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

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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

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE
(12-13 May 2011, Berlin, Germany)**

A draft version of this document was circulated to meeting participants for endorsement through a written procedure. The comments that were received were integrated into the text. The attached document is, therefore, the final summary record of the 2011 Berlin Meeting of the EAP Task Force.

ACTION REQUIRED: For information.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE

12-13 May 2011, Berlin

Draft Summary Record

Overall information about the meeting

1. The Berlin Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force was the last one prior to the Astana “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Meeting and therefore had a particular significance in terms of reviewing progress and taking decisions on the need, content, and ways to carry out future work. The meeting was attended by government officials from nine countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), and eleven OECD member states and Central European countries. Representatives of the European Commission, European Environmental Agency (EEA), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as well as the Central European Regional Environmental Centre (REC), the NGO and business communities were also present (see Annex 1 for the list of participants). The meeting was prepared by the OECD secretariat in close cooperation with EECCA RECs, and hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Welcome and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

2. Ms. Katherina Reiche, Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety welcomed participants on behalf of the host country. Ms. Reiche expressed her appreciation for progress achieved under the umbrella of the EAP Task Force and the interest of the German government to continue the process of policy dialogue as part of this inter-government cooperation body.

3. The co-Chairs of the EAP Task Force, Mr. Simon Papyan (Armenia) and Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst (Germany) introduced the objectives and agenda of the meeting. The EAP Task Force adopted the draft annotated Agenda of the meeting without amendments.

4. The Task Force took note of the list of documents that had been prepared for the meeting (see Annex 2) as well as the Summary Record of the previous annual EAP Task Force Meeting (14-15 October 2010, Almaty), which had been approved in December 2010 through the written procedure.

Update on the Astana Ministerial Preparations

5. The EAP Task Force:

- Took note of presentations by Ms. Angela Sochirca of the UNECE Secretariat on the Astana agenda and major documentation for the Conference, the series of recent roundtables involving private sector actors, as well as the forthcoming meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy;
- Took note of the brief intervention by Ms. Anara Bulzhanova from the Kazakh Ministry of Environment on host country preparations;

- Took note that the Astana Conference web-sites were established by both the UNECE Secretariat (www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html) and the host country (www.efe.kz);
- Took note of presentation by Mr. David Stanners from the European Environmental Agency on progress with the Assessment of Assessments Report and welcomed the report's conclusions, most importantly on the need to synchronise and streamline various assessments, take an integrated, systemic approach towards measuring progress on green economy promotion, and further build capacity for effective information sharing and use in the UNECE region. The participants noted that the consultation on the draft report is open until 31 May 2011.

Main outputs from the 2007-2011 Programme of Work: Report from the OECD Secretariat

Item 3 i. Policy messages from major reports

6. The EAP Task Force:

- Discussed and endorsed the policy conclusions and recommendations of the three major reports prepared by the OECD secretariat as input to the Astana Ministerial (on ten years of water policy reforms; mainstreaming environmental programmes in public budgets; and environmental governance and green growth - in EECCA countries), subject to written comments to be provided by 31 May 2011;
- In relation to the report on water supply and sanitation reform, the participants suggested to:
 - put a stronger focus on the recommendation to continue National Policy Dialogues as part of the European Union's Water Initiative (EUWI),
 - give a more prominent role to the rural water supply and sanitation;
 - beef up the private sector participation, and
 - underline that “soft” tools, *i.e.* policy and institutional changes, should receive the priority attention of EECCA governments as part of water sector reforms;
 - in the future, put more effort into monitoring the water use efficiency in the EECCA region, particularly in the light of climate change adaptation challenges;
- In relation to the report on mainstreaming environmental programmes into public budgets:
 - requested that the post-crisis situation and its impact on public environmental expenditure in EECCA be better reflected in the final survey report;
- In relation to the report on environmental governance in the context of green growth:
 - shared concerns that despite intensive international debates on green economy, the “business as usual” approach with a strong focus on (quantitative) economic growth alone persists, and that without solving social and competitiveness concerns, and raising popular demand, future progress on green growth may be very slow in both OECD and EECCA countries alike;
 - asked the Secretariat to consider providing a list of action-oriented bullet points on policy measures that are necessary to promote green growth in EECCA;

- shared concerns that without ownership on the part of the ministries of economic development and finance in EECCA, the process of green growth promotion may be severely compromised;
- Took note that that the main OECD EAP Task Force reports will be published in both English and Russian by early September so that they can be disseminated during the Astana Ministerial Meeting and welcomed the Secretariat's intention to conduct an intensive communication campaign around these reports.

