

# European Environment Agency

## *Reforming the pan-European environmental assessment reporting process*

### *Towards a Regular Process and an Astana "Assessment of Assessments"*

David Stanners  
WGEMA, Geneva  
3 September 2009



# Lessons learnt Belgrade assessment (1)

The need for:

- *“Ratification & full implementation of relevant international agreements*
- *Timely compliance with reporting obligations for improved information use & availability*
- ***Streamlining & harmonisation of data standards & methodologies***
- ***Improved data collection & reporting, making comparisons or aggregation at the pan-European level possible***
- .....



## Lessons learnt Belgrade assessment (2)

The need for:

- ” .....
- *Systematic monitoring across the region of relevant environmental parameters (e.g. PM2.5.....)*
- **Clear overview and access to various environmental information sources available in the region**
- *Support in accessing/translating valuable information only available in national languages*
- **A process based cooperation between EEA and the countries in the region rather than an ad-hoc, project/report-based cooperation.”**



# EEA history of European-level environmental assessments

Pan European

*Dobris*



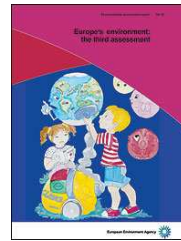
1995

*Aarhus*



1998

*Kiev*



2003

*Belgrade*



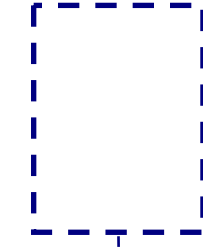
2007

*Astana*



2011

*Dobris +25*



2016

1990

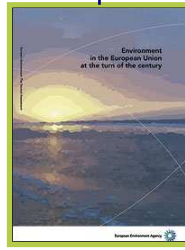
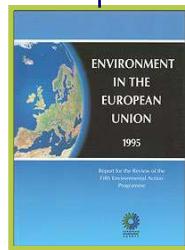
2000

