"Implementation of EU Environment Legislation – how we can do better"

Stakeholders Conference

Brussels, 15 June 2011,
Charlemagne building, salle Jean DURIEUX
(170 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat)

PROGRAMME

08:30- 09:00  Welcome and registration of participants

09:00-10:00  Session I: Opening session

This session will set the general scene by focussing on the main implementation challenges related to the EU-wide environmental governance structure\(^1\) from the point of view of various stakeholders concerned.

09:00-09:45  Opening speeches:

Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission

Erminia Mazzoni, Chair of the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament

Giuseppe Montesano, Chairmen of the BUSINESSEUROPE Environment Working Group

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau

09:45-10:00  Discussion with the participants

\(^1\) Governance structure means the organisations and individuals with responsibilities and roles in implementation and the relationships between them. It covers amongst others Member State governments, regional and local authorities, environment agencies and inspectorates, national courts, ombudsmen, the regulated community and citizens and environmental organisations.
10:00-11:30 Session II: Towards an Improved and Transparent Knowledge Base

This session will explore the importance of the knowledge base relied on by all stakeholders concerned with implementation, particularly focusing on the possible scope for greater active dissemination of information to make the state of the environment and the state of implementation more visible and accessible to all. The ongoing work on SEIS\(^2\), as well as recent "environmental democracy" (Aarhus\(^3\)) related issues will be presented and analysed. The panel will also focus on possible further tools for knowledge sharing within and outside the Commission (e.g. spatialised web-published information on urban waste water treatment and waste infrastructure), as well as for stimulating funding of awareness raising and capacity building activities with a view to enhancing a culture of compliance within the Member States.

Moderator: Margrete Auken, Member of the European Parliament, member of the Committee for Environment, Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament

Panel participants:

Nicholas Banfield, Head of Unit F.4 "Chief Scientist, Research and Innovation", DG Environment, European Commission

Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environmental Agency

Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, Unit E.4 "Access to information", DG Information Society, European Commission

Gilles Decand, Head of Unit E.3 "Environmental and Forestry statistics", EUROSTAT

Leen Hordijk, Director of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Ispra, Italy

Each panel participant will present her or his views – 10 minutes per participant

Discussion with the participants

11:30-11:45 Coffee break

11:45-12:45 Session III: Resources

This panel will explore how to promote more holistic approach to resources (e.g. relationship between public-private partnership provisions and EU spending) and means for more efficient use of LIFE\(^4\) and possibly Regional and Cohesion Funds to support key parts of the governance structure (e.g. for improving the knowledge base or further improving infrastructure). The panel will also deal with compliance promotion through EU co-financing to build the required environmental administrative capacity in cohesion countries and

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convergence regions. Furthermore, it will assess ways for providing secure long term financial support in order to ensure dependability of the governance structure through reliable financing arrangements. In particular, it will explore how tools like environmental agreements, market based instruments, charging and pricing clauses can be linked to new forms of long-term financing (e.g. environmental bonds). The panel will cover also the perspective on "own resources" issues for the regulated community.

**Moderator:** Georges-Stavros Kremlis, Acting Director, Directorate A, DG Environment, European Commission

**Panel participants:**

**Enrique Buatas Costa,** Unit D.2. "Sustainable Development", DG Regional Policy, European Commission

**Herve Martin,** Head of Unit E.4 "LIFE Environment & Eco-innovation", DG Environment, European Commission

**Richard Adams,** Representative of the European Economic and Social Committee

**Paula Baker,** Member of the Committee of the Regions, Member of Basingstoke and Deane Council, UK

Each panel participant will present her or his views – 10 minutes per participant

**Discussion with the participants**

12:45-14:00  Lunch break

14:00-15:30  **Session IV: The value of cooperation through networks**

This panel will focus on possible ways for improving the cooperation between key parts of the governance structure through their European networks (e.g. IMPEL\(^5\), EPAN\(^6\)) and the EU institutions. It will, amongst other matters: explore what are the conditions for an effective application of sanction regimes covering also economic aspects of enforcement; look at measures for improving the connectivity of the governance structure, e.g. creation of "dossier teams" to apply the networking approach within Member States and so better involve regional and local authorities; look at the possibility of agreements with national environmental authorities involved in implementation; continuation of cooperation with national judges and possible similar cooperation with the network of national ombudsmen.

**Moderator:** Olivier Tell, Head of Unit B.1 "Procedural criminal law", DG Justice, European Commission

**Panel participants:**

\(^5\) European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law.

\(^6\) Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies.
Terry Shears, Vice-Chair of the European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

Luc Lavrysen, President of EU Forum of Judges for the Environment

Michael Faure, Chairman of the Flemish High Council for Environmental Enforcement

Fergal Ó Regan, Head of the Legal Department, the European Ombudsmen

Emile Lindemulder, Interpol Environmental Crime Programme

Each panel participant will present her or his views – 10 minutes per participant

Discussion with the participants

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-17:15 Session V: Legal framework for complaint handling and environmental inspections

The panel will assess the possible need and the feasibility of establishing an EU mechanism on national complaint-handling as well as further initiatives on access to justice. The session will focus also on options for reinforcement of environmental inspections at national level and verification mechanisms at EU level, incl. enhanced verification tasks for the EEA, analysing the experience in other EU policy sectors, e.g. health and consumer protection policy.

Moderator: Jan Van den Berghe, Vice-President of the Court of First Instance, Ghent

Panel participants:

Georges-Stavros Kremlis, Acting Director, Directorate A "Legal affairs and Cohesion", DG Environment, European Commission

Ion Codescu, Head of Unit A.1 "Enforcement, infringements co-ordination and legal issues", DG Environment, European Commission

Julio Garcia Burgues, Head of Unit C.2 "Waste Management", DG Environment, European Commission

Michael Scannell, Director of DDG2.F "Food and Veterinary Office", DG Health and Consumers, European Commission

Jan Teekens, Co-Chair of Cluster "Better Regulation" of the European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

Each panel participant will present her or his views – 10 minutes per participant

Discussion with the participants
17:15-18:00 Session VI: Conclusions

István Teplán, Senior Policy Advisor at the State Secretariat for Environmental Issues in the Ministry of Rural Development of the Republic of Hungary

Beata Wiszniewska, First Counsellor in the Environment Policy Section at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU

Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Environment