



PARIS

DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

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DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
4-6 December 2000

Joint Working Party of the Committee for Agriculture and the Environment Policy Committee

Should any Delegates wish to propose amendments to this Summary Record, they are invited to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible so that any proposed changes can be brought to the attention of the JWP at its next meeting (9-11 July 2001), in considering the approval of the Summary Record.

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**JOINT WORKING PARTY OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE
AND THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION

4-6 December 2000

Item 1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted, subject to some reordering of items.

Item 2. Election of Officers

The Secretariat proposed that the officers of the JWP for 2001 be elected towards the end of the present meeting, in order that the Secretariat could work with the new Chair and Bureau in planning the next JWP. This was accepted. On the proposition of Mr. M. Saigo, (Japan), Mr. T. McRae (Canada) was elected Chair, with Ms. K. B. Andersen (Denmark), Ms. D. Bennet (New Zealand), Mr. J-M Devillard (France), Mr. S-J. Lee (Korea), Ms. A. Thyssen (Germany) as vice-chairs.

Item 3. Approval of the Draft Summary Record [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC/M(2000)85]

The summary record of the twelfth session was approved, subject to revising the first bullet point under item 5 (Agri-environmental Indicators) to read: “importance of identifying a core set of OECD indicators which are applicable to Member countries, based on clearly defined operational criteria (e.g. policy relevance, analytical soundness, measurability, feasibility, comprehensiveness, ease of interpretation) to determine their selection”.

Item 4. Statements by the Secretariat

Wilfrid Legg informed the JWP that the Committee for Agriculture had expressed its “strong support” for the renewal of the JWP mandate until end January 2004. The Environment Policy Committee was considering the mandate renewal under the written procedure, with a deadline for agreement on 21 December 2000. He also noted that the JWP might be involved in the preparations for an OECD international conference on biotechnology and the environment, planned for the latter part of 2001.

Several studies undertaken by the JWP are in the process of being made available to the public. The Secretariat informed the JWP that the report, *Environmental Indicators for Agriculture Volume 3: Methods and Results* (Stocktaking Report) [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC(99)121-134REV1] would be published in late January 2001. Copies of the Executive Summary of the Report were made available to Delegates. Studies that were in the process of publication or availability on the OECD web site are: *Adoption of Technologies for Sustainable Farming Systems* (Wageningen Workshop proceedings); *Domestic and International Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Trade Liberalisation*, and *A Policy Decision-Making Framework for Devising Optimal Implementation Strategies for Good Agricultural and Environmental Policy Practices*.

Dan Biller described the work undertaken by the Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity. Major reports include a handbook on valuation of biodiversity, and a study on the creation of markets for biodiversity products and services. Related to the latter, the draft agenda of the upcoming International Workshop on the Creation of Markets for Biodiversity Products and Services, undertaken together with the World Bank, was circulated. Delegates are invited to attend and complete the attendance

form by 22 December 2000. Finally, work on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources is scheduled to commence early 2001.

Dan Biller also reported on the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which took place in Amman, Jordan in October 2000. This is a major conservation congress and takes place every three to four years. Joke Waller Hunter (Environment Directorate Director), Wilfrid Legg and Dan Biller represented OECD at the Congress. The Environment Directorate and the Agriculture Directorate held a side event to display the work they are currently undertaking on biodiversity and its cooperation with IUCN. The OECD Secretariat also participated in sessions on communications, trade and environment, and biodiversity and business. This was a good opportunity to showcase the work undertaken at OECD and its committees.

Helen Mountford provided an oral report on the progress of the OECD Environmental Outlook and Strategy Project, and described the role of the primary sectors and natural resources in the Outlook report. Written comments on the agriculture chapter of the Outlook report will be welcomed from the JWP until 20 December 2000.

