

BE input to the Stakeholder Consultation Document « Final Assessment of the 6th Community Environment Action Programme »

1. We welcome this initiative from the Commission, as it allows to continue the large stakeholder debate initiated by the Belgian Presidency during the year 2010. We invite the Commission to take into account in this Final Assessment of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP also the results of the different studies<sup>1</sup> and the different events<sup>2</sup>, involving multiple stakeholders, organised by the Belgian Presidency in 2010. All contributions to these events and its conclusions and all preparatory studies are still available on the website [www.eapdebate.org](http://www.eapdebate.org).
2. We think it is important that the final assessment of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP does not only takes stock of progress made since 2002 but also assesses the main emerging environmental issues and policy challenges. This in order to avoid a gap between the past and future environment action programme. The Council Conclusions adopted under BE Presidency on 20 December 2010 on “Improving environmental policy instruments” list in paragraph 4 a number of important challenges and objectives in that respect.
3. The Stakeholder Consultation Document « Final Assessment of the 6th Community Environment Action Programme » contains a series of (general and specific) questions, which are all focusing mainly on the assessment of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP. We agree that such a broad assessment of the achievements in the past 10 years is indeed necessary and we welcome that this assessment does not focus only on the priority environmental areas but also assesses the instruments for environmental policy, across all environmental areas, like for instance what has been the added value of the thematic strategies. We also appreciate the fact that the study carried out by Ecologic Institute also addresses the question of the added value, interrelation and complementarity of the Environment Action Programme with other strategic instruments.

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<sup>1</sup> List of studies

- Study on the impact of the various community strategies (the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP, the SD Strategy, the Lisbon strategy, the thematic strategies, etc.)
- Study on the “Better regulation” process.
- Study on the external dimension of EU policy as regards resource scarcity.
- Working paper on economic and voluntary instruments.
- Study on the regional dimension in EU environmental legislation.
- Working paper on tools to evaluate EU environmental policy.
- The EU Environment and Health Action Plan (EHAP), Assessment and Outlook for future action : [www.nehap.be](http://www.nehap.be)

<sup>2</sup> List of events

- 10 November 2009: hearing organised by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Brussels-Capital Region on the role of voluntary and economic instruments in relation to the EAP.
- 16 April 2010: seminar organised by the Committee of the Regions on the role of local and regional authorities (LRA) in future European environmental policy; this seminar fed into an Outlook opinion on the role of LRAs in environmental policy.
- 20 May 2010: workshop with the Spanish Presidency on “Better Instruments for EU Environmental Policy”.
- 1 October 2010: the European Environment Bureau’s annual conference dedicated to the theme of the 7th EAP
- 25-26 November 2010: BE Presidency Conference on “Europe Environment Policy: what’s next? Towards a genuine 7<sup>th</sup> EAP”.
- Conclusions issued from health and environment key events during the Belgian presidency of the Council: [www.nehap.be](http://www.nehap.be)