

## COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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### **Belgrade 2007 report**

1. The European Environment Agency has produced three pan-European State of the Environment reports<sup>1</sup> to support the Environment for Europe process. The Fifth Ministerial conference in Kiev in 2003 called upon the EEA to prepare the fourth assessment report for the next conference, building on new partnerships, especially with UNECE and UNEP. The fourth assessment report has as working title: Belgrade 2007 report.
2. The general aim of the Belgrade 2007 report will remain the same as it was for previous reports in this series: to provide a pan-European, policy relevant, up-to-date and reliable assessment of the interactions between environment and society and of the state of the environment in Europe. It will mostly describe the current state of the environment based on indicators, but where outlooks are available from UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook or OECD projects, they will be used.
3. Although the report is targeted to environment ministers and everyone involved in the preparation of the Belgrade conference, the Belgrade 2007 report will need to be relevant also to policy makers in other ministries. This will require paying explicit attention to societal sectors, and prevent the impression of being "just another environment report".
4. The proposed structure of the report is based on the two main frameworks for environmental policies in the region: the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme (1600/2002/EC) for the 25 EU member states, and the EECCA Environmental strategy (ECE/CEP/105/Rev.1). As the EEA's "Europe's Environment" reports are developed primarily to support policy making, a structure of chapters to track progress in each of the main policies seems to be the most appropriate. However, the two main strategies do not match precisely. Therefore the list of contents as proposed below is a mix of the main headings in the EECCA environmental strategy and the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP.
5. In each of the chapters there will be sections describing the impacts of the environmental problems in a pan-European context. But then the text will have two separate sections, one for the EECCA countries and one for the European Union and bordering countries.
6. The progress in Central and Western Europe will be assessed against a selection of the ca. 160 policy actions mentioned in the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme. By the time of the conference the mid term review of the 6AEP will be in its final stages, for which the Belgrade 2007 report will form the up-to-date state of affairs document. Although countries such as Switzerland, the EFTA countries, the Balkan countries and

Turkey are not EU members, in the practice of policy making they are orienting themselves often towards EU environmental policies and targets. Therefore they will be included in this evaluation, whereby for each indicator a proper presentation will be chosen.

7. In the EECCA part, the analysis will focus on the progress made in improving the environment according to the intentions in the EECCA environmental strategy. This part could also support the new EU neighbourhood policy by outlining areas for cooperation. Giving a special place to the EECCA countries ensures that they are given proper attention and improves their visibility in the report.
8. A split of each chapter in two parts does not preclude that a number of maps and indicators can be developed showing phenomena for the whole of Europe. Some sections will be fully pan-European in scope because of the linkage of the issues and policies (climate change).
9. The proposed contents list also includes a final chapter summarising latest results of policy evaluation studies, never brought together before.

**Main structure fourth assessment report (Belgrade 2007 report):**

**1. Introduction**

Background to the report

General socio-economic developments

**2. Environment and health and quality of life**

Introduction on multiple impacts

(Urban) air quality

Water quality (incl water supply and sanitation, coastal water quality)

Chemicals and pesticides, hazardous wastes

**3. Climate change**

Impacts of climate change

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Adaptation

**4. Nature and biodiversity**

Impacts

An integrated approach to halting biodiversity decline by 2010

Nature protection (progress in Natura2000 and other designation)

Managing the marine environment

Sustainable use of soils (including land use)

**5. Natural resources and wastes**

Resource consumption

Generation of waste

Re-use and recycling

## **6. Europe and the wider world, trade and environment**

### **7. Environmental policy making**

Integration of environment in sectoral policies, with sections on:

Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Industry.

Experiences in the thematic strategy approach in the EU, including stakeholder involvement

Experiences in the Commission's SEA process

An annotated list of contents is available from the EEA: [adriana.gheorghe@eea.eu.int](mailto:adriana.gheorghe@eea.eu.int)

<sup>1</sup> Europe's Environment, the Dobris Assessment, 1995; Europe's Environment, the Second Assessment, 1998 ("Dobris+3" was used as working title) and Europe's environment, the third assessment, 2003 (working title)