Elaine Geyer-Allély gave a presentation of the Synthesis Report on Household Food Consumption Patterns, which is part of the work programme on Sustainable Consumption being undertaken in the Working Party on Economic and Environmental Policy Integration. The JWP was invited to provide any comments by the end of December 2000.

Jeanne Richards gave an update on relevant activities of the Working Group on Pesticides, including the project to develop pesticide risk indicator methods and a proposed workshop on cost-benefit analysis of pesticide risk reduction. For risk indicators, the Working Group is (1) carrying out a pilot project in which countries will try using the three methods previously developed for tracking risk trends in the aquatic environment; (2) creating a discussion group on terrestrial risk indicators; and (3) including reports of national activities related to human health indicators in Working Group meetings. For the cost-benefit workshop, the Working Group's Risk Reduction Steering Group (in which the JWP has been invited to participate) will meet in early February 2001 to plan the agenda. The purpose of the workshop will be to share information about methods to assess the economic consequences of pesticide risk reduction. JWP delegates who wish to contribute ideas should contact their country's delegate to the Pesticide Working Group.

Dale Andrew provided a brief overview of the work in the Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment, as a context for the work in the JWP on the agricultural aspects. He pointed out that the work is to identify win-win trade and environment solutions; outline the key environmental principles for the trading system; and to develop methodologies for the environmental assessment of trade policies.

Item 5. Sustainable Development

Ron Steenblik, who is currently seconded to work in the small group drafting the Policy Report of the Sustainable Development project under Deputy Secretary General Thorvald Moe, updated the JWP on the process to complete the work, which will be on the agendas of the OECD Ministerial meetings in May 2001. He pointed out that the Analytical Report would be prepared under the responsibility of the Secretary-General, while an ad hoc group, drawn from Member countries, will be responsible for drafting the Policy Report.

(i) Agriculture and Sustainable Development

The JWP welcomed the improvements since the previous version of the draft, which constitutes Chapter 14 of the Analytical Report, and had been discussed by the JWP in July. Delegates noted that as

the draft had been circulated rather late, they would need some time to send written comments to the Secretariat. While some delegations did not see the need for any further changes to the chapter, others were concerned that it needed to draw more heavily on the results provided in the agri-environmental indicators *Stocktaking Report*, and did not deal sufficiently with the environmental benefits provided by agriculture, the links with multifunctionality and animal welfare, and the social dimension of sustainability. Some delegations felt that more care should be taken in the choice of material referenced. Several delegations made suggestions to shorten the text, particularly where they felt it would lead to a better balance to reflect the relative importance of the issues.

The Secretariat stressed that the chapter needs to be seen within the context of sustainable development and to draw on all relevant work in the OECD that had been undertaken in that respect. However, the JWP had earlier agreed that this chapter should not duplicate the work on multifunctionality, which was being dealt with in other OECD committees and working parties. The Secretariat invited any written comments to be submitted by e-mail by the **end of December 2000**. All comments would be circulated to all JWP delegates, but there would be no further discussion in the JWP or other OECD committees.

(ii) Managing Natural Resources

The Secretariat introduced the paper, which is chapter 10 of the Analytical Report of the Sustainable Development horizontal project. The Secretariat informed the JWP that the paper involves many OECD Directorates and Committees, which had already made detailed comments that would be included in the revised draft. The JWP discussed the paper, which was generally well received and considered to be very informative, noting that more attention should be given to biodiversity, non-renewable resources, forests, the carrying capacity and thresholds of ecosystems, and the management of issues that cross territorial boundaries. The role of community and voluntary actions and of research warrants more attention in relation to future policy actions. The JWP agreed to submit any additional comments in writing to the Secretariat **before 20 December 2000**.

Item 6. Work Reaching Completion

(i) Reconciling Trade and Environmental Objectives

Delegates welcomed the document as a contribution to the policy debates on farm competitiveness and minimally trade-impacting agri-environmental policies. Comments from delegations on the previous version of the document were in general found to be appropriately taken into account. It was agreed that the differences in views concerning the concept of trade distortion should be acknowledged in the document, without, however, giving concrete examples of its definition and use in different OECD countries. The JWP recommended to its parent committees to declassify a newly revised version of the document, reflecting the comments from delegates at the meeting, under the Secretary-General's responsibility.

