



Minutes

Expert group ICZM Recommendation 1st Meeting, 3 October 2002, Brussels

Agenda and attendance list in annex.

Introduction

The Chairman, Mr Claude Rouam, opened the meeting in recalling the conclusions of the 1st High Level Forum, in la Villajoyosa, that referred to the creation of an expert group. The main objective of the work is to support the implementation process of the EU Recommendation on ICZM. The Recommendation being a non-binding instrument, it provides an opportunity and challenge for Member States to show that results can be achieved on this basis.

Prospects for national ICZM strategies ★

Member States and coastal accession countries presented each their on-going work in coastal policy and planning, how they will make use of the ICZM Recommendation and in some cases practical steps already taken towards implementing the Recommendation.

Overview of coastal information reports and systems

As the Recommendation calls for monitoring and information systems to be part of the national strategies, on-going work by the European Environment Agency and Topic centre is relevant and offers a potential for convergence of efforts and approaches.

Mrs Françoise Breton gave an overview of the EEA/Topic centre's activities in relation to coastal information and reporting, as well as the network structure, EIONET, of national institutes on which the Agency and topic centres rely for most of the data provision. The topic centre's set of indicators for the coastal zone could be circulated to the participants. In view of an assessment on progress towards ICZM, the topic centre also proposed to launch a short survey to all countries requesting information, among others, on current ICZM projects.

However the long-term quality of the ICZM activities is critical, short term projects only would not give a good view on real progress, and for ICZM information should go beyond mere environmental information (comments UK, SW). Moreover one should avoid duplicating requests for similar information from different sides (Slov).

Mr Marc Vanderhaegen presented the INSPIRE initiative, which should lead to an EU legal instrument dealing with geographical information. Apart from the link to the information systems referred to in the Recommendation, the initiative is particularly relevant for ICZM as it addresses points 4,5 of the High Level Forum conclusions that called for enhanced information and harmonisation of data and GIS systems. Following an internet consultation (11/12-2002), the Commission is expected to present a proposal mid-2003. Position papers available to date indicate that various data layers relevant to the coastal zone would form part of the proposals for EU harmonisation.

Mr Stéphane Lombardo gave a brief demonstration of data incompatibility problems encountered in the framework of the EUrosion project, highlighting also copyright restrictions, budgetary and time/human resources implications of non-harmonised data and systems.

Miscellaneous presentations

Mr Christos Fragakis presented the opportunities for coastal zone research under the 5th and 6th Research Framework programmes. As to the on-going research projects, the ELOISE office clusters the results and offered to communicate these to the expert group as and when appropriate.

Mr Hugo Niesing provided an overview of the EUrosion project and its relevance to the various chapters of the Recommendation.

Mrs Birgit Snoeren gave brief information on on-going discussions with coastal networks to come to a European Coastal practitioners network, as planned in the EU Coastal Strategy (Commission Communication of 9/2000). While major existing networks have expressed interest in setting up such a network, the co-operation formula has yet to be defined and important funding and administrative obstacles to overcome. A European Practitioner's network could however be valuable and useful to the expert group in providing for instance needs-assessments or best-practice overview in selected areas of interest. Potentially the expert group could identify which areas are of particular interest.

Terms of reference for the expert group and future work

The Chairman, Mr Claude Rouam, invited participants to express their interest for working groups and proposed a next full meeting for June 2003. This would be a timely moment as both work on the Recommendation and the EU Coastal Strategy will have progressed and orientations for next phases could be usefully discussed. Working groups in the meantime can function on e-mail basis and need not meet physically often to reduce mission costs (FIN, NL).

Further to request by several Member States (ESP, FIN, B) a working group will prepare guidance for the stock-take in Chapter III of the Recommendation; ESP/UK will lead this working group.

Following the presentations on information reports and systems, a second working group will deal with indicators and data; the Topic Centre will lead this working group. The group will prepare a report to be discussed in the next full expert group's meeting.

The terms of reference document did not call particular observations from the participants and is consequently adopted as the basis for the expert group's work.

To foster exchanges of experiences and where appropriate, DGENV (Birgit Snoeren) can act as focal point and circulate information and documents to participants on request of a Member State or coastal Candidate Country (comment NL).

