



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate E - International affairs & LIFE  
**ENV.E.3 - Enlargement & Neighbouring Countries**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE HORIZON 2020 STEERING GROUP**  
**Marrakech, Morocco**  
**5-6 June 2007**

**Summary Record**

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome and Opening**

Welcome and opening remarks were made by Mr. Taha Balafrej, Ministry of Land Use Planning, Water and Environment of Morocco and Mr. Claude Rouam, from the European Commission DG Environment.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda of the Meeting was approved without comment.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Horizon 2020 State of Play**

Mr. Andrew Murphy, DG ENV, presented the Horizon 2020 State of play. He informed the Group that the thematic dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was to be strengthened through bilateral /multilateral dialogue and cooperation on key sectors such as environment, participation in EC programmes and agencies, and enhancement of regional cooperation with Euro-Med. The Commission has proposed creating a Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) with €700 million from the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) and contributions from Member States to lever loan resources from European Development Banks (approximately 4 to 5 times more than the NIF). The published regional and national ENPI strategies include indicative programmes up to 2010. The bulk of assistance will lie in ENPI national programmes and therefore final allocations will need to be determined with partner countries. There will be other sources of assistance for example the Regional Indicative Programme allocates €33 million for the environment (9% of total) for the period 2007-2010. There is also a small ENP component of global thematic programme mainly for climate change and biodiversity. He continued by presenting the state of play with the four Horizon 2020 (H2020) components.

He explained that the pollution reduction component of H2020 is closely linked to the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) under the Barcelona Convention Land Based Sources Protocol. A summary report of 'who' is doing 'what' in the region has already been prepared by LDK consultants working for DG ENV and they, are awaiting clearance to make the report available on the H2020 web-site. In parallel, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has launched a Mediterranean Hotspot Identification Project, to be presented later in the meeting.

For the Capacity building component, TAIEX is now active in the ENP region. There is a need for a specific needs assessment in capacity building in order to feed concrete projects into the programming exercise.

Under the Research component, a seminar to disseminate results and experience in the field of municipal waste is to be organised by the end of the year.

For the Monitoring, Steering and Review component, H2020 National Contacts have been established.

An informal meeting of the monitoring sub-group has been held with the participation of the EEA, MAP, and the European Commission (ENV, Eurostat, JRC, and AIDCO). A draft paper will be presented under a separate agenda item outlining a suggested approach.

The following text is a summary of points made in the discussion that followed the presentation. The Regional Programme is dedicated to regional activities only and not national projects – these will come from national programmes. ENPI indicative programmes are split in two sub-periods: 2007-2010 and 2011-2013. According to the progress of the Programme, there will be further discussions on the allocation of funds in a mid-term review. TAIEX activities on workshops, seminars, etc., are open to both public and private sector.

Not all Mediterranean countries are covered by ratified bilateral Association Agreements with the European Union. There is also a historical mismatch between the Euro-Med (launched in 1995 which includes Turkey) and the ENP (launched in 2004 which doesn't). Additional funds are available through the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP). SMAP as a network ended in 2006 but all on-going projects will be completed. From now on, the ENPI is the Commission instrument for financing in the region but it should be emphasised that ENPI is not the only financing instrument in the region, national funds as well as those of other donors are also allocated to environmental projects. The experience from the METAP programme may be useful. Finally, the need for coordination between H2020 regional activities and the ongoing or planned national programmes was acknowledged by the participants.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Proposed Terms of Reference for the Group**

Mr. Claude Rouam, DG ENV, presented the proposed draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Steering Group. A discussion followed and various comments were taken. It was decided to revise the text for the meeting to consider the following day.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: Appointment of Co-Chairs**

Ms. Eija Lumme of Finland and Mr. Taha Balafrej of Morocco were appointed by unanimity as co-Chairs of the H2020 Steering Group for the next two years.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: European Investment Bank: Elaboration of the Mediterranean Hotspot Investment Programme**

In the afternoon session, Mr. Stephan Kerpen, EIB, presented the "*Elaboration of the Mediterranean Hotspot Investment Programme*", to identify bankable priority projects in the Mediterranean region. Using information available from UNEP/MAP's National

Action Plans, prepared in the frame of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), other information sources, and field work, a small number (3-5) of what appear to be the most bankable investments will be identified in each ENP country, as well as the needs for further technical assistance support. The importance of the EIB study was acknowledged by many participants, who also underlined the importance of information exchange between the different institutions which are active in the Mediterranean region (such as UNEP/MAP, EEA, EIB, etc.). Many participants expressed their interest to comment on the study. It was concluded to include the private sector and NGOs in the consultation process, once the draft EIB Study is ready. The possibilities for public-private partnership should be assessed. It was underlined that financing of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in the region through other EC funds, should take into consideration the environmental aspect.