(ii) Agricultural Practices that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Secretariat informed the JWP of the changes that had been made to the report since it was last discussed at the 11th Session of the JWP in October 1999, including the incorporation of the 4 additional questionnaire responses submitted since the 11th Session. Delegates welcomed the revised draft of the paper, but expressed regret over the limited number of questionnaire responses received (16 in total). A number of delegates suggested that further questionnaire responses should be submitted to make the report more representative of OECD countries. The difficulty of obtaining the requested information was

stressed, and in particular the need for strong co-ordination with local governments and even farmers to obtain a clear picture of the practices and policies in place that reduce GHG emissions from agriculture. Delegates noted that quite a few countries had informed the Secretariat that they lacked the relevant information, and would not be able to complete the questionnaire in the foreseeable future. They voiced concerns that delaying the process to await further responses would lead to the questionnaire responses that had already been submitted in the early stages of the report becoming out of date.

Delegates from three Member countries — France, the US, and the UK — promised to provide questionnaire responses or information on their country's policies and practices to reduce agricultural GHG emissions by **15 January 2001**. It was agreed that, with the incorporation of these responses and any written comments submitted to the Secretariat before that date, the report would then be revised and submitted to the parent committees with a recommendation for declassification. The report would clearly state that it was based on information provided by a limited number of OECD Member countries, and that is therefore not a comprehensive and fully representative survey, but instead an initial indication of some of the policies and practices used in some OECD countries to reduce agricultural GHG emissions.

(iii) Environmental Sustainability in Agriculture: Policy Options and Market Approaches (Synthesis Report)

The Secretariat presented the revised draft, reminding Delegates of the need to keep the report a synthesis of the work undertaken in JWP based on the reports discussed by the JWP during the period 1998-2000. Delegates welcomed the revised draft as a good synthesis of the work undertaken, but some countries considered that there were still some prescriptive sentences that needed to be corrected, that further attention needed to be paid to carefully drafting the material related to “reference levels”, and that there should be a better balance between addressing environmental benefits and harm from agriculture. While Delegates had the opportunity to provide detailed comments on each section, they were invited to elaborate (if necessary) the comments they made during the discussion through written comments. It was agreed that the Secretariat would revise the report in the light of the discussion and any written comments received **by the end of December 2000**, and submit the revised version to the parents Committees with a recommendation for declassification under the written procedure.

Item 7. Future and Ongoing Work

The JWP considered the content, timing and implementation of the future work programme during the next 3-year mandate period, on the basis of document Proposed Future Work Programme for the JWP [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC(2000)128]. As that document included material on the Classification of Agri-environmental Measures [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC(2000)51/REV1] and the Environmental Aspects in the Policy Evaluation Matrix [AGR/CA/APM(2000)17], all three documents were considered together. The JWP welcomed the detailed work proposals, which were considered as providing a good basis for the discussion. The following paragraphs summarise the discussion and decisions taken with respect to the Secretariat proposals.

Information and Data on Environmental Trends and Policies

(a) Agri-environmental Indicators

The Secretariat presented its proposal of future work on agri-environmental indicators, summarised in the two documents *Proposed Future Work Programme for the JWP* [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC(2000)128] and *Background Information on Future OECD Work on Agri-environmental Indicators* [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC/RD(2000)131]. The proposal was based on the

Stocktaking Report, the comments received from delegates according to the process previously agreed, and the discussion in the meeting with the International and Non-Government Organisations held on 13-14 November 2000 (written contributions to the meeting and the Chair's draft summary are available in the documents: *OECD Meeting with International Organisations to examine Future Work on Agriculture* [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC/RD(2000)132], and *Chair's preliminary draft summary report* [Room Document No.2]).