Conclusions

Mr Claude Rouam noted that the meeting day had offered a useful exchange of experiences and stimulated contacts between countries.

Member States and coastal Candidate Countries are encouraged to follow the EUrosion project and the INSPIRE initiative.

The next expert group meeting will take place in June 2003.

In the meantime 2 working groups are formed: the first on guidance for the stock-take (ESP/UK), the second on indicators and data (EEA/ETC lead). Candidatures for the working group should be communicated to the Commission.

The current list of EEA/ETC indicators and survey proposal will be send to participants for responses within 4 weeks.

★ Key points national presentations

Belgium Mr Michael Kyramarios: With a view to implementing the Recommendation, Belgium already has a co-ordination body in place with thematic working groups. This structure should be used, and its working enhanced with, among others, the involvement of the local level improved. Belgium's approach is to center the debate on the phenomena that are crossing the land-sea interface and that are not already taken care of else where. Questions arise over a more precise geographical boundary of the coastal zone.

Denmark Mrs Jane Kragh Andersen: ICZM is approached through the planning framework. Challenges for the implementation period of the Recommendation will be the creation of a land-sea perspective, improving the integration in decision making processes and encouraging CZ visions and management guidelines on local and regional levels.

Germany Mr Stefan Besser, Mr Karl-Heinrich Vespermann: While the process is not yet defined, Germany would approach the Recommendation through both integration of policies and a bottom-up process, with close co-operation between national and Länder level. Building stones are the integrated spatial plans, including the sea part, that are being developed and that should be reviewed in 2003.

Spain Mrs Maria Rodriguez de Sancho, Mr Raul Medina: The current legal framework covers certain but not all aspects of the Recommendation. Spain has started the implementation by calling 'scoping' meetings with the regions (11/2002) as well as other stakeholders in a more technical forum. In parallel the stock-take has started, combining information from local sources upward into a database. There will probably be more than 1 strategy; coastal erosion is seen as a major issue.

France Mr Christophe Le Visage: Against a background of increasing pressures and conflicts in the coastal zone, the challenges for the French process will be to integrate sectoral policies, make use of the local experiences in a national strategy and to take account of the future oceans policy. Several experiences and projects are available to build on, but for the Recommendation these should be brought into a common calendar and complemented by aspects of ICZM that are not yet covered. The process could start 2003 and led by interministerial mission.

Ireland Mr Joe Ryan: To start the Recommendation implementation Ireland will update and expand the stock-take that was carried-out in 97/98. In a first phase work will be carried out within ministries/administration; the question on how to involve wider public and stakeholders best is currently looked into. The strategy Ireland is working towards would have probably 2 major headings, covering institutional arrangements to enhance co-operation and policy principles for the CZ to be captured in guidance to local authorities.

Italy Mr Michele Capobianco: Due to the recent ministerial reorganisation Italy has not yet committed to a Recommendation implementation process. However there are several activities and projects available that are in line with ICZM principles and that could be a basis for a national strategy. The Italian Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development could in many respects offer a model. Another building stone is the state-of-the coast report by the national environment agency ENEA.

Netherlands Mr Bart de Jong: The aim of the NL strategy will be to achieve real integration, covering all sectors and including also management of the CZ. The process will start by analysing the current plethora of plans and legislation mainly with ministerial and administrative actors. The obstacles to real integration should be identified and lead to the national strategy.

Finland Mrs Helena Korhonen: While the process has not yet been fully defined, a first step to implement the Recommendation will be a scoping seminar with all stakeholders in January 2003. In 2003/2004 the stocktaking exercise and research needs should be established. The strategy's aim will be to give an overall view and integrated vision for the CZ. There are several ICZM

experiences and projects to build on, but particularly relevant are also the new national land use guidelines. Major issues to focus on are ensuring protection of the coast with development and recreational pressures, as well as water quality as covered in the Baltic programme.