2005

2010

2015

SOER

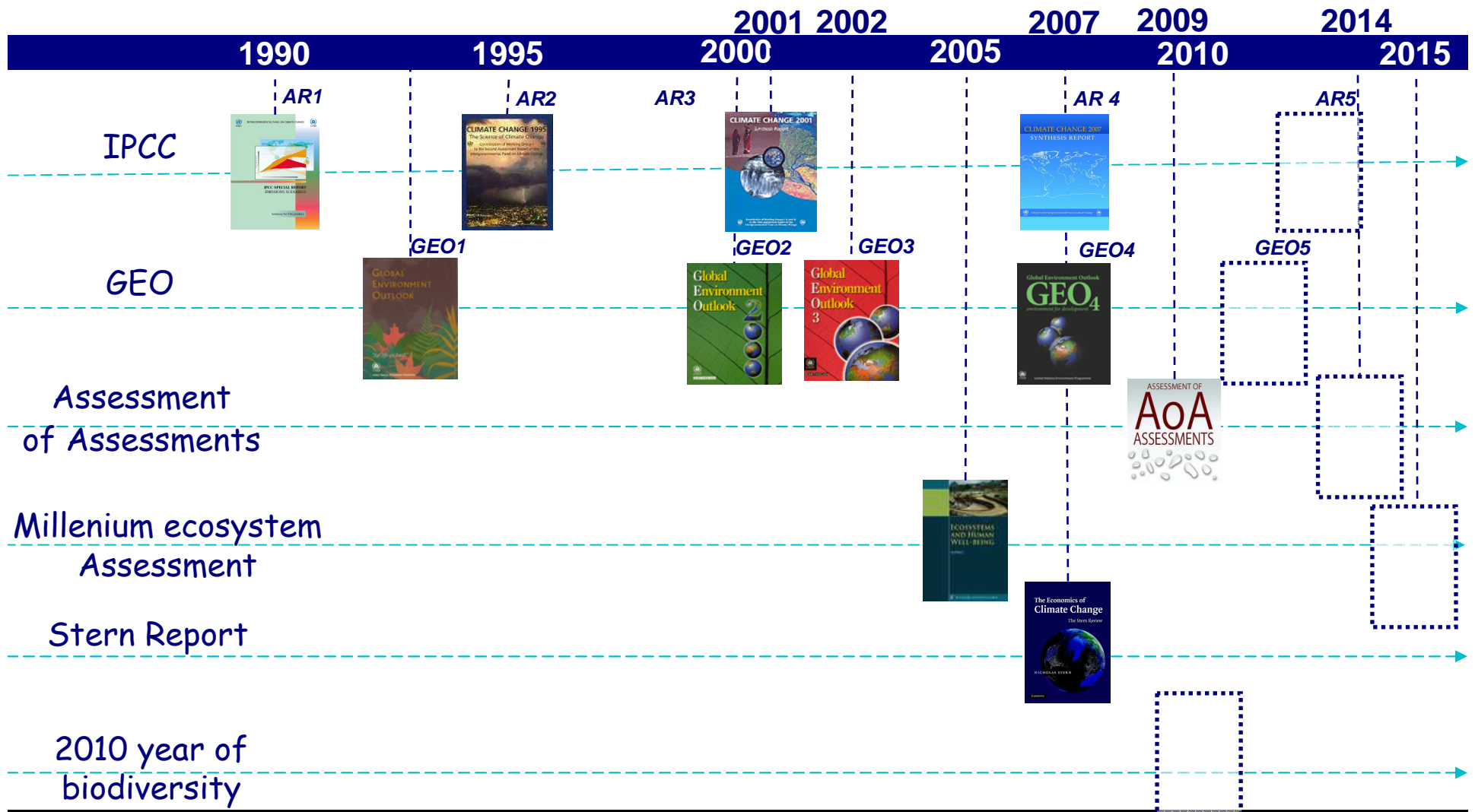


SOER  
2010

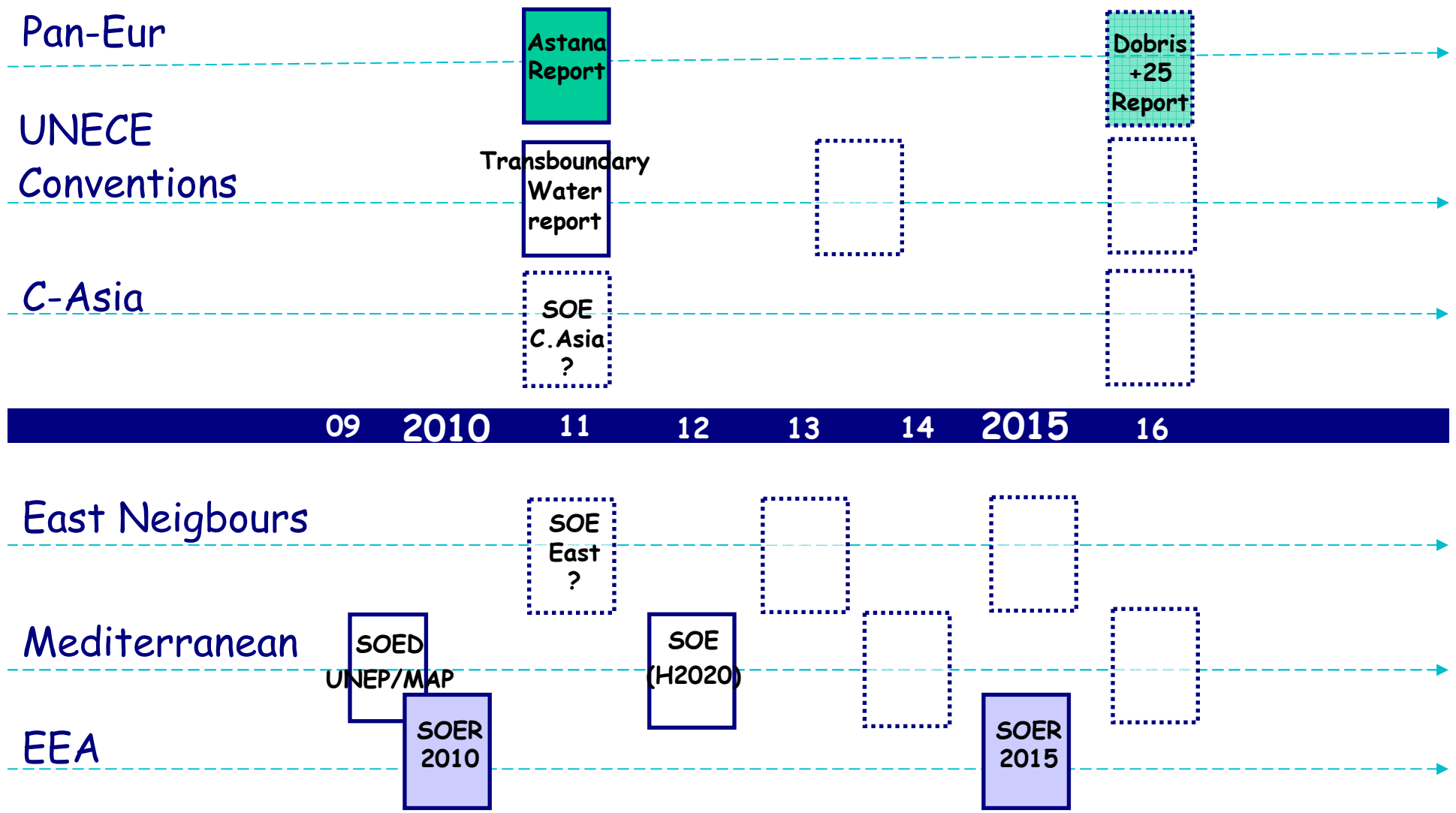
SOER  