Some delegates expressed their support for the Secretariat's proposals, while others expressed concerns on the grouping of indicators and the actual indicators included in each of the three groups. Taking into account the discussion, the Secretariat prepared a revised proposal *Secretariat Proposals for Future Work on OECD Agri-environmental Indicators* [Room Document No.4] which set out the proposed implementation of the work on indicators in the coming period. The JWP agreed that the revised proposal provided a good working basis to proceed in 2001, which will focus in particular on developing those indicators that can contribute to the work on the analysis of specific policy issues, and not on the collection of data. At the next meeting of the JWP in July 2001 the Secretariat will report on progress in developing the choice and methodologies for those indicators that are required for policy analysis, provide concrete proposals for future data collection, and the possible role for expert meetings and involvement of other international organisations and NGOs. While the aim would be to provide a report of the results achieved on agri-environmental indicators by the end of 2002 - early 2003, those results as completed would be included in other relevant OECD work. Member countries were also encouraged to suggest specific work plans on those indicators of policy relevance to regional groups of OECD countries, which would be also discussed in the next JWP meeting. The JWP supported the continuation of the "lead country approach", and the active use of the OECD web-site.

b) Inventory of Information and Data on Agri-environmental Policies and Approaches to Address Environmental Issues in Agriculture

Delegates strongly welcomed the proposed project that would build on the proposed *Classification of Measures addressing Environmental Quality in Agriculture* [COM/AGR/CA/ENV/EPOC(2000)50/REV1] and put it into practice through the inventory of policy measures. The JWP agreed that the Secretariat will, as the first priority, explore the existing sources of information on agri-environmental policy measures in Member countries and will inform the JWP on areas where countries will be invited to provide information to complete the inventory. It was also agreed that the first draft outline with the detailed structure, methods, and content of the inventory report (including a draft of a questionnaire to member countries) will be submitted to the JWP in July 2001.

Comparative Analytical Studies

a) Impact of trade liberalisation, technical progress, and regulations on water pollution from livestock production

b) Production and trade effects of alternative approaches to achieve agr-environmental outcomes

The Secretariat noted that the proposed projects constitute the third phase of work on examining the linkages between agriculture, trade and the environment. The projects build on the earlier, conceptual and general quantitative studies undertaken in the JWP.

Delegates expressed strong support for the proposed quantitative work examining the effects of agricultural trade liberalisation on the livestock sector, and the impacts on water pollution. Developing

appropriate water quality indicators, especially these related to risk, would contribute to this work. Delegates noted that the effects of general economic growth should be included in the study.

The Danish Delegation introduced its proposed study on developing guidelines for environmental regulations in the intensive livestock sectors, based on case study material. There was support by the JWP. Overall the JWP felt that the study should not only be confined to intensive pigmeat production, that it should involve a wider range of countries, and that it should contribute to the development of methodologies to analyse the issues and lead to general rather than country-specific conclusions. Denmark indicated that it would co-finance a consultant to contribute to the study, and other countries were invited to contribute also, together with the Secretariat.

The Secretariat gave a brief update on the Policy Evaluation Matrix (PEM) activity, and noted that the JWP had been invited to comment on the possible use of the PEM in undertaking quantitative environmental analysis, pointing out that it would be resource-intensive. The JWP expressed reservations about using the PEM for this area of quantitative analysis, and proposed that alternative modeling approaches be explored.

In the light of the discussion the Secretariat will elaborate the proposals, providing detailed outlines for discussion at the JWP in July 2000. There are close links with the development of indicators and the inventory of policy measures. The Secretariat will discuss with the Danish authorities how their proposal can be undertaken and included in the work under (a), and will explore alternative modeling approaches under (b). Delegates are also invited to submit further reflections and ideas to the Secretariat during the next two months.

c) Agriculture and climate change

The Canadian Delegation proposed that the JWP undertake further work related to agriculture and climate change, in particular given the challenges presented by the Kyoto Protocol. Two issues are particularly important – how agriculture could fit into the general development of emissions trading systems; and the role of agriculture as a carbon sink. There are also links with biomass production as a contribution to using alternatives to fossil fuel sources of energy.