Item 3 ii. Overview of other outputs and participation in the Astana Ministerial Conference

7. The EAP Task Force:

- Took note of the presentation by the OECD Secretariat on other outputs, in particular on:
 - the draft guidance on establishing a dynamic system of surface water quality regulation in EECCA;
 - the final *Guidance on Individual Competence Development within Environmental Inspectorates of EECCA*;
- Welcomed the contribution made by the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat to the Astana substantive report on water, provided at the invitation of the UNECE Secretariat;
- Took note of the new elements of the EAP Task Force's communication strategy, in particular the fact that up-to-date information on progress is shared via e-alerts;
- Acknowledged progress with work programme implementation at the country level, particularly with National Policy Dialogues under the EUWI umbrella;
- Expressed gratitude to donor countries that provided financing for programme implementation.

Outcomes from the completed EECCA RECs projects and RECs role in the Astana Ministerial

8. The EAP Task Force:

- Took note of the presentations by EECCA RECs on the following issues:
 - the regional review of environmental liability regimes in EECCA,
 - environmental governance and sustainable development at the local level;
 - promotion of Cleaner Production in the South Caucasus;
 - EECCA RECs contribution to the Assessment of Assessments process, and the Prototype Assessment of Assessments Report for Central Asia;
- Took note of the RECs role in the Astana Ministerial and envisaged input to Rio+20.

Integrating development and environmental policies: Overview of relevant initiatives

9. The Task Force:

- Took note of the presentation on the OECD's work on green growth and the forthcoming discussion of this issue during the Meeting of the OECD Council at the Ministerial level;
- Took note of the presentation by the Kazakh delegate of the "Green Bridge" Initiative, including activities envisaged within this initiative in the short, medium, and long term perspectives and encouraged the OECD Secretariat to seek synergies with those activities as part of future work;
- Took note of the intervention by the Hungarian Presidency of the EU on the need to enhance cooperation within the Eastern Partnership and the joint work with Poland on organising the Eastern Partnership summit in the second half of 2011;
- Took note of the update by the European Commission on the scoping work on green economy promotion within the Eastern Partnership, as well as on the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, particularly as concerns resource efficiency and eco-innovation;
- Took note of the business community's statement on green economy promotion, most importantly on the need to modernise the regulatory culture in EECCA so that regulation enables change through positive incentives in addition to simply imposing legal rules.

Proposal for the Post-Astana Programme of Work by the OECD Secretariat

10. The EAP Task Force:

- Took note of the Secretariat's presentation of priority areas for work after the Astana Ministerial Conference (2012-2015), and a complementary indicative plan of action for 2012 (documents ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)4 and ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)5);
- Expressed their satisfaction that the proposals put forward by the Secretariat are fully in line with national priorities and feedback provided during the previous meeting;
- Commented on the main elements of the proposal, in particular:
 - underlined the high demand for OECD to work on economic aspects of water management and green growth promotion in EECCA;
 - invited the Secretariat to support the diffusion of knowledge on green growth in EECCA and consider the development of country-specific roadmaps;
 - advised the Secretariat to give a more prominent place in the programme to climate change adaptation issues, and the potential created by international climate change financing for green growth projects;
 - stressed the need for policy relevant and practical guidance documents that can help EECCA environmental authorities in effectively mainstreaming environmental programmes into public budgets;

- raised the issue of considering biodiversity and ecosystem services as one of focal areas, particularly in light of promoting the use of new economic instruments in EECCA;
- Reflected on the programme implementation, in particular:
 - stressed the need for the EAP Task Force’s work under the EU’s Water Initiative to continue since its EECCA component involving the EAP Task Force is considered the most successful among the various regional initiatives;
 - voiced interest to participate in future country-level pilot projects;
 - pointed to the fact that knowledge and data in certain new areas of work is very limited in EECCA and suggested to look at the proposed projects through the lenses of feasibility and gradualism, particularly as concerns the removal of environmentally-harmful subsidies;
 - acknowledged the need to work more closely with other government agencies, as well as private sector actors and emphasised the need to cooperate more closely with EECCA Chambers of Audits for ensuring the cost-effective spending of public environmental expenditure. The role of NGOs as watchdogs was also brought up;
- Informed the Secretariat that new procedures of intra-government discussion and approval of technical assistance projects are in place in some EECCA countries and that early consultations with other government agencies on the long-term programme and opportunities for specific projects may be beneficial for a speedy launch of new work after the Astana Ministerial;
- Provided more specific comments on the wording of the proposal and recommended that the draft long-term programme and the indicative plan of work for 2012 are approved shortly after the mandate extension at the Astana Ministerial meeting.