The Steering Group was informed that a meeting for private investors' involvement in H2020 will be organised next October in Athens in which the results of the EIB study results would be valuable to be presented. Also within the MAP a small unit on sustainable funding mechanism will be created to bridge countries' needs with financing opportunities.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: European Environment Agency**

Mr. David Stanners from the EEA presented the Mediterranean environment reporting mechanism for Horizon 2020 (actions underway to develop the indicator and scorecard process). He recalled the mandate for review and monitoring of the Cairo Declaration and the time-table for H2020 first phase (2007-2013), and presented the actions undertaken so far on: (a) overseeing the baseline of existing monitoring and indicator activities; (b) consolidating information process and services; (c) streamlining information systems and infrastructures; and (d) making cooperation agreements and networking. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the EU Water Initiative (Med component) was missing and should be included. The role of NGOs should be acknowledged in the reporting mechanism, as well as elements on the cost. The Blue Plan regional activity centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the World Bank confirmed their interest to be included in the indicators group.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: Regional needs in capacity building**

Ms. K. Sullam of ERM Consultants made a presentation of *"Capacity building for environmental protection in the Mediterranean: options under Horizon 2020."*

Ms. A. Roniotes of MIO-ECSDE on behalf of the "Comité de Suivi" (CdS) presented the NGO needs in capacity building. It was proposed that each H2020 project must have publicity, public debate, concrete capacity building measures, etc. "built-in" from the beginning. Finally, she remarked that building the necessary specific capacities in each and every NGO is impossible and therefore a more effective measure (in terms of procedure and cost) could be the creation of a NGO capacity building advice unit for projects.

Mr. Hicham AbouJaoude of the Union of the Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BusinessMed) presented the communication: *"Implementing the strategy for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region – Associating the business sector"*

*and monitoring process*". He underlined that continuing deficits in the dissemination of knowledge and access to information, do not favour the participation of SMEs in decision-making processes and implementation of strategies in sustainable development. The enhancement of human resources, the reduction of the information gap between the North and the South, and the need to adapt to the rapidly developing knowledge economy, are among the most urgent requirements for sustainable development. It is necessary to reorient the supply of continuous training to provide SMEs with the skills necessary for them to adapt to the new context created by globalization and free trade.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: Ongoing and planned actions for 2007/2008**

Ms. R.A. Al-Zoubi from Jordan presented the *"Environmental reform in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan"*, indicating the administrative and legislative reform in the country and the capacity building needs. Also she highlighted further policy and development needs.

During the discussion that followed on agenda items 8 and 9, it was underlined that the establishment of an adequate environmental legal framework together with monitoring and enforcement has to be placed on top priority, including the support to capacity building on local and regional level, and the private industrial sector.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: Opening and introduction of Agenda for the day**

The revised Terms of Reference were presented taking on board the comments from the various discussions. It was clarified that the list of the members of the sub-groups is not exhaustive and that all participants are welcomed to participate in more than one sub-group. However, the Commission cannot finance participation in sub-group meetings. Also the Commission invited interested parties to manifest their interest in the sub-groups underlining that participants would finance themselves.

The revised ToR was approved. The Commission undertook to tidy (linguistically and checking for consistency) the text following the meeting. The approved text is given in Appendix II.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: Proposals for 2007**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: Work plan 2007/2008**

These two agenda items were combined. A draft proposal for a 2007/2008 work plan was presented by Mr. Murphy, DG ENV. Referring to the commitment undertaken by countries in Cairo to report on the progress in implementing the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration, whose framework was adopted at the declaration of the 2nd Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers in Athens (2002) he offered that LDK Consultants could assist countries in the preparation of their report to ease the countries work burden. A number of EU participants expressed reservations about overloading limited administrations with consultant's demands. It was concluded that if a country is in need of assistance for reporting progress with the Athens 2002 Declaration, it can contact DG ENV and use the services of the consultant. If not, then it can report under its own resources.

