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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

English - Or. English

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE BUREAU

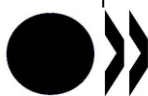
13 April 2015, Paris, France

ACTION REQUIRED: For comments and endorsement.

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MEETING OF THE EAP TASK FORCE BUREAU

13 April 2015 (Paris, France)

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

1. The Bureau of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP Task Force) met in Paris on 13 April 2015 (see Annex 1 for the list of participants). The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Martine ROHN (Switzerland) and Mr. Teimuraz MURGULIA (Georgia).

Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks and adoption of the Draft Agenda

2. The Bureau:

- Welcomed Mr. Teimuraz MURGULIA, First Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia, as the new co-Chair of the EAP Task Force and noted his opening remarks in which he thanked the EAP Task Force members for according him confidence in his new role and stressed the dedication of Georgia to the EAP Task Force initiatives, including on green growth;
- Welcomed Ms. Marianne GJØRV, Senior Adviser in the Department for Nature Management, as the new Bureau member nominated by the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway and noted support of her country to the EAP Task Force activities;
- Took note of the adjustment in the structure of the OECD Environment Directorate since 1 January 2015 that made the EAP Task Force Secretariat part of the Green Growth and Global Relations Division of the OECD Environment Directorate led by Ms. Kumi KITAMORI, Head of Green Growth and Global Relations Division;
- Took note of the Summary Record of the 2014 annual meeting of the EAP Task Force [ENV/EPOC/EAP/M(2014)3] and suggested to circulate it among the EAP Task Force members for endorsement through written procedure;
- Adopted the meeting agenda [ENV/EPOC/EAP/A(2015)1] without further amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Progress report and updated plan of activities for 2015 on "Policies for greening growth", including the EaP GREEN project

3. The Bureau:

- Took note of the Secretariat report on progress made on Policies for Green Growth part of the work programme implementation since November 2014, the activities planned for 2015 and the current budgetary situation of this part of the programme [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2015)5];
- Took note of the positive feedback expressed by Bureau members on the EAP Task Force work conducted in the EECCA countries, stressing the importance of projects on green growth indicators, greening small and medium sized enterprises, energy subsidies, and access to finance;

- Noted interest from the Russian Federation for greater engagement in the EAP Task Force work and asked the Secretariat to explore ways for enhancing co-operation with that country;
- Called on the Secretariat to reinforce activities in Central Asia;
- Called on the Secretariat to continue drawing on experience of the OECD countries on promoting greener growth and to enhance co-operation with other international organisations, such as UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and EEA's work on the Shared Environmental Information System;
- Expressed gratitude to donors, including the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland, for their financial support which allows supporting all activities planned in this part of the work programme for 2015;
- Noted the anticipated financial contribution from Kazakhstan to the OECD/EAP Task Force to carry green growth-related projects as part of the OECD-Kazakhstan Country Programme.

Agenda Item 3: Progress report and updated plan of activities for 2015 on "Strengthening water management", including the EUWI EECCA project

4. The Bureau:

- Took note of the Secretariat report on the progress in implementing the water part of the programme since November 2014, the activities planned for 2015 and the current financial situation of this part of the programme [ENV/EPOC/EAP(2015)5];
- Took note of the positive feedback expressed by Bureau members on the EAP Task Force work conducted in the EECCA countries, especially those under the National Policy Dialogues on Water;
- Noted a proposal from Switzerland to build on the success of National Policy Dialogues and apply a similar approach to the green growth pillar of the programme;
- Recognised the importance of water issues in Central Asia and encouraged the Secretariat to reinforced its activities in that region;
- Expressed gratitude to donors, including the European Union, Norway and Switzerland for their financial support of the programme and welcomed the anticipated contributions from Finland and Germany which would allow to close the funding gap in 2015;
- Noted the anticipated financial contribution of Kazakhstan to the OECD/EAP Task Force to carry water-related projects as part of the OECD-Kazakhstan Country Programme.

