



**MINUTES OF THE 67th MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
held on 26 June 2013**

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board on 27 November 2013

SIGNED

Dr Karsten Sach
Chair, EEA Management

Record of proceedings:

The Chair Dr. Karsten Sach opened the meeting by welcoming new Board members and presenting apologies on behalf of those members unable to attend.

He informed the MB members that the first hour would be held in closed session attended only by Board members and the MB officer.

The tabled documents were acknowledged during the course of the meeting (list included after the agenda in Annex 1).

Final agenda:	Annex 1
Attendance list:	Annex 2
Action list:	Annex 3
Decision list:	Annex 4

CLOSED SESSION

The discussions under this item were held confidentially without recording or broadcast.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair welcomed the new EEA Executive Director, Hans Bruyninckx, to his first Management Board meeting.

ITEMS 1-2 FOR DECISION

Item 1 Adoption of draft agenda

The Board adopted the agenda (Doc. EEA/MB/67/01rev.1) without changes.

Item 2 Adoption of the 66th Management Board minutes, 20 March 2013

The Board adopted the minutes of the 66th Management Board meeting held on 20 March 2013 with a minor change. The final version (Doc. EEA/MB/67/02- final) of the minutes is available on Forum.

The members also took note of the tabled MB rolling action list.

ITEMS 3-7 FOR INFORMATION

Item 3 Draft minutes of the 60th Bureau meeting, 16 May 2013

The members took note of the draft minutes from the May Bureau meeting that had been sent to them for information.

Item 4 Update by the Chair (oral)

Under this item the Chair informed of the following:

- successful completion of the MB written procedure for the approval of the ToR ETC waste+;
- successful completion of the Bureau written procedure for the approval of the Annual Report 2012;
- MB written procedure on the revision clause of Art.2 of the MB RoP ongoing. Deadline 26 June 2013;
- meeting on the Common Approach for EU Agencies organised by the Secretary General. The meeting was attended by Vice-Chair Elisabeth Freytag;
- EP Environment Committee working towards changing Art.9 of the EEA Founding Regulation. Art. 9 refers to the selection procedure of the Executive Director;
- informal agreement on the 7th Environmental Action Programme (7EAP) ;
- discharge 2011 granted.

Further to that, Vice-Chair Elisabeth Freytag reported on the meeting on the Common Approach for EU Agencies organised by the Secretary General, which she attended on behalf of the Chair.

Item 5 Update by the Scientific Committee Vice-Chair (oral)

Under this item, the Scientific Committee (SC) Chair gave an overview of the latest activities of the SC, including the finalisation of the SC opinion on the EEA five-year evaluation.

She reported on her meeting with the Executive Director; the main outcome had been the agreement to dedicate the joint EEA-SC seminar in October to develop a SC five-year work plan.

In addition, she also informed that the SC will issue two opinions before the MB in November: one on the AMP2014, the other on the MAWP 2014-2018.

Item 6 Update by the Executive Director

The Executive Director indicated that the progress report (Doc. EEA/MB/67/06) covered until 31 May 2013. Further to that he reported on his first three weeks in office, highlighting in particular:

- Green week and the launch of the air implementation pilot;
- meetings with DG Environment, DG Climate Action and DG Enterprise;
- guest scientist;
- overview of EEA activities on urban and land issues.

The representative of the European Commission welcomed the overview on land issues, an activity that would be featured in the 7EAP. He invited the EEA to further develop the paper, looking at vision and holistic approach.

With regard to the seminars on fiscal reform, he reported that DG Environment has the lead on this area, and would therefore welcome participation of DG Environment experts in such seminars.

ITEMS 7-15 FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

Item 7 ETC Topic review 2012-2013

Following the approval of the ToR for the ETC on waste and materials on a green economy (WMGE) through MB written procedure, the Board delegated the appointment the opening committee and evaluation committee for the open calls for proposals for the award of a FPA concerning the ETC WMGE to the Executive Director and MB Chair respectively.

CLOSED SESSION

The following deliberations were held in closed session without broadcast.