2015



# The broader landscape of relevant assessments



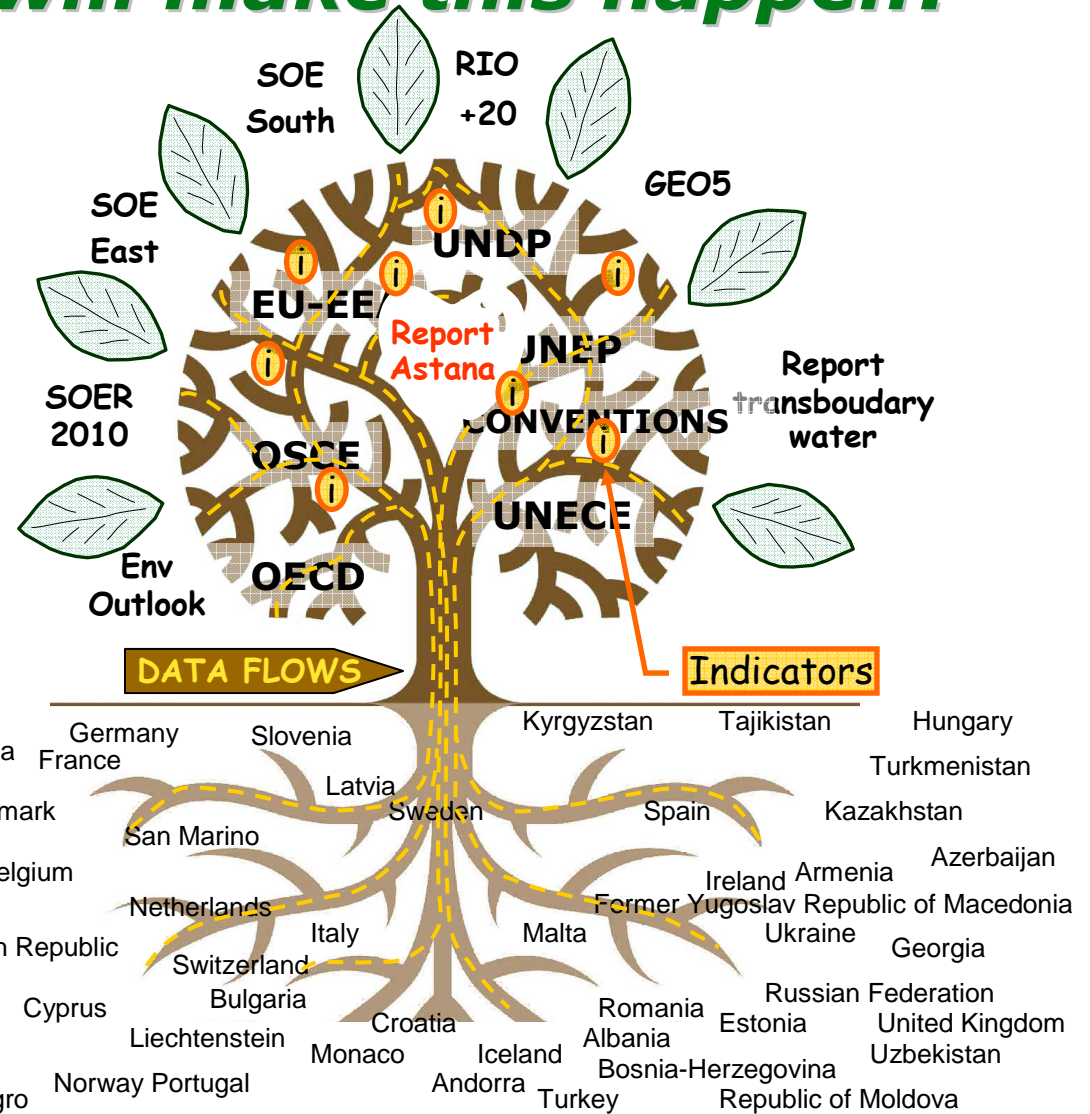
# What do we face in the future?



