



Minutes

Expert group ICZM Recommendation 5th Meeting, 22 September 2005

1. Introduction

The chairman, Georges Kremlis, opened the meeting stressing that the coming period 2005/2006 is a crucial phase for coastal zone policy in the EU. Thematic strategies including one on Marine protection are due to be published in the next months and a Green Paper on Maritime Policy is proposed for 2006 by the Commission. And specifically for ICZM: 2006 is the time for the national strategies and the evaluation of the EU ICZM Recommendation.

The agenda and participants list are annexed.

2. State-of- play implementation of the ICZM Recommendation

Presentations by Member States of national processes

Giuseppe Bortone, Region of Emilia Romagna, Italy, provided a presentation on the ICZM Guidelines that were adopted by the Region in January 2005. The Guidelines were established following a process of 2 years involving 10 thematic working group with some 200 experts. The process was steered by a project management board of directors of the 5 most concerned departments, the overall guidance being provided by an institutional committee of Regional Ministers, Province Presidents and Mayors of coastal municipalities. The process learned that despite intense discussion and conflicting opinions, it was possible to reach acceptable compromises. Due to this participatory process, the Guidelines met with the consensus of all interested parties and were adopted without difficulty. However the main challenge is implementation of the Guidelines. The Region stimulates projects in which different actors and sectors practically work together. GIS and indicators are being adapted for local use. The benefits of integration for development are not readily recognised by all actors and demonstration of those benefits will be needed to support the Guidelines' implementation. Currently, behaviour of local actors still often contradicts the guidelines and local plans and actions will be monitored on coherence to the Guidelines.

Laurence Vigin, Belgium, provided an update on the joint action between Belgium and the Netherlands, launched in 2004, which aims to make an inventory of interactions between the land and sea areas, and identify possible gaps or need for better coordination.

In a first phase sectors were identified where interactions takes place; the relevant policies, regulations or management procedures; formal and informal consultation processes; and analyses of any gaps. Fundamental differences were identified between the two countries in their approaches of the land-sea interface. The Dutch approach

focuses on the *human activities* taking place at sea or the coast, where the Belgium approach focuses on the *interactions* (of phenomena, problems) themselves. Further joint analyses will be carried out for 4 topics (coastal flood protection, disaster control, recreational activities in the beach, marine litter). The analysis led Belgium to identify several areas for better coordination. The North Sea Masterplan, under development, is looked at as the main opportunity to put sustainable development at sea into practice. The Netherlands concluded that overall the responsibilities of different actors are well defined but implementation still presents weaknesses. The full results of the project will be reported in the national reports in February 2006.

For Sweden, Sten Jerdenius, informed the expert group about the evaluation commissioned in Sweden (National Board of Housing, Building and Planning) to assess to what extent the planning system takes account of ICZM principles. Comprehensive planning, including the territorial waters, is the task of the municipalities in Sweden. The evaluation is to compare actual development to the plans; to compile relevant regional/local strategies and structural funds projects; to provide an overview of how coastal areas of national importance have been taken into account into the municipal plans. The results are expected for the end of the year. To achieve a better integration between regional development and planning, the coastal strategies should be part of the National Strategic Framework for the new Cohesion policy period 2007-2013.

Christophe Levisage, France, informed the expert group about the progress towards the national ICZM Strategy in France. To support the strategy process, France launched a call for projects which attracted much more interest than expected, including from overseas areas. In the end 25 projects were selected: a few to develop strategic regional visions, but most covering management of the coastal zone¹. The projects are representative of the full range of coastal problems in France. The criteria to select the projects were, first, a multi-sector coverage and, second, a partnership between actors from different sectors and/or administrative levels.

Andrzej Cieslak, noted that in Poland the understanding of ICZM is that is essentially is a way to manage and plan more efficiently. It does not necessarily require new or different structures. At the end of September a large coastal conference will be held, involving 5 ministries and the coastal provinces and municipalities. A major step towards ICZM will be formed by the 'national coastal policy' of which a draft is expected for the end of 2005. Main components will be socio-economic orientations, environmental protection and risk management. Difficulties are experienced with Natura 2000 designations and limited experience in cross-shore planning. For the latter a pilot project is run in the West-Gdansk area.

Presentation and discussion of the ICZM implementation overview

Birgit Snoeren, DGEnvironment, presented the results of the implementation overview. Following the agreement in 2004 by the expert group and DGEnvironment to draw up a short overview on the implementation of the EU ICZM Recommendation, questionnaires were sent to all coastal Member States. The replies were received in the period from December 2004 to June 2005. All respondents noted that there would be response to the EU ICZM Recommendation. The implementation of the Recommendation however is not always a National strategy as foreseen in the Recommendation, but takes also the form of additional action to promote ICZM in the frame of existing instruments. The

¹ Dedicated website to follow the projects: www.territoires-littoraux.com

overview showed that mostly the ‘stock-take’ is not one single process but rather a collection of studies, inventories and experiences from projects. The geographical scope of the strategies or additional action is mostly coastal zone specific. From the overview the diversity of responses to the ICZM Recommendation is apparent, with an underlying variation in interpretation of ICZM ranging from emphasis on environment/nature protection, to broader sustainable development of coastal zones and an emphasis on coordination issues. Limited information is yet available on the strategy consultation processes and, unfortunately, there are only a limited number of dedicated websites.