The representative of the EEA introduced the main elements of the confidential paper on the proposed scope of a new ETC in the field of urban, land use and soil. The paper had been drafted with the feedback from the MB seminar in mind. It outlined ETC work based on current experience. He said that in view of recent feedback, the proposal may lack a balanced overview of work done by the EEA and ETC.

The representative of the European Commission (EC) broadly welcomed the proposal, underlying the importance of this activity. That said, he would also welcome a clarification of the balance of work done internally (EEA) and externally (ETC). Moreover, he would welcome a clarification of the scope underpinning the work of this topic centre, as well as linkages with other ETCs. With regard to the overall budget, he would assume that the global envelope for all ETCs would remain unchanged.

In closing this discussion, the Chair invited the EEA to clarify the scope of this ETC in time for the autumn meetings. Should the MB decide there is a need for ETC work in the field of urban, land use and soil, the decision would need to be taken at the 68th MB meeting in November.

With regard to the prolongation of the ETC SIA and ETC SCP, the MB approved the renewal of the ETC/SIA led by UMA for a period of 1 year starting on 14 September 2013. The Board also approved the renewals of the ETC/SCP led by the Danish Topic Centre on Waste for a period of 6 months starting on 24 November 2013.

Concerning the call for proposals for four ETCs, the Board approved the proposals made by the Evaluation Committee (see confidential Doc. EEA/MB/67/07) and designated the ETCs in the areas of on Air and climate change mitigation; Biological diversity; Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; and Inland, coastal and marine waters for the period 2014-2014 to become operational as of 1 January 2014 as follows:

- ETC on Air and climate change mitigation (ETC/ACM) will be awarded to the consortium led by RIVM;
- ETC on Biological diversity (ETC/BD) will be awarded to the consortium led by MNHN;
- ETC on Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (ETC/CCA) will be awarded to the consortium led by CMCC
- ETC on Inland, coastal and marine waters (ETC/ICM) will be awarded to the consortium led by UFZ.

The above mentioned MB decision was taken with the understanding that the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee will be taken on board before signing any contractual obligations.

Further to that, the MB invited the EEA to look into the ETC selection process to allow for more competition in future calls, the members would also welcome a reflection on the size of the consortia.

Item 8 Copernicus

In introducing this item, the Executive Director reported on his meeting with DG Enterprise regarding Copernicus. The three main elements of the discussion referred to:

- user forum would be closed;
- there would be no funding for the in-situ component;
- funds available vs. structural restrictions.

In addition, the representative of the EEA informed that draft regulation had been finalised and was in the Council for final approval. The regulation was not explicit on the EEA role; he considered there could be room for manoeuvre and sought MB guidance on the future role of the EEA in Copernicus, for the period 2014-2018.

The representative of the European Commission (EC) said that Copernicus is important as regards to environmental information; on whether the EEA should have a direct role in managing one or more aspects of Copernicus, he advised caution.

He acknowledged the advantage derived from the active role played by the Agency in managing the land services linked to in-situ. Through the EEA, Member States (MS) had been actively involved in the user forum. However, the context had changed: the user forum was no longer foreseen in the draft regulation. There could perhaps be an expert group as part of Comitology, therefore MS should put pressure in their representatives for the user forum to be revived in the form of expert group or similar.

With regard to the financing of the in-situ component, the EC representative reported that the final decision had not been made.

Concerning the question whether the EEA should directly manage one or several aspects of Copernicus, he prompted that managing Copernicus is outside the Agency's core activities; moreover such managing role is linked to that of an Executive agency, whereas the EEA is a Regulatory agency.

In closing, the Board member reflected on the situation and gave guidance on next steps.

Item 9 Priorities EEA Strategy & MAWP 2014-2018

The Executive Director referred to the different strategic areas of the MAWP 2014-2018 as set out in document EEA/MB/67/09.

The Board members congratulated the EEA for the solid document, and gave guidance on the priorities of the MAWP. In particular they would welcome more clarity on outputs, priorities (especially on strand 2), resource allocation, and key performance indicators.