Regarding the work plan, following a discussion on which a number of diverse views and opinions were put forward it was concluded by the Secretariat that the document is more

a "list of activities planned for 2007/2008" drawn from the Horizon 2020 timetable. It has been renamed as such and is presented in Annex III.

*Note: Participants are invited to send updates<sup>1</sup> to this list of activities by 17 September 2007.*

**AGENDA ITEM 13: Any other business and closure of the Meeting**

The participants thanked Morocco for the successful organisation of the Meeting.

<b>List of participants:</b>	Annex I
<b>Horizon 2020 Steering Group ToR</b>	Annex II
<b>Planned activities for 2007/08</b>	Annex III

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## ANNEX I

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## ANNEX II

### Horizon 2020 Steering Group Terms of Reference

#### 1. Background

The Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers at their meeting in Cairo in 2006 invited *"the European Commission to coordinate the partnership of the Horizon 2020 initiative through the establishment of an efficient institutional steering mechanism with key representatives from the Euro-Mediterranean governments and other partners to provide overall guidance, review, monitoring and effectively coordinate with other related initiatives."*

#### 2. Mission statement

To fulfil the instructions from Cairo and in support of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Group aims at guiding, reviewing, monitoring and effectively coordinating activities that contribute to sustainable development through the integration of the environmental dimension in other sectors and within different levels of governance across the Mediterranean region.

#### 3. Areas of work

The Group will provide a platform to discuss Euro-Mediterranean environmental policy developments related to sustainable development and offer overall guidance or advice to relevant Euro-Med fora.

The Group will primarily focus on the following themes related to the implementation of Horizon 2020:

##### 3.a) Pollution Reduction

Support the identification, prioritisation and implementation of the most significant pollution reduction projects tackling major pollution sources, focussing mainly on:

- Industrial emissions
- Municipal waste
- Urban waste water

Promote the adoption of the ecosystem approach to pollution reduction projects, including trans-boundary projects that address:

- integrated river basin management;
- conservation and restoration of the natural ecosystem's pollution abatement functions;
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

### **3.b) Capacity building**

Identify key gaps and promote capacity building actions at regional, national and local levels as appropriate, including policy development and integration, institutional development and legislative upgrading to promote environmental protection of the region.

Support measures to enhance education and awareness for sustainable development among all target groups.

Promote understanding of environmental economics and the use of economic tools.

Promote transfer of best practices in the region.

### **3.c) Research**

Support the identification and prioritisation of regional research needs and promote relevant cooperation activities within available mechanisms.

Promote synergies between Research and Technology Development and policy.

Organize information and promotion activities, aiming at a greater participation of Mediterranean institutions, universities, government structures, regional organisations etc. in EU research programmes

### **3.d) Review and Monitoring**

Monitor progress of the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative, particularly through appropriate information sharing systems easily accessible to all Mediterranean partners, in cooperation with partner organisations including the European Environment Agency.

## **4. Steering Group Tasks**

The Steering Group shall:

- Develop and approve an annual work plan.
- Provide recommendations and reports to the appropriate Euro-Med fora.
- Ensure cooperation, synergies and avoid overlap with other initiatives and key players.

- Communicate using all available means and instruments information related to the various actions and initiatives.

## **5. Working methods**

The workings of the Group shall be open and transparent, with special effort paid to communicating progress and producing concrete results.

The national contact points will provide appropriate input to H2020 and seek to ensure national level coordination on related issues.

The Group shall operate on the basis of consensus.

Plenary meetings will be held annually or as needed. Meetings should be coordinated to be held back-to back with other regional events whenever possible.

Two partner countries (1 EU, 1 non-EU) will share the co-chairmanship of the Group with the European Commission providing the secretariat. The co-chairmanship shall be rotated every two years and the co-chairs will be chosen with the agreement of the Group.

Members shall ensure that under the ENP national and regional activities are mutually reinforcing within their own individual areas of competence.

The Secretariat shall prepare, organise and follow-up the Steering Group meetings in consultation with the co-chairs. A draft agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting to enable feedback from members. Meeting documents will be shared amongst the partners.