# Astana and the wider processes

## What kind of process will make this happen?

International level



National level



# EEA Management Board decision 17 June 2009

**Item 7.** *EEA role in relation to the 5th pan-European Assessment report for the Astana conference in 2011*

**Decision:** *The Board supported the EEA's involvement and advised to keep the momentum by building on the past investment in the process*

**Comments:** *The Board members recommended producing a concise report for the Astana conference, with a focus on sustainable approach for the future. Additionally, they advised looking at the budgetary issues associated with the Agency's involvement."*



## 3 July High-Level consultation at EEA

***Aim:*** *Building on previous discussions, to bring clarity & common understanding on:*

- A **Regular Assessment Process** to keep the pan-European environment under continuous review
- Defining next steps for developing products for Astana

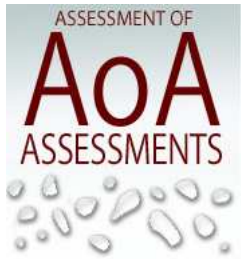


# What has already been achieved streamlining assessments in other areas?

- The "One UN"
- Reform of UNECE and EfE process
- UNGA approach to regular environmental assessment processes

*Follow up in Europe → Applying the above to the  
pan-European environmental assessment  
process*

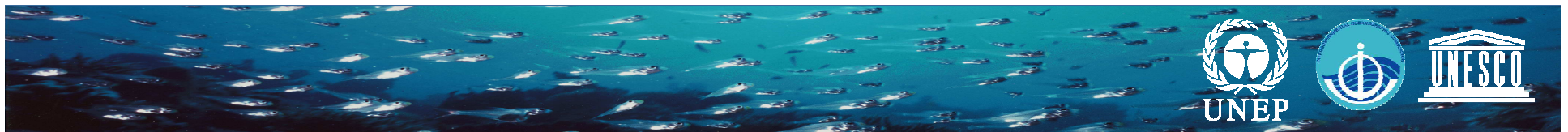




## Institutional Options

1. Relationship with the United Nations
2. Management and Review Body
3. Expert Panel
4. Pool of Experts
5. Secretariat
6. Focal Points of a supportive network

<http://www.unga-regular-process.org/>



# Institutional Options for the Astana AoA

- **Management Group:** Regularly assess the preparatory work and support and guide the implementation of the work.
- **Expert Advisory Monitoring and Review body:** appointed by the countries and international organizations, divided into expert groups to perform the work
- **Nominated pool of experts & National contact points** for each country to be responsible for the country contributions to the assessment
- EEA has been asked to be **Lead Organisation**



## **Astana AoA – Concept & approach** inspired by the “Assessment of Assessments” of the Marine environment just completed under UNGA

- **Assessing assessments** relevant to the pan-European environment priority issues, identifying gaps, needs and priorities
- **Evaluation of progress** on targets and conventions and agreed actions
- Proposal for a framework and options to build a **Regular Assessment Process**, including potential costs, based on relevant assessment processes and practices, partnerships and programmes.

(Total report length ~60-80 pages)



# Basic criteria to follow assessing assessments

- **Scientific credibility** – latest research findings & data flows
- **Legitimacy** – networks & access to information
- **Relevance** – political priorities
- **Sustainability** – resources & process



# The Pan European Assessment Group of Experts

## Part A - 10 pages

- Assemble information about relevant assessments at national, regional and global levels (Annexes)
- Undertake a critical appraisal of the assessments in order to evaluate their scientific credibility, policy relevance, legitimacy and usefulness (10 pages)
- Identify emerging issues and priorities (2 pages)
- Consideration of gaps and needs for future assessments (4 pages)



## Part A (Astana AoA) cont.....

The appraisal should identify in particular:

- Best practices and approaches (including assessment methodologies)
- Thematic and geographic assessment gaps and needs
- Uncertainties in scientific knowledge, data gaps and research needs
- Networking and capacities-building needs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition



# The Pan European Assessment Group of Experts

## Part B - 20 pages

- Assemble information from relevant organisations, **conventions** and national bodies on **progress to meeting targets** including actions and activities
- Undertake assessments in thematic areas where needed
- Identify emerging issues and priorities
- Consider gaps and needs for future assessments



## The Pan European Assessment Group of Experts Part C - 20 pages

- Working with national focal points to identify SEIS-like activities and develop a work plan for implementation of SEIS approach to support the regular assessment of the environment
- Develop a proposal for a **framework and options to build a Regular Assessment Process**, including potential costs, based on relevant assessment processes and practices, partnerships and programmes.



# Conclusions & next steps

- i. The next steps
  - Building a joint vision for [A Regular Assessment Process](#) to keep the pan-European environment under continuous review
  - Road maps for Astana and for a sustainable assessment process
  - [Inputs to UNECE/CEP](#) (October 2009)
- ii. Key priorities
  - Thematic priorities
  - Policy priorities
- iii. [Sustainable funding](#) mechanism
  - For the Astana AoA
  - Long-term sustainable funding for the Regular Process