In closing, the Chair invited the MB to send written input to the MB Secretariat by 5 July. In addition, the Board members took note of the timetable for the consultation of the MAWP 2014-2018 over summer. The MB would receive the final draft for approval in November 2013.

Item 10 Priorities AMP2014

The Board guidance on the priorities of the AMP2014 was taken in connection with the guidance given on the priorities for the MAWP 2014-2018.

With regard to resource allocation, the representative of the European Commission reported that DG Budget was working on a common template, foreseen to be ready at the end of the year within the context of the Common Approach for EU Agencies.

In closing, the Chair invited Board members to send written feedback by 5 July. Moreover, the MB took note of the timetable for the consultation of the AMP 2014, as set out in document EEA/MB/67/10. The MB would receive the final draft of the Annual Work Programme 2014 in November, for its approval at the 68th MB meeting.

Item 11 SOER 2015

The representative of the EEA reported on the development of the implementation plan and stakeholder engagement for SOER the 2015 over the following 18 months. Two workshops were planned in early November 2013 and early February 2014; these workshops were intended as brainstorming and consolidation exercise to bring the outcome to the MB seminar in March 2014. In addition, the EEA representative said that MB guidance would be sought for the synthesis report, therefore the MB seminar would be mainly dedicated to that purpose.

In the discussion that followed, the Board provided guidance on the different elements of the process, as well as on stakeholder engagement. The Board members agreed to send any further feedback to the MB Secretariat by the end of July.

Item 12 Amended Budget 2013

The Management Board approved the amendment to the Budget 2013 as set out in document EEA/MB/67/13.

Item 13 Final EEA accounts 2012

The Management Board adopted its opinion on the EEA accounts for the financial year 2012 having been already informed about the process at the March MB meeting. In adopting the final EEA accounts for 2012, the members took note of the financial statements and the report on implementation of the EEA budget 2012, as well as the Report on budget and financial management for 2012. For more information see document EEA/MB/67/13.

ITEMS 14-19 – FOR INFORMATION

Item 14 Overview of audits

The MB took note of the update on recent audits (Doc. EEA/MB/67/14).

Further to that, the Chair invited the EEA to provide a more comprehensive report on completed actions at the next MB meeting in November 2013.

Item 15 Priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency

The MB took note of the main priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency.

Item 16 Timetable of major MB-related processes

The Board took note of the update, which included a beyond 2013 section as requested by the Board in March.

Item 17 EEA Publication Plan 2013. Update

The MB members took note of the updated publication plan which covered the first quarter of 2013. It also included progress made with products like indicators, data sets, and maps & graphs, following a request by the Bureau and MB.

Item 18 Meeting calendar 2014

The Board took note of the draft meeting calendar for 2013. MB members would contact the MB Secretariat by 25 July if there were clashes with the proposed dates.

Item 19 Feedback from MB members

The Chair and Board members congratulated the representative of Croatia for his country's EU membership as per 1 July 2013.

The MB member from Poland informed of the finalisation of a two year project with Turkey, aligning the country to IPCC.

The MB from UK invited the Board to participate in a call for evidence organised by the UK government. The link to the call would be circulated by the MB Secretariat.

The representative of the JRC reported that the JRC was developing its next seven year MAWP with Horizon 2020 in mind.

The representative of Eurostat suggested to organise another joint MB seminar with Dimesa.

In closing, the Chair thanked everybody for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 17.00

Annex 1 Final Agenda of the 67th Management Board meeting

FOR DECISION

1. Adoption of the draft agenda
2. Adoption of the 66th Management Board minutes, 20 March 2013

FOR INFORMATION

3. Draft minutes of the 60th Bureau meeting, 16 May 2013
4. Update by the MB Chair
5. Update by the SC Chair
6. Update by the Executive Director

FOR DECISION / GUIDANCE

7. ETC topic review 2012-2013
8. Copernicus
9. Priorities EEA Strategy & Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014-2018
10. Priorities Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2014
11. SOER 2015
12. Amendment of EEA Budget 2013
13. Final EEA Accounts 2012