EECCA RECs post-Astana priorities of work

11. The EAP Task Force took note of the presentations by the representatives of EECCA RECs and their plans to work, including in close cooperation with the OECD Secretariat, in order to:

- Assist governments in the process of elaboration of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs);
- Promote low carbon development by disseminating best practices and facilitating multi-stakeholder involvement and dialogue;
- Support and facilitate sectoral mainstreaming of resource efficiency and green economy, including support to green growth promotion in EECCA sub-regions;
- Support EECCA countries to close gaps identified as part of the assessment of assessments process;
- Pilot payment for ecosystem (PES) projects on water, forestry, and land management);
- Develop practical guidelines for specific areas of environmental liability regimes;
- Promote the application of best available techniques.

Extension of the EAP Task Force's mandate

12. The EAP Task Force:

- Welcomed the extension of the EAP Task Force's mandate after the Astana Ministerial Meeting in the Minister's Declaration;
- Suggested that the existing text needs to be completed to reflect the need for future work in the field of green growth and climate change adaptation;
- Agreed to instruct national delegates to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the Astana Ministerial Conference to promote the EAP Task Force's mandate extension.

Meeting wrap-up and closing

13. The EAP Task Force took note of presentation on a summary of the OECD and EECCA RECs contributions to the Astana Ministerial and post-Astana work under the EAP Task Force umbrella.

14. The EAP Task Force took note that:

- Written comments to various papers can be provided by 31 May;
- A full set of meeting documentation, including all presentations, will be available on the password protected site at community.oecd.org/community/env/eap.

15. The EAP Task Force agreed that the next annual EAP Task Force meeting is due to be organized immediately after the Astana Conference, following some of donor countries' request for a formal approval of the next programme of work prior to providing funding.

16. The delegates expressed their gratitude to the German government for organising a very effective and culturally enriching meeting.

17. At the end of the meeting, in order to make an assessment of its quality and effectiveness, delegates were invited to fill in the evaluation questionnaire. The results of evaluation are presented in Annex 3.

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ANNEX 2. DRAFT LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTATION, PREPARED BY OECD

Title	Document number
DISCUSSION PAPERS	
Draft Annotated Agenda of the 2011 Annual Meeting of the EAP Task Force (Berlin, 12-13 May 2011)	ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2011)2/REV2
Ten Years of Municipal Water Sector Reform in EECCA: from Almaty to Astana	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)1
Mainstreaming Environmental Programmes into Public Budgets in EECCA	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)2
Environmental Governance in EECCA in the Context of Green Growth: Main Policy Conclusions	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)3
Proposal for a Long-term (2012-2015) Programme of Work of the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)4
Indicative 2012 Work Plan of the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)5
“Reinventing” the EAP Task Force: Organisation of work and possible extension of the mandate after the Astana Conference	ENV/EPOC/EAP(2011)6
INFORMATION MATERIALS	
Establishing a dynamic system of surface water quality regulation: Guidance for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	ENV/EPOC/EAP/REPIN(2011)1
Guide on individual competence development within environmental inspectorates of EECCA	Publication
Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Environmental Inspections: Risk-Based Prioritisation and Planning In Moldova	Publication
Removing Economic Benefits of Environmental Violations In Azerbaijan: Case Study Report	Publication
Guidelines for Performance-Based Contracts between Water Utilities and Municipalities: Lessons learnt from EECCA	Publication
Private Sector Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation in EECCA	Publication