The Chairman invited countries that had not yet replied to the questionnaire to submit their contributions within 2 weeks. DGEnvironment will finalise the overview based on updates received from Member states and further submissions. The overview will then be published on the ICZM web site on the Europa server.

3. Discussion European Stakeholders Forum (Chapter V.2 EU ICZM Recommendation)

Chapter V.2 of the EU ICZM Recommendation invites Member States and Community institutions “to examine the need for a European Coastal Stakeholders forum, to facilitate progress towards a common approach to integrated coastal zone management”. The Chairman invited the experts to express their opinions on the need for such a Forum, and if a Forum is needed what mandate and structure would be appropriate.

The discussion revealed that the need for a ‘Forum’ was shared by several countries (B, CYP, FR, MT, ROM), but also found to be premature given that national stakeholders forums or strategy processes were still being built and it also depends on whether the Commission would propose further Community action in its evaluation of the ICZM Recommendation at the end of 2006 (DE, DK, POL, SW). The need and nature of a forum depend on the purpose: several purposes were raised, but which may require different approaches, not all pertinent at EU level (EL, UK, NL). For policy guidance and methodological/technical support, various bodies are already involved in this. Hence coordination of these existing activities is the critical question. For institutional cooperation, the national or regional level would be most appropriate. Finally, interest for exchange of experience and networking of projects was expressed (DK, FR, UK, ROM). Whatever remit and form would be chosen for a ‘Forum’, major practical obstacles need to be overcome, including the financing of a Forum, the management and/or selection from a very large number of interested parties and administrative bodies, the potential overlap with the multiple existing forums and sufficient specificity or added-value (B, EL, CYP, FIN, NL, UK). Moreover, structures that may be put into place further to the Maritime policy green paper and the Thematic Strategy on the Marine environment should be taken into account (MT). Besides more efforts in linking websites, it was suggested that as an intermediate solution a conference type approach could be considered and possibly enlarge the expert group with more systematic invitations to key stakeholder organisations at EU level (B).

The chairman concluded that as a basis to a meaningful European level forum, first national or regional networks need to be in place. The reports of the Member states in February 2006 should inventorise networks and stakeholder forums, so as to gain a clearer picture of what already exists. The question of a European Stakeholders Forum should be reconsidered later, taking into account structures that may arise in the frame of the European Maritime policy or Thematic strategy on the marine environment. In the meantime better links should be established between websites and a few stakeholder groups at EU level should be invited to further meetings of the ICZM expert group. It is

noted that for ICZM research a major structuring network is supported by the ENCORA project, to start in 2006². A conference might be considered for 2007, after the Recommendation evaluation, possibly in conjunction with an interested Presidency.

4. ICZM evaluation, reporting guidance

Birgit Snoeren, DGEnvironment, briefly recalled that the Commission issued a call for tender to prepare an external evaluation report on the ICZM Recommendation implementation³. The contract is expected to be signed by the end of the year. A critical factor for the evaluation will be the timely submission of national reports by the end of February 2006. As to the contents of the reports, Chapter VI of the ICZM Recommendation provides several points. Further to the request of some countries, DGEnvironment has developed draft guidance elaborating slightly the contents mentioned in the Recommendation and taking into account the information needs of the evaluation. The purpose of this reporting guidance is merely to provide assistance to the countries in writing the national reports; in no way the guidance supersedes or replaces the text of the ICZM Recommendation. Only a few practical aspects have been added in the guidance, such as encouragement to include at least an executive summary in English. Moreover, following the conclusions of the expert group meeting of November 2004, the guidance requests to include the results of the ICZM progress indicator for each country which is deemed feasible. As to the sustainability indicators, the guidance requests countries to consider using these for an analyses of the state of the coast.

In a reaction to the presentation Kathy Belpaeme, Belgium, noted that Belgium is working on its national report and took the guidelines on board. The question arises what will happen with the reports and what the Commission report end 2006 would cover. For Sweden, Sten Jerdinus, stressed that the report guidance as well as the evaluation questions had quite some implications for the national report given that Sweden has chosen a different path for the implementation. It would be difficult to fulfil all the elements by February 2006.

The chairman concluded that good and timely report are in the interest of all, as the reports will be a major input into the evaluation. The ICZM Recommendation provides clear indications on the minimal national reports contents. This covers what has been done to promote ICZM but also measures that are planned. The Guidance is to be considered as further help in the elaboration of the national reports. The expert group will be kept informed about the evaluation contract and likely contacts that the evaluators will want to have with Member States experts. The structure of the Commission report to Council and Parliament is not yet fixed, and will depend to a great extent on the evaluation. The ICZM Recommendation mandates the Commission to propose further Community action if appropriate, which might be amendments to the Recommendation or another act.