Jean-Philippe Barde pointed out that there was work underway in the Environment Directorate and the International Energy Agency on developing guidelines for emissions trading, but the focus was on energy rather than agriculture. The IPCC Annex 1 countries (which include OECD countries) will meet in March 2001 to discuss carbon sinks. There are links with the work on agri-environmental indicators and the review of agricultural practices to reduce greenhouse gases.

The JWP expressed interest in examining the role that it could undertake in this area, but duplication should be avoided. Delegates noted that changing farming practices, which may be for other reasons than climate change, can have impacts on other aspects of farming (such as incomes) as well as carbon sinks. The Secretariat would report to the JWP in July 2000 on where such an activity could provide synergies with other work on climate change. Any further reflections sent to the Secretariat in the next few months by Delegations would be welcome.

d) Agriculture and water resource management

The Secretariat outlined the proposed work on water allocation mechanisms and water pollution, noting that agriculture was a major user of water and an important source of pollution in many countries. Overall, most delegates expressed the view that this activity was of lesser priority than the others, noting

that work on water allocation had already received considerable attention within OECD and elsewhere, and that other projects to be pursued by the JWP will address water quality issues. Nonetheless, some other countries provided strong support for the activity. The JWP noted that work on water pollution would be taken up in the indicators, policy inventory, and trade and livestock pollution activities, and that the Secretariat would also be continuing to improve the measurement of subsidies associated with water use in agriculture in its ongoing work on the Producer Support Estimates (PSE) in the annual monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policies in OECD countries.

The Secretariat pointed out that the Secretary-General had accorded a high priority to OECD work on water issues, and that further work on water might emerge when the Sustainable Development reports (in particular the material on the management of natural resources) are considered by the OECD and Environment Ministerial meetings in May 2001. In the light of the discussion in the JWP and the programme of work in other OECD bodies, the Secretariat will report to the JWP in July 2001 on any specific studies on water management that might be undertaken in the JWP.

e) Other possible activities

The JWP noted that some relevant additional work might be undertaken through workshops, which would involve a wider range of participants than in the JWP, but that this would depend on voluntary funding. It was pointed out that any topics to explore in workshops should contribute to the overall aims of the JWP. Workshops might be envisaged on organic agriculture and on the use of agricultural resources to produce biomass. Work elsewhere in the OECD on labelling might also include labelling related to organic produce.

Overall synthesis and conclusions

The Chair noted that this activity would result in due course from the other studies outlined above, and proposed that it should be discussed in more detail at a subsequent meeting of the JWP.

Item 8. Other Business

Mr Fraser (New Zealand) paid tribute to the valuable contribution that the Chair (Jaap Nieuwenhuize) and Vice-Chairs (Masamichi Saigo and Daniel Zürcher) had made to the work of the JWP. He noted that the Chair and Bureau of the JWP had played a very active role in contributing to the preparation of agendas and in chairing JWP meetings. The enthusiasm, commitment, knowledge and outcome-orientation approach of the Chair and Bureau had greatly contributed to the success of the JWP, reflected in the renewal of the Mandate. The JWP wished the Chair and Bureau success in their careers - all of whom had recently or would soon be taking up new jobs in their home countries.

The next meeting of the JWP will be from **9 - 11 July 2001**.

**GROUPE DE TRAVAIL MIXTE DU COMITÉ DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DU COMITÉ DES POLITIQUES D'ENVIRONNEMENT**

**JOINT WORKING PARTY OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE
AND THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

Treizième session / Thirteenth Session

4-6 décembre 2000 / 4-6 December 2000

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