FOR INFORMATION

14. Overview of audits
15. Priorities of Lithuanian Presidency
16. Timetable of major MB-related processes
17. EEA publication plan 2013. Update
18. Meeting calendar 2014
19. Feedback from members of the Management Board

ANNEX 3 – Action List

ACTIONS	Status 24 September 2013
To publish on Forum the final minutes of the 66 th Management Board	To do
EEA to circulate the MB seminar conclusions incorporating the feedback received from Board members	Ongoing
EEA to ensure that the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee for the four ETCs have been taken on board before signing any contractual obligations.	Ongoing
EEA to look into the ETC selection process to ensure competition in future calls and to reflect on the size of the consortia	To do
MB members to send written feedback on the MAWP by 5 July	Done
MB members to send written feedback on the AMP by 5 July	Done
MB members to send written feedback on SOER 2015 by the end of July	Done
MB members to send feedback on the tabled seminar conclusions by the end of March	Done
EEA to provide a comprehensive report on completed CoA & IAS actions at the 68 th MB	To do
MB members to contact MB Secretariat by 25 July if clashes with the meeting dates 2014 are foreseen	Done

DECISIONS taken at the 67th Management Board meeting, 26 June 2013, EEA

Agenda item	Decisions	Comments
Item 1. Adoption of agenda	Adopted	-
Item 2. Adoption of the 66 th Management Board minutes, 20 March 2013	Adopted	The minutes were adopted with minor changes.
Item 7. ETC topic review 2012-2013	<p>The MB endorsed the recommendations made by the Evaluation Committee in their report from 22-23 May 2013; approved the renewal of two ETCs; concerning the ETC on waste + , the MB delegated to the Executive Director the appointment of the opening committee, and to the MB Chair the appointment of the evaluation committee.</p> <p>The MB provided guidance on future EEA/ETC work in the areas of urban and land use</p>	<p>Following the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee the ETC/ACM 2014-2018 will be awarded to the consortium led by RIVM; the ETC/BD 2014-2018 will be awarded to the consortium led by MNHN; the ETC/CCA 2014-2018 will be awarded to the consortium led by CMCC; the ETC/ICM 2014-2018 will be awarded to the consortium led by UFZ.</p> <p>The ETC/SIA led by UMA will be renewed for a period of 1 year starting on 14 September 2013.</p> <p>The ETC/SCP led by the Danish Topic Centre on Waste will be renewed for a period of 6 months starting on 24 November 2013.</p> <p>The appointment of the opening committee and evaluation committee for the open calls for proposals for the award of a FPA concerning the ETC on waste and materials on a green economy was delegated to the Executive Director and MB Chair respectively.</p>
Item 8. Copernicus	Provided guidance on next steps	-
Item 9. Priorities EEA Strategy & Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) 2014-2018	Provided guidance on the priorities for the MAWP 2014-2018 and took note of the timetable for the MAWP consultation over summer	<p>MB members to send comments on the MAWP 2014-2018 by 5 July.</p> <p>The consultation process will be open from mid-July to the beginning of September.</p>
Item 10. Priorities AMP 2014	The Management Board took note of the outline of the EEA AMP 2014 and of the timetable for the consultation of the AMP 2014	<p>MB members to send comments on the AMP 2014 by 5 July.</p> <p>The consultation process will be open from mid-July to the beginning of September.</p>

Item 11. SOER2015	The MB provided guidance for the development of the SOER 2015 report and took note of the status of the implementation plan	MB members to send comments by the end of July.
Item 12. Amendment of EEA Budget 2013	Adopted	-
Item 13. Final EEA Accounts 2012	The Board adopted an opinion on the EEA accounts 2012	In adopting the final EEA accounts for 2012, the Board took note of the Financial statements and the report on implementation of the budget 2012; the Report on budget and financial management 2012; and of the preliminary report of the Court of Auditors on the accounts 2012.

Approved by the Chairman of the Management Board
on 26 June 2013

SIGNED

Dr. Karsten Sach
Chair, EEA Management Board