

Reporting Obligation Database

Background

The first phase of the ROD project is now complete and the contractor has delivered the database and a final report to the EEA. The text below is an extract from the final report.

Introduction

“The European Environment Agency (EEA) was established to provide the Community and the Member States with objective, reliable and comparable information at the European level to enable them to take the requisite measures to protect the environment and to assess the results of such measures (Council Regulation EEC/1210/90 Article 1). In doing so, the Agency shall co-operate actively with Eurostat and with other bodies such as the OECD and the United Nations and its specialised agencies. This co-operation must in particular take account of the need to avoid any duplication of effort.

A major European conference - “Bridging the Gap: New Needs and Perspectives for Environmental Information” - held in London in June 1998, concluded that there was a need to update and rationalise the systems for monitoring and reporting information about the environment throughout Europe and that a concerted pan-European movement to streamline monitoring requirements and practices would be very worthwhile.

The conference invited the European Environment Agency acting in co-operation with all European states, and with the Commission of the European Union including Eurostat, to co-ordinate an initial review of the possibilities for rationalising and streamlining existing systems for monitoring and reporting environmental information.

The objective of the ROD project is to produce an inventory of the requirements on member states to report environmental data to meet the international legal and moral obligations relevant to the European level. The information gathered in the inventory will allow the EEA, the European Commission and the Member States to analyse whether there are gaps and duplications in reporting at the international level and provide the basis for harmonising and refining these obligations.”

EEA requirements (for the initial contract)

The inventory should cover monitoring and reporting obligations for air quality, air emissions, fresh waters (surface and ground), marine waters and waste. Those 5 topic areas account for some ¾ of the total reporting requirements on member states in the environment field.

For each topic area, the monitoring and reporting needs of each of the following institutions should be covered:

- European Commission Policy Directorates e.g. Directives, Regulations
- European Environment Agency
- Eurostat (e.g. joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaire, env. expenditure survey).
- OECD (e.g. joint questionnaire, agri-environmental indicators)
- The United Nations Agencies e.g. UNEP, UN/ECE.
- International conventions relevant at the European level (e.g. marine conventions, UN Framework Climate Change Convention, UN/ECE CLRTAP).
- The Council of Europe

The inventory should have a limited hierarchical structure with entries for legal and moral obligations grouped by environmental topic area (e.g. air emissions, waste, etc) since historically most legislation and data collection exercises have been focused on addressing issues specific to a particular

environmental topic. An additional grouping will be needed to accommodate more recent legislative initiatives, which deal with more than one environmental topic, for example, the IPPC Directive.

Description of the database

In the ROD database, all records are identified by a code, neutral numerical notation, that will allow their identification independently of the user's language.

Currently, the language used in the database is mostly English :

- the reporting obligation information
- the software
- half of the questions information

The other half of the questions information is formulated in French.

For each record in the inventory, at least the following fields will need to be included:

1. Name of Institution (e.g. DGXI, EEA, OECD)
2. Description of legislation or data collection exercise (e.g. EC/1210/90 Regulation establishing the EEA, Eurostat/OECD Joint Questionnaire)
3. Date of entry into force (e.g. 1980 for the Joint Questionnaire, 7/5/90 for EEA Reg)
4. Environmental topic it refers to (e.g. air emissions, groundwaters)
5. Geographical coverage (e.g. EU15, UNECE, OECD, EU+EFTA)
6. Parameters/substances covered (e.g. CO₂, NO_x, N, P, Heavy Metals)
7. Sampling frequency of monitoring
8. Both monitoring and Reporting? (Yes/No)
9. Derived statistics for reporting by substance (Totals, Averages, SD, %tiles)
10. Nomenclature if applicable (e.g. CORINAIR)
11. Geographical level (National, Sub-National, European Region)
12. Temporal coverage of derived statistics (1970-1996)
13. Temporal monitoring? frequency (Annual, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly)
14. Reporting frequency (Annual, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly)
15. Reporting Date (1 April)
16. Useful data for Indicators? (Y/N)
17. Dissemination channel (e.g. None, Database, Report)
18. GEMET terms

ROD is a database of reporting obligations as well as a management tool to meet the objectives of the overall ROD project whose goal is to analyse whether there are gaps and duplications in reporting at the international level and provide the basis for harmonising and refining these obligations.

The content of the ROD database can be described with the help of the following figures :

- 50 reporting obligations (listed below)
- 25.000 questions
- 200.000 keywords

We call Reporting Obligation (RO) a legal text defining the requirements on member states to report environmental data to meet the international legal and moral obligations relevant to the European level. The term 'questions' is used to indicate the specific data which member states are required to provide.

The ROD is an Access '97 database and the data in the database can be accessed in two different ways.