These Terms of Reference can be amended with common consensus among Group members.

To minimise meetings the Group shall make use of electronic communication whenever possible.

## **Membership of the Group**

Membership of the Group shall include Euro-Mediterranean countries, international organisations and financial institutions, and the European Commission, as well as representatives from NGOs, the business world, local authorities and regions.

## **Sub-groups**

Subject to available resources the Steering Group may create temporary sub-groups based on clearly identified need on a specific issue. The sub-groups shall report regularly to the Steering Group.

## **SUB-GROUPS CREATED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HORIZON 2020 STEERING GROUP**

Three temporary sub-groups were initiated with the following tasks and composition.

### ***1. Pollution reduction sub-group***

Main tasks:

- Enable coordination of donor activities in the Mediterranean towards the implementation of relevant Horizon 2020 timetable actions.
- Ensure close cooperation with related MAP and Med-EUWI activities.

Possible participants: European Commission, EIB-FEMIP, World Bank, MAP, Med-EUWI, bilateral donors, representatives of EMP countries, business sector, NGOs etc.

Chair: EIB (possibly alternating with other IFIs)

### ***2. Capacity building sub-group***

Main tasks:

- Support the regional capacity building actions of Horizon 2020.
- Promotion of policy coordination for environmental integration in the context of the EMP, its subsidiary bodies and programmes in the various sectors.

Possible participants: European Commission, MAP, SMAP III project coordinator, representatives of NGOs, business and local/regional authorities, representatives of EMP countries, etc.

Chair: European Commission and/or Partner country representative

### ***3. Review, Monitoring and Research sub-group***

Main tasks:

- Develop a coherent scorecard and indicator process for Horizon 2020.
- Coordination of the work of the EEA, MAP, Eurostat etc. toward improving knowledge regarding the Mediterranean environment.

- Coordination of the actions of the Research component of Horizon 2020.

Possible participants: EEA, MAP, European Commission, EMP countries, NGO etc.

Chair: EEA

NB "Possible participants" is used in an indicative sense.

## ANNEX III



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
 ENVIRONMENT  
 Directorate E - International affairs & LIFE  
**ENV.E.3 - Enlargement & Neighbouring Countries**

### LIST OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2007/2008

Activity	Responsibility	Timing
<b>1. Pollution reduction projects</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EIB to pursue identification of the most 'bankable' projects through the Mediterranean Environmental Hotspot Identification Project.</li> </ul>	EIB, UNEP/MAP, Beneficiary countries,	October 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call a meeting of donor organisations to coordinate actions related to pollution reduction projects.</li> </ul>	European Commission (EC)/EIB	End 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference on the private investors' contribution to Horizon 2020.</li> </ul>	GWP-MED/MIO-ECSD	Athens 22-23 October 2007
<b>2. Capacity building measures</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify specific NGO capacity needs.</li> </ul>	EC to work with CdS through ERM.	End 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC to start programming initial capacity building measures using the ENPI and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) facility targeted on ENP Action Plan measures.</li> </ul>	EC and beneficiary countries	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actions in the frame of the Barcelona Convention namely:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its main protocols.</li> <li>The MED POL Phase IV programme, to be adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</li> <li>MAP to begin to develop appropriate capacity building measures through the <i>InfoMAP</i> Programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MAP/EMP countries	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) through further dissemination of the EU's Best Available Techniques Reference Documents (BREFs) and awareness raising on IPPC</li> </ul>	CPRAC/EC, in the context of the joint MAP/European Commission work programme.	2008 onwards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of curricula by partner countries for future water managers, to enable constructively engaged integrated water</li> </ul>	Partner countries/international community through the EUWI/WFD Joint Process	From 2008

resources allocation and management.	thematic working groups and pilot basin activities.	
3. Research		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise a Euro-Med seminar to disseminate results of research and LIFE-third countries projects and practical experience in the field of municipal waste. To be organised in Marseille as part of the "Semaine économique de la Méditerranée"</li> </ul>	European Commission	20 November 2007
4. Review and Monitoring		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to develop indicator and scorecard process to support Horizon 2020.</li> </ul>	EEA to lead through monitoring sub-group.	mid-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create multi-sector information and communication partnerships to promote the "key contents" of Horizon 2020 at the regional level.</li> </ul>	MAP	2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse progress in implementing the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration, whose framework was adopted in Athens in July 2002</li> </ul>	European Commission, Partner countries, stakeholders. Draft report to be presented to Horizon 2020 Steering Group for discussion and eventual endorsement.	Early 2008.

