

GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR ENVIRONMENT

Annual Conference of the European Environmental Bureau¹

27-28 September 2001

BACOB, 25 Rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels

Programme

(interpretation French/English)

THURSDAY 27/09/01

9.00 Opening

9.30 Key-note speech by **Jérôme VIGNON**, leader of the Commission's team on the White Paper on Governance.

Issues to be addressed:

- The origins of the debate
- The main messages of the White Paper
- The relevance of this debate for European Integration
- The effects of the new governance approach on environmental policy making
- The Commission's perception of "civil society" and roles and responsibilities of citizens organisations

10.15-11.00 Discussion with **Jérôme VIGNON**

11.00-11.20 Coffee Break

SESSION 1: GOVERNANCE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 6TH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME

11.20-11.45 **Rolf ANNERBERG**, Head of Cabinet of the Environment Commissioner
Good Governance and the 6th EAP: Reaching and involving the EU citizens and their organisations

11.45-12.15 Responses by:

- **Bernd LANGE**, MEP, Member of the Environment Committee
- **John HONTELEZ**, EEB Secretary General
- **NN**, Environment Ministry, The Netherlands

12.15-13.00 Discussion with the participants

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Questions:

- Can the open dialogue and consultation that is foreseen for the preparations on the Thematic Strategies lead to substantially more "green" and powerful strategies? Which pre-conditions need to be fulfilled?
- What room for manoeuvre will the requirements of "sound scientific and economic cost-benefit analysis" give for a real role for the (essentially social and political) consultation process.
- How does such dialogue relate to the official decision-making process, that recently has been democratised by giving the European Parliament, in almost all areas the 6EAP is covering, co-decision power?

13.00-14.30 Lunch Break - lunch at the conference venue

SESSION 2: IMPROVING GOVERNANCE FOR EFFECTIVE EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Issues:

- Strengthening EU's enforcement mechanisms
- Roles for NGOs
- Improvement of NGOs' rights and opportunities to monitor and challenge
- Structural changes needed and the opportunity of the Governance debate and the 2004 IGC

14.30-16.10 Introductions by:

- **Christoph DEMMKE**, European Institute for Public Administration, The Netherlands: What are the main deficiencies in the EU enforcement system? What role the public can play?
- **Fe SANCHIS MORENO**, Terra, Spain: weaknesses in enforcement in an EU Country: Spain
- **Mr. MARTINEZ-ARAGON**, Principal Legal Adviser of the European Ombudsman: Good Administration & Transparency: The role of the European Ombudsman in monitoring the Commission's handling of environmental complaints.
- **Toni POPOVSKI**, Director of the REC: Consequences and requirements for the new EU countries.
- **Georges KREMLIS**, Head of Unit for Legal matters, legislation and application of Community law, DG ENV, Commission: What structural changes are needed to overcome the shortcomings of the EU enforcement system?

16.10-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-17.15 Discussion with the participants

- 17.15-17.30 Concluding remarks by:
- **Mauro ALBRIZIO**, European affairs Director of Legambiente and EEB Vice-President: Conclusions for the Governance and IGC 2004 debate

FRIDAY 28/09/01

SESSION 3: WORKSHOPS [with invited participation of Commission officials and others]

- 9.30-12.15 Discussion in 4 parallel workshops:
- a. *Standardisation/New Approach*; opportunities and risks, a policy for the EEB
 - b. *Environmental Tax Reform*: discussion of EEB's plans for a campaign, with involvement of government officials and the Commission
 - c. *Trade and Environment*: exchange of opinions among EEB members and discussion with experts
 - d. *Agriculture*: towards the 2003 mid-term review of Agenda 2000

12.15-13.00 Reports from workshops

13.00-14.30 Lunch Break - lunch at the conference venue

Luncheon address by:

Jean-François VERSTRYNGE, Deputy Director-General DG Environment, Commission: His expectations of the discussions on the White Paper on Good Governance.

SESSION 4: THE EU'S ROLE IN PROMOTING GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ON THE GLOBAL LEVEL

14.30-14.50 **Pierre DEFRAIGNE**, Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Trade

14.50-15.10 **Svend AUKEN**, Environment Minister, Denmark: A global deal for Johannesburg: How to make the up-coming Earth Summit a success.

15.10-15.30 Coffee Break

15.30- 17.00 Panel discussion with

- **Pierre DEFRAIGNE**
- **Svend AUKEN**
- **Yves COCHET**, Environment Minister, France (invited)
- **Bedrich MOLDAN**, Chair of CSD-9 and advisor to the Czech Government
- **Stefan ARMBORST**, Ecologistas en Acción, Spain

17.00 Concluding remarks by **Yves COCHET** (invited)

RECEPTION