ANNEX 3. EVALUATION OF THE MEETING¹

PREPARATION OF THE MEETING				
Agenda	Correct balance of items	Too heavy/ crowded	Too light	Blank
	18	8	0	0
Meeting objectives	Totally clear	Partially clear	Not clear enough	Blank
	22	4	0	0
Topics addressed	Good selection of topics	Some topics missing or insufficiently addressed	Some topics better addressed in written procedures	Blank
	16	7²	3	0
Preparation by organizers	Good	Fair	Inadequate	Blank
	24³	2	0	0
MEETING DOCUMENTS				
Availability of English documents	On time	Somewhat late	Very late	Blank
	20	3⁴	0	3
Availability of Russian documents	On time	Somewhat late	Very late	Blank
	10	2	1	13
Length of documents	About right on average	Too long on average	Too short on average	Blank
	22	3	1	0
Quality of documents	Most/All were good	Average	Many were poor	Blank
	24⁵	1	1	0
Quantity of documents	About right	Too many	Not enough	Blank
	20	5	1	0

¹ In total, 26 evaluation forms were returned: 12 in Russian and 14 in English.

² One comment: RECs' part.

³ One comment: very good!

⁴ Where are RECs documents?

⁵ Two comments: 1) Except RECs; 2) Excellent.

Relevance to meeting	Most/all highly relevant	Some relevant, others not	Many not directly relevant	Blank
	24⁶	2	0	0
“Clear Space” communication tool	Good idea and worth developing further	Uncertain. Despite Internet access, there may be some problems with using it	Unrealistic due to limited Internet access or its absence	Blank
	22	3⁷	0	1
MANAGEMENT OF MEETING				
Chairmanship style	Well managed	Average	Poorly managed	Blank
	19	7⁸	0	0
Meeting focus	Meeting on track	Average	Meeting lost focus	Blank
	11	14	0	1
Meeting duration	About right	Too long	Too short	Blank
	19	4	2	1
Performance of secretariat	Generally good	Average	Below expectations	Blank
	25	1	0	0
Contribution of delegations	Generally good	Average	Below expectations	Blank
	18	8	0	0
GENERAL EVALUATION				
Liveliness of meeting	Animated	Average	Dull	Blank
	15	9	2	0
Achievement of meeting objectives	Fully met	Partially met	Not met	Blank
	17	8	0	1
Overall satisfaction with meeting	Very satisfied	Generally satisfied	Not satisfied	Blank
	16	10	0	0

⁶ One comment: Except RECs.

⁷ One comment: Access denied several times.

⁸ One comment: Patchy.

NARRATIVE COMMENTS

What aspects of the meeting went particularly well?

- Presentations by the OECD secretariat (two respondents);
- The discussion of the proposal for the post-Astana programme of work (two respondents);
- Both OECD and REC segments;
- All elements, except those concerning EECCA RECs;
- A high level of organisation and logistical support;
- The friendly and productive atmosphere;
- Opportunities for networking and the lively discussions;
- Discussions of topics such as green growth and active participation of the delegates.

What aspects of the meeting could be improved?

- Countries could discuss their positions nationally prior to the meeting;
- Presentations from RECs could be improved;
- Seek in advance private sector's position on the policy messages;
- Some materials were not circulated in due time, for example the report on liability regimes;
- EECCA RECs should come prepared; unfortunately, they did not send any paper in advance to the meeting. Delegates have to report on such missions, including to their Ministries of Foreign Affairs and governments, and the absence of discussion papers makes this process more difficult;
- There should be Internet access in the meeting room;
- The agenda contained too many issues; many presentations should be shorter and more focused;
- Some interventions could have better been shortened by the chair;
- Room for presentations by RECs was rather limited as compared to OECD presentations;
- Presentations were much too long – one must assume that participants have read the documents and so presentations just underline main points;
- Need to increase the time on discussions and debates;
- More time should be left for discussion;
- Some interventions could be more focused.

Other comments?

- Ensure internet access during breaks;
- REC presentations had no examples of positive practice nor suggestions for action;
- The meeting was very well organised and assistance in preparations by the OECD Secretariat was very helpful;
- It would be good to distribute handouts during each presentation;
- Thanks for the great excursion on the river.
- It could be very useful to get the report of the meeting quickly; it will facilitate the reporting in our capital;
- It was very helpful to receive the reports' executive summaries so that we could focus on the main aspects of the report;
- Presentations by RECs (including draft programme of work) would be nice to receive in digital form before meeting;
- Add value by increasing time allocated for discussions so ideas can be exchanged;
- The format of the room was quite appropriate for meetings such as this.