Agenda item 4a: Possible EAP Task Force's contributions to the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in Batumi

5. The Bureau:

- Noted a report by Georgia on the preparations for the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference that will take place on 8-10 June 2016 in Batumi, Georgia and the presentation of the major challenges for green development in Georgia;
- Took note of the Secretariat's proposal on possible contributions from the EAP Task Force to the next "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference as presented in the document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2015)7;

- Supported the Secretariat efforts to provide inputs to the background documents for the Conference on green economy and air pollution, and to work with the Conference organisers on identifying relevant speakers;
- Supported a proposal by the Secretariat to prepare policy briefs/highlight that would summarise the main areas of the EAP Task Force work, major achievements, best practices in policy implementation and lessons learned since the Astana Ministerial Conference and to present major reports developed by the Task Force since the last Ministerial Conference;
- Supported the idea of arranging the EAP Task Force stand during the Batumi Conference, but did not feel that side-events would be the most efficient way to transmit key messages from work of the EAP Task Force; and asked the Secretariat to assess the feasibility with the UNECE to include such an opportunity during one of the Ministerial meeting sessions;
- Invited the Secretariat to provide an input to the Pan-European Strategic Framework on Green Economy which is currently being developed for the presentation at the Batumi Ministerial Conference by highlighting national best practice examples on greening the economy implemented by the EAP Task Force;
- Agreed that the final decision on the EAP Task Force's contributions will be taken at the forthcoming meeting of the EAP Task Force.

Item 4b: Future of the EAP Task Force

6. The Bureau:

- Took note of the introduction by the Secretariat on the possible future directions of the EAP Task Force as presented in the document ENV/EPOC/EAP(2015)7;
- Highlighted the value-added of the EAP Task Force work on its priority areas of green growth and water management and recognised a wealth of expertise and networking that should continue to share "best practices" and "know-how" as well as support policy reform;
- Noted that the future options for the post-Batumi work should take account of the recent changes in the EECCA region, including increasing diversification of policies among countries and shifting co-operation to the sub-regional level, and other international processes, such as the implementation of the UN Climate Convention, and the implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals);
- Agreed on the need to review the EAP Task Force's post-Batumi mandate, and highlighted the need to "re-brand" the EAP Task Force in line with the increased emphasis on green growth, and the need to reinforce political support for its work;
- Invited the Secretariat to prepare a note for discussion at the next EAP Task Force meeting on: i) possible scope of work after the Batumi Conference that would include current topics of policies for green growth and water management; and ii) possible new areas related to traditional environmental policies issues (eg. air pollution, waste management), as well as cross-cutting issues (e.g. environmental effects of mining, climate finance or water-food and energy nexus), noting that they all ultimately contribute to greening of the economy, and will need to contribute to the post-2015 agenda.

Item 5: Highlights of ongoing and planned work by RECs

7. The REC representatives who confirmed their participation did not attend the meeting and the Agenda Item was not discussed.

Item 6: Draft agenda for the 2015 annual EAP Task Force meeting

8. The Bureau:

- Noted that the next EAP Task Force meeting will take place on 7-8 October 2015 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and supported the main elements of the proposed draft agenda of the meeting as presented in Room Document 1;
- Asked the Secretariat to explore the possibility of allocating more time for discussion on the preparations for the Batumi Conference and the future of the EAP Task Force;
- Noted the proposal of Georgia to submit more elaborated presentation on strengthening environmental aspects in vocational training and environmental aspects of enterprise management.

Item 7: Other business and closing remarks

9. The Bureau:

- Agreed to hold the next EAP Task Force Bureau meeting on 23 February 2016 back to back with the special session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy meeting scheduled for 24–26 February 2016 in Geneva which will discuss the preparations to the Batumi Ministerial Conference;
- Noted that the Steering Committee meeting of the EaP GREEN programme will be held on 18 June 2015 in Chisinau, Moldova.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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