1. to list obligations by environmental topic
2. to search the database by keywords

The table below lists the Reporting Obligations currently included in the ROD.

| | Reporting Obligation |
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| 1 | Eurostat / OECD joint questionnaire - Waste 1998 |
| 2 | Eurostat / OECD joint questionnaire - Inland Waters 1998 |
| 3 | Commission Decision 97/138/CE of 3 February 1997 establishing the formats relating to the database system pursuant to European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste |
| 4 | Commission Decision 94/741/CE of 24 October 1994 concerning questionnaires for Member States reports on the implementation of certain Directives in the waste sector (implementation of Council Directive 91/692/EEC) |
| 5 | Council Directive 96/61/CE of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control |
| 6 | Commission Decision 96/302/CE of 17 April 1996 establishing a format in which information is to be provided pursuant to Article 8 (3) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste |
| 7 | Indicators of Sustainable Development - framework and methodologies |
| 8 | Commission Decision 97/622/CE of 27 May 1997 concerning questionnaires for Member States reports on the implementation of certain Directives in the waste sector (implementation of Council Directive 91/692/EEC) |
| 9 | Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal |
| 10 | Council Decision 85/337/CEE of 27 July 1985 concerning the adoption of a work programme concerning an experimental project for gathering, co-ordinating and ensuring the consistency of information on the state of the environment and natural resources in the Community |
| 11 | Commission Decision 95/337/CE of 25 July 1995 amending Decision 92/446/EEC of 27 July 1992 concerning questionnaires relating to directives in the water sector |
| 12 | Conférence Internationale sur la protection de la Mer du Nord |
| 13 | Montreal Protocol on Substances depleting the Ozone Layer |
| 14 | Council Directive 76/464/EEC of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community |
| 15 | Council Directive 80/68/EEC of 17 December 1979 on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances |
| 16 | Council Directive 80/778/EEC of 15 July 1980 relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption |
| 17 | Council Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium oxide industry |
| 18 | Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish |
| 19 | Council Directive 75/440/EEC of 16 June 1975 concerning the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States |
| 20 | Council Directive 79/869/EEC of 9 October 1979 concerning the methods of measurement and frequencies of sampling and analysis of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States |
| 21 | Council Directive 78/659/EEC of 18 July 1978 on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life |
| 22 | Council Directive 76/160/EEC of 8 December 1975 concerning the quality of bathing water |

| | Reporting Obligation |
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| 2 3 | Commission Decision 98/184/CE of 25 February 1998 concerning a questionnaire for Member States' reports on the implementation of Council Directive 94/67/EC on the incineration of hazardous waste (implementation of Council Directive 91/692/EEC) |
| 2 4 | Eurostat / OECD joint questionnaire - Air 1998 |
| 2 5 | ETC/Waste - Questionnaire on the availability of Data on Waste management waste |
| 2 6 | ETC/Waste - Questionnaire on waste management facilities |
| 2 7 | ETC/Waste - EU 98 state of the environment report data collection |
| 2 8 | Council Directive 89/429/EEC of 21 June 1989 on the reduction of air pollution from existing municipal waste-incineration plants |
| 2 9 | Council Directive 89/369/EEC of 08 June 1989 on the reduction of air pollution from new municipal waste-incineration plants |
| 3 0 | Council Directive 90/667/EEC of 27 November 1990 laying down the veterinary rules for the disposal and processing of animal waste, for its placing on the market and for the prevention of pathogens in feedstuffs of animal or fish origin and amending Directive 90/425/EEC |
| 3 1 | ETC/Waste - Questionnaire for harmonising data for 1993-1996 for municipal waste and household waste |
| 3 2 | Commission Decision 93/481/CEE of 28 July 1993 concerning formats for the presentation of national programmes as foreseen by Article 17 of Council Directive 91/271/EEC |
| 3 3 | Eurostat / OECD joint questionnaire - Environmental expenditures 1998 |
| 3 4 | Eurostat / OECD joint questionnaire - Noise 1998 |
| 3 5 | Commission Decision 96/511/CE of 29 July 1996 concerning the questionnaires provided for in Council Directives 80/779/EEC, 82/884/EEC, 84/360/EEC and 85/203/EEC |
| 3 6 | Council Directive 88/609/EEC of 24 November 1988 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants |
| 3 7 | Council Directive 92/72/EEC of 21 September 1992 on air pollution by ozone |
| 3 8 | Council Decision 93/389/CEE of 24 June 1993 for a monitoring mechanism of Community CO ₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions |
| 3 9 | Council Directive 96/62/EC of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management |
| 4 0 | Conventions on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution |
| 4 1 | Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| 4 2 | Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the north-east Atlantic (OSPAR Convention 1992) |
| 4 3 | Eurostat / OECD joint questionnaire – Marine waters 1998 |
| 4 5 | Council Decision 93/114/EEC of 15 February 1993 concerning the conclusion of the Protocol to the Convention of 8 October 1990 between the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the European Economic Community on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe |
| 4 6 | Council Decision 77/795/EEC of 12 December 1977 establishing a common procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community as last amended by Decision 90/2/EC |

| | Reporting Obligation |
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| 4 7 | Council Decision 77/586/EEC of 25 July 1977 concluding the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution and an Additional Agreement to the Agreement, signed in Berne on 29 April 1963, concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution as last amended by Decision 88/382/EEC |
| 4 8 | Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources |
| 4 9 | Council Directive 91/157/EEC of 18 March 1991 on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances |
| 5 0 | Council Directive 87/217/EEC of 19 March 1987 on the prevention and reduction of environmental by asbestos |
| 5 1 | Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT) |