Sweden Mr Sten Jerdenius, Mr Sven Arvidsson: In Sweden a legal and institutional framework is already in place to cover the requirements of the Recommendation. Of 15 nationally defined environmental objectives many relate to the coastal zone. The process of implementing the objectives call for specific strategies and actions plans. Apart from further action to combat eutrophication, challenges for the coming period will be more detailed sustainability goals definition, management of fish resources and enhancing development perspectives for sparsely populated areas. At regional sea level opportunities will be sought to increase cooperation.

United Kingdom Mr Sam Rowbury: the UK has established a steering group made up of the 4 national countries to coordinate implementation of the Recommendation. Stakeholders will be involved throughout the process. A first action will be a national stakeholders conference (11/02). The stock-take should take place mainly on the basis of existing documentation in 2003/4. The strategy should provide a vision for the coast and develop a framework to guide ICZM at all levels in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. National concerns include education and public awareness, durable funding for ICZM and information needs/availability.

Cyprus Mrs Myroula Hadjichristoforou: An on-going MAP project analyses the carrying capacity of the coastal zone and will consider further integration of legislation affecting the coastal zone. The project will end in 2004 and be linked to the Recommendation. Priority issues for Cyprus are land-use and landscape preservation, risk of pollution at sea and erosion.

Latvia, Mrs Inga Racinska: The main tool for ICZM is the planning framework, which includes participation requirements. The most important plans are at the parish level, although they have not been established everywhere yet. The environmental authorities however can only provide guidance, and lack capacity and control over the plans. Tourism infrastructure is limited, leading to often unregulated building in the CZ and limited access to the coast, the 300 m protection belt being too low. Questions arise over how to designate marine protected areas.

Lithuania, Mr Danielus Pivorius: A coastal zone management strategy was formulated in 2001, which should lead by 2003 to more detailed management programmes. Participation and management/responsibility of the local authorities is a guiding principle. There are however important constraints (financial, technical, institutional, as well as natural disaster vulnerability).

Malta, Mrs Michele Borg: For the whole coastal strip the main tool for ICZM is provided by the planning framework. The Structure Plan is currently under revision and offers directions for protecting habitats and the variety of the coastal landscape, prioritising uses that depend on a coastal location, and controlling of development at sea. However planning does not cover all aspects of ICZM. There is a need to address the management aspects, information/monitoring, pollution control and a need for capacity building/awareness raising. A MAP project ending 11/2002 attempted to develop an ICZM strategy for part of the coast focusing mainly on interdepartmental co-operation and capacity building.

Poland Mrs Monika Solis: Poland will seek to provide a framework for ICZM based on a voluntary approach but covering all relevant sectors. A coordination unit should guide the process. Priority areas in the Baltic will be selected, followed by the identification of issues in these areas and definition of action plans to address them. As a member of Helcom, Poland will follow closely the ICZM activities at regional sea level.

Romania Mr Dumitru Dorogan: A national coastal law should be adopted in Romania, but main problem is the definition of the CZ boundary. There is experience with projects, networks, and characterisation of CZ is completed. The Black Sea Strategic action plan is the main international framework for Romania, but many requirements still needs effective implementation. With 60% of the coast affected, coastal erosion is a major issue.

Slovenia, Mr Mitja Bricelj: Background to ICZM in Slovenia are a completed MAP project, experience in international conventions (Barcelona and tri-lateral Italian, Croatian and Slovene convention) and a comprehensive stock-take of 2001. Priorities now are monitoring, establishment of contingency plans especially in relation to oil spills and implementation of the water framework directive. In 2003 a new MAP project will start that will take account of the ICZM Recommendation and the water framework directive.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Environmental quality and natural resources
ENV.B.3 – Territorial Dimension

Agenda

Expert group ICZM Recommendation

**1st Meeting, 3 October 2002
Conference Centre Borschette, Brussels
10 hrs – 17 hrs**

- Introduction
- Prospects for national ICZM Strategies
 - presentation by Member States/Candidate Countries of national processes
- Overview of coastal information reports and systems
 - presentation EEA, Topic centre activities
 - INSPIRE initiative
- Presentations
 - ICZM Research : 5th/6th Framework activities
 - EUrosion project
 - Prospects for European ICZM Practitioners' network
- Terms of reference for expert group and future meetings
 - discussion

- Conclusion

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Integrated coastal zone management ICZM

3/10/02 – BRUSSELS

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