering Committee of the EaP GREEN (Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood) programme starting at 1:30 p.m. on 16 September 2013. This programme is closely associated with the green growth pillar of the EAP Task Force's long-term programme of work. The "EaP GREEN" is a multi-donor undertaking that focuses on countries participating in the European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative and aims at assisting these countries to "green" their economies by promoting more sustainable production and consumption. Besides governmental authorities, the EaP GREEN brings together several international organisations (OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and UNIDO) that work together with support from the European Union and other donors. The OECD Secretariat is the EaP GREEN lead partner, responsible for overall coordination of this programme.

¹ A more detailed agenda will be circulated in due time. Changes in the agenda may occur at a later stage given the provisional character of the current draft outline.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

17 September 2013, starting at 13:30			
1.	13:30 – 13:45	Welcome and adoption of the Draft Agenda	ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2013)4
		<p>The EAP Task Force Co-Chairs will welcome delegates. The Co-Chairs will introduce the meeting objectives, and invite the Secretariat to present the agenda and meeting documentation.</p> <p><i>Action required:</i> The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and adopt the draft agenda. 	
2.	13:45 – 15:30	OPEN HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT “Policy coherence in support to green growth”	Oral reports
		<p><i>Lessons learned as part of the development of green growth policies in OECD and EECCA countries will be presented during this session. The discussion will focus on the opportunities and obstacles for integrating environmental and economic policies. In addition to the EAP Task Force members, the OECD Environment Director and high-level officials from the Georgian Government and Members of Parliament will participate in this session, which will be open to media representatives, local NGOs and the private sector.</i></p> <p><i>Format of discussion:</i></p> <p>A keynote address will be made by Simon Upton (Environment Director, OECD). Several high-level panellists will be invited to respond to the keynote address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Khatuna Gogaladze, Minister of Environment of Georgia; • Mr. Irakli Matkava, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; • A high level official from the Ministry of Finance of Georgia (to be confirmed). <p>A roundtable discussion involving all participants will follow. The participants will be invited to address several questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What triggers government-wide work on green growth and how to improve cohesion within governments in support to green growth? • What are the current priorities in promoting green growth policies in EECCA? • How the OECD/EAP Task Force secretariat could adjust his working methods to respond more effectively to EECCA countries’ needs and to foster regional cooperation in this respect? <p><i>Action required:</i> The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss whether any adjustments to the EAP Task Force’s work programme are needed in light of the high level discussion. 	
	15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break and Press Conference	

3.	16:00 – 16:30	Programme implementation and plans for 2014	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)8 ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)9
		<p><i>The EAP Task Force’s work is based on the Long-term Programme of Work for 2012-15 that was endorsed in 2011, immediately after the 7th “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Meeting [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)4/REV2]. The projects identified for implementation are organised around two main themes: (i) strengthening water management, and (ii) promoting policies for greening growth.</i></p> <p>Format of discussion: The OECD Secretariat will succinctly report on progress in implementing the EAP Task Force programme of work and will introduce the draft Annual Work Plan for 2014, the assessed financial needs, and the current budgetary situation. Both the green growth and water strands of work will be addressed. The delegates will be invited to provide feedback.</p> <p>Action required: The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and endorse the 2013 progress report and the 2014 work plan proposal, • Signal interest to participate in activities (EECCA countries) and possibilities for providing voluntary contributions (donor countries) to support implementation. 	
4.	16:30 – 18:00	Green growth policies: Focus on removing fossil fuel subsidies	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)7
		<p><i>An important objective of green growth policies is to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, which are very often under-priced thus overly-exploited. Public support to production and consumption (subsidization) is one of the key factors contributing to the depletion of natural capital. Experience shows that, once granted, subsidies are often very difficult to dismantle as reforms face strong opposition. Under Item 4, outcomes of analysis underlying the development and promotion of such reforms will be presented.</i></p> <p>Format of discussion: The session will be kicked off by a panel discussion covering the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of energy subsidy schemes and their impact on climate change: main results of work in Kazakhstan and intermediary results from Moldova; • Lessons learned in the European Union member states, and • Work related to fossil-fuel subsidies within the G20 framework. <p>In addition to brief panel presentations, a roundtable discussion will be organised to debate the policy and political issues associated with reforming environmentally harmful subsidies.</p> <p>Action required: The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the key elements of subsidy reform roadmaps and political feasibility of subsidy reform; • Provide feedback on the initial results of work in Kazakhstan and Moldova; • Express interest to host similar studies. 	
19:00 – 21:30		Dinner to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the EAP Task Force	

