

ECCP II

WG 2: IMPACTS and ADAPTATION

Draft Mandate

1. Background

The European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) was established in June 2000 to help identify the most environmentally and cost-effective EU measures enabling the EU to meet its target under the Kyoto Protocol, namely an 8% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008-2012, complementing Member States efforts. In total, 11 different working groups were established and have operated under the co-ordination of an ECCP Steering Committee:

The results from the ECCP formed an important contribution to the October 2001 Communication¹ on “the implementation of the first phase of the European Climate Change Programme”, converting the ECCP results into a clear political commitment from the Commission. It highlighted a package of twelve priority measures and an action plan for implementation of these measures, to be brought forward by the Commission in 2002 and 2003. A progress report on the implementation of the ECCP was made in May 2003.

The February 2005 Communication ‘Winning the battle against climate change’² indicated that the Commission should explore “*the role of the EU in reducing vulnerability and promoting adaptation (...) with the involvement of the EU insurance industry.*”

2. General Objective

In line with the Communication ‘*Winning the Battle against climate change*’, the EU climate policy should aim to reduce vulnerability of European society and economy to the adverse effects of climate change and improve its resilience.

The general objective of the Working Group is to define the EU role in adaptation policies so as to integrate adaptation fully into relevant European policy areas, to identify good, cost-effective practice in the development of adaptation policy and to foster learning.

3. Policy Deliverable

By September 2006, the Working Group is looking to deliver status reports for up to 10 thematic meetings to be held between November 2005 and April 2006.

The Commission will also host a Conference on Adaptation in October 2006. This will be followed by the launch of a Green Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change for public consultation end 2006.

4. Organisation, work programme and time table

¹ COM (2001) 580 final

² COM(2005) 35

The Working Group on Impacts and Adaptation will consider its work programme through a sectoral approach so as to obtain the widest representation of views from stakeholders involved with each sector. Up to ten individual meetings will be held in the period November 2005 – April 2006. Various units of DG ENV or other services will take the lead on different topics, which are:

- i. Building national strategies for adaptation (country reports)
- ii. Impacts on water cycle and water resources management
- iii. Agriculture and forestry
- iv. Biodiversity
- v. Human health
- vi. Regional planning, industrial and public infrastructure, Structural funds
- vii. Marine resources and coastal zones and tourism
- viii. Urban planning and construction
- ix. Role of insurance industry
- x. Development cooperation

In addition, the group will consider the results of finished and ongoing research activities for the 5th and 6th Framework Programmes and raise topics to be covered in the 7th Framework Programme for the following topics:

- xii. Improved modelling and adaptation planning tools in order to identify effects of climate change and vulnerabilities at regional and sub-regional scale
- xiii. Identify the costs of adaptation strategies and, to the extent possible, cost-effective adaptation strategies
 - a. Current research project and future calls for proposals (5th, 6th and 7th FP, RTD)
 - b. 2 to 3 two-day workshops (2006)
 - (1) How will climate change affect the EU citizens? Impacts of climate change at regional and sub-regional level in the EU
 - (2) How can the EU adapt to climate change and improve the resilience of European society and economy? From climate modelling to building cost effective adaptation strategies
 - (3) Economic assessment of adaptation strategies in relation to damage costs

The Group is chaired by the Commission and will be composed of around 25-30 people, but will include specific experts depending on the topic to be discussed. The working group will comprise Member States experts, representatives of relevant business sectors, NGO representatives, academic experts and Commission officials of relevant services. Members of the group can be asked to make specific contributions in the form of presentations and issue papers. The Chairman will prepare minutes of each meeting, for adoption by the group. The Chairman will also prepare the final report based on the activities of the group, which will draw conclusions as well as set out key options based on the discussions of the group.