5. COPRANET (Coastal Practice Network) publication on ICZM

Alan Pickaver, of the Interreg project 'Coastal Practice Network' or COPRANET, presented to the expert group the project's work towards a reader-friendly publication on ICZM. The target public covers policy makers and civil servants; the brochure is *not* aimed at the general public or academia. The final product should be an attractive

² www.encora.org

³ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm>

publication of 24 pages, A4 format and including pictures. The publication would cover 25 cases, from Europe and a few outside-Europe. The messages developed in the publication cover the value of the coast, the benefits of integrated approaches and examples of why and how ICZM is successful. A foreword from DGEnvironment would be welcomed. The publication is due to be printed in December. A draft text will be circulated to the expert group and Member States are invited to comment on the overall readability, identify whether anything important been left out, whether the text is factually correct and whether other (better) case studies that can be added.

The chairman invited countries to provide their observations and possible case or photo material directly to Alan Pickaver, once the draft text is circulated. DGEnvironment will look at the text and liaise if necessary with other services and the experts in relation to the invitation to provide a foreword.

6. Green Paper on EU Maritime Policy

Floor van Houdt, Maritime Policy task force of DGFish & Maritime affairs, provided a presentation on the initiative of the Commission to launch a Green Paper for a future European maritime policy⁴. 'Maritime' is being understood to cover all human activities that impact on the marine environment. This implies that also the coastal areas are covered. ICZM is of major importance for the Green Paper. Other important issues are safety, competitiveness, employment, climate change, marine resources, research and observation and data collection. While for these issues sectoral Community action already exists, the new element that the Green Paper should provide is the 'coordination' between these sectoral issues and actions. The process of developing the Green Paper is based on working groups established with various interested DGs of the Commission, inputs from stakeholders and an expert group meeting with Member States representatives (due to meet for the first time on 29 September). The process is steered by a group of Commissioners. The Green Paper is due for March/April 2006 and its main purpose is to identify priorities and to provide the basis for a wide consultation. The consultation process is expected to last 6 months.

Mr Gert Verreet, from DGENV Protection of Water & marine environment unit, provided a presentation on the Thematic Strategy on the Protection of the Marine Environment⁵. The Strategy aims to deal in an integrated way with the multiple pressures on the marine environment, based on an ecosystem approach. The Strategy will be composed of a Commission Communication and a proposal for a Framework Directive. The Directive will require regional marine strategies (RMS), which are to cover a description and an assessment of the current environmental status including the environmental impact of human activities thereon; a series of regional environmental objectives to achieve good environmental status; a programme for monitoring, assessment and regular review; a programme of measures designed to reduce the impact of human activity. The RMS are to be built on existing work such as of the regional seas conventions. The package is in the final stages of preparation and is due for adoption by the Commission later this autumn.

⁴ Mandate of the Commission provided by the Communication of 2/3/2005 : "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas";
http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/factsheets/legal_texts/docscom/en/com_maritime_en.pdf

⁵ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/marine.htm>

The Chairman invited Member States to express what issues for coastal zones would be relevant for the Green Paper. The Green Paper would be the overall framework in which further action on integrated coastal zone management would be placed. However, the national reports and the evaluation of the EU ICZM Recommendation would only be available later in 2006, whereas the Green Paper is already due in the first quarter of 2006. Hence the orientations for integrated coastal zone management need to be anticipated. Member States are encouraged to feed the Commission with their suggestions, preferably before mid-November, through the mechanisms set up by the Maritime Policy Task Force and for Integrated Coastal Zone Management directly to DGEEnvironment (Birgit Snoeren).

7. Progress Working group “Indicators and Data” report

Françoise Breton, Chair of the Working group on Indicators and data, presented the activities undertaken by the WG-ID since the last expert group meeting, highlighting some examples of indicator results already produced and activities planned in various countries. As regards the sustainability indicators, the working group proposes to focus on providing methodological support; liaise to projects that provide indicators; perform quality checks; analyse the available results. Further to the observations raised in the last expert group meeting, a few final changes were made to the ICZM progress indicator. To assist the actual implementation of the indicator, the working group has developed guidelines that contain explanatory notes and suggestion to organise workshops to fill out the indicator with the various levels of governance and interested parties. The guidelines were sent to the expert group with the invitation of this meeting and the working group.

As focus for the future work, in 2006, it is proposed that the working group concentrates on continued actual indicator production; involvement of more countries in the working group; assessment of the indicator results and a methodology to link the sustainability indicators and the ICZM progress indicator. Around these items, the working group proposes to develop terms of reference its work in 2006.

Guiseppe Bortone, Italy, suggested the indicator work would be more practically useful if it incorporated a future dimension (scenarios). Kathy Belpaeme, Belgium, and Andrzej Cieslak, Poland, indicated a better alternative needs