18 September 2013, starting at 09:30			
5.	09:30 – 11:00	Water as a driver for green growth	Oral reports – to be confirmed
		<p><i>Water is an essential driver of green growth, when it is used efficiently and allocated to where it creates most value for the community, including the environment. Water management can lower the cost of access to proper quality water and reduce investment needs. This requires capacity to manage demand for water, in particular through the use of economic instruments, to plan and finance the development of water-related services and infrastructure, and to anticipate future needs (partially driven by economic growth and climate change).</i></p> <p><u>i. Cross-cutting issues</u></p> <p>Format of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the OECD Secretariat on main issues and a policy toolkit; • <i>Tour de table</i> on countries experience regarding how water contributes to or hinders growth in own country; <p>Action required: The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for further work in the context of the EAP Task Force. 	
	11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
5.	11:30 – 13:00	Water as a driver for green growth	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)10
		<p><u>ii. Focus on selected topics</u></p> <p>Format of discussion:</p> <p>Countries will share experience on two water management issues which are relevant, from a green growth perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reform of water-harmful subsidies. The experience of Kyrgyz Republic • Sustainable business models for rural sanitation. The experience of Moldova <p>Action required: The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pose questions for clarification and provide feedback on lessons learned and opportunities for replication/expansion of presented projects in other EECCA countries. 	
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	

6.	14:00 – 17:00	Highlights of on-going and planned work by RECs	Oral reports
		<p><i>In 2009, the EAP Task Force members decided that their annual meetings should provide a platform for the Regional Environmental Centres (RECs) to share information on projects that are synergetic to the OECD-implemented work programme.</i></p> <p>Format of discussion:</p> <p>The representatives of RECs will inform the participants about the latest developments in the cooperation with countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.</p> <p>Action required: The EAP Task Force members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take note of the developments to date and provide feedback; • Signal interest to participate in activities (EECCA countries) and possibilities for providing voluntary contributions (donor countries) to support the activities. 	
	16:00 – 16:15	Coffee break	
7.	17:00 – 17:30	Other business and closing remarks	ECE/CEP/2013/19 Oral reports
		<p>The OECD Secretariat will inform the delegates of: (i) EAP Task Force’s contribution to the “Environment for Europe” mid-term review and (ii) possible dates and venue of the next annual meeting of the EAP Task Force. At the end of the meeting, the Co-chairs will make closing remarks.</p> <p>Format of discussion:</p> <p>Oral reports by the Secretariat followed by interventions from the floor.</p> <p>Action required: The EAP Task Force is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take note of the information; • Agree on the dates and venue of their next meeting; • Raise any other questions pertinent to the EAP Task Force work. <p>In order to make an assessment of the quality and effectiveness of this meeting, the OECD secretariat will invite delegates to fill in and return an evaluation questionnaire.</p>	
	17:30 – 18:00	Meeting of the EAP Task Force Bureau	

ANNEX 1. DRAFT LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTATION

Item	Title	Cote number	Indicative date of release	Indicative number of pages	
				Total	Requiring review
Main documents					
1	Draft annotated agenda of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force	ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2013)4	Available	8	All
1	Summary record of the annual meeting of the EAP Task Force (24-25 September 2012, Oslo, Norway)	ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2012)3	Available	16	0
3	Progress in implementing the EAP Task Force programme of work (September 2012 – August 2013)	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)8	Available	11	All
3	Draft OECD/EAP Task Force programme of work and budget for 2014	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)9	30 August	8	All
4	Energy subsidies and climate change in Kazakhstan	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)7	15 August	94	Executive summary
5.ii	Viable Business Models for Sanitation in Small Towns and Rural Settlements in Moldova	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2013)10	15 August	70	Idem
Documents for information²					
4	Overview of key methods used to identify and quantify environmentally-harmful subsidies with a focus on the energy sector	Publication	Available	83	n/a
5.ii	Improving the use of economic instruments for water resource management in Kyrgyzstan: the case of lake Issyk-Kul Basin	Publication	Available	246	n/a

²² The list of documents for information is likely to be extended and include other OECD/EAP Task Force reports and/or reports issued by partner organisations, the EECCA RECs in particular.

Item	Title	Cote number	Indicative date of release	Indicative number of pages	
				Total	Requiring review
7	Progress since the Astana Ministerial Conference within the framework of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force: promoting better policies and tools for water resources management and green growth. Report by the Environmental Action Programme Task Force	ECE/CEP/2013/19	15 August	10	n/a
2	Towards green growth. A summary for policy makers	Brochure	Available	24	n/a
2	What have we learned from attempts to introduce green-growth policies?	OECD Green Growth papers	Available	20	n/a
2	Environmental Governance and Green Growth: Executive Summary	Publication	Available	6	n/a