The relevant extract from the endorsed Horizon 2020 timetable is given on the following pages

## **HORIZON 2020 TIMETABLE: ACTIONS FOR THE PERIOD 2007 -2008**

### **1.1. Pollution Reduction Projects**

- FEMIP<sup>2</sup>-European Investment Bank(EIB)/World Bank to bring existing project portfolios under Horizon 2020 and work with donor countries, relevant institutions of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and other relevant groupings to identify those projects having the largest impact on Mediterranean pollution levels (priority projects) including upstream and downstream pollution across the Mediterranean Region. Particular attention will be paid to the projects included in the National Action Plans of the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from Land Based Sources (SAP MED) and to the most pertinent bilateral donor projects in partnership with local communities, non- governmental organisations (NGOs), Mediterranean institutions etc.
- The Commission shall call a meeting of donor organisations to coordinate actions related to pollution reduction projects.

### **1.2. Capacity building measures**

Capacity building measures will be identified on the basis of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and its adopted Action Plans, as well as within the ongoing work conducted in the framework of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI)/Water Framework Directive (WFD) Joint Process, taking due account of the lessons from the review of integrated water resources management research and practice<sup>3</sup>. Further measures will be identified in the country strategy papers that the European Commission, the international financial institutions (IFIs) and other donors adopt to guide their cooperation/assistance to Mediterranean partner countries.

Based on analysis, identification of priority needs in capacity building measures across sectors and stakeholders by all partners taking into account the ENP and its Action Plans as well as previous identification work such as that carried out by the Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP), MAP, the EUWI, the MEDA Water Programme, etc.

- European Commission to start implementing initial capacity building measures using the ENPI and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) facility targeted on ENP Action Plan measures.
- The new operational phase of the MAP Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean region (MED POL) programme, Phase IV programme, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

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<sup>2</sup> Facilité euro méditerranéenne d'investissement et de partenariat

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/water-initiative>

- MAP to begin to develop appropriate capacity building measures through the *InfoMAP* Programme run by the information and communication centre of the Barcelona Convention (*InfoRAC*).
- Development of curricula by partner countries for future water managers, to enable constructively engaged integrated water resources allocation and management.

#### 2007-2008:

- EMP countries not having already done so to ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its main protocols.
- Partners to advance with implementation at national level of the National Action Plans that they have prepared under the Land Based Sources (LBS) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, in accordance with the deadlines specified in the plans and the objectives of paragraph 2.7<sup>4</sup> of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).
- Progress with the capacity building elements of the first ENP Action Plans with Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia to be assessed in the context of the ENP implementation reports. Follow-up to be organised within the ENP.
- Further dissemination action of the EU's Best Available Techniques Reference Documents (BREFs) in the context of the joint MAP/European Commission work programme.
- Actions to enhance environmental governance to be considered in the negotiation and review of ENP Action Plans.

### **1.3. Research**

#### 2007 – 2013:

- The 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research of the EU enters into implementation. It will be open to participation of third countries' research institutions.
- Review and update of existing lists of priority needs in research related to the Horizon 2020 initiative in collaboration with MAP and its Activity Centres, as well as research institutions and networks in the Mediterranean area. These priorities to be considered for inclusion in relevant calls for funding of research projects.
- Diffusion of information on regular calls for proposals for research projects to be funded under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP).

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<sup>4</sup> Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones.

#### **1.4. Review and Monitoring**

- Establish the Steering Group for the Horizon 2020 initiative and hold the first meeting. The Steering Group will adopt its Terms of Reference (ToR) drawing upon on the preparatory work done in the ad hoc SMAP Working Group during 2006.
- All partners, taking account of existing initiatives in particular the MEDPOL programme, European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA), and European Environment Agency (EEA) country scorecard analyses, to consolidate monitoring data and indicator processes to support the regular review of the initiative.
- MAP to build on existing information and communication initiatives to create multi-sector information and communication partnerships to promote the “key contents” of Horizon 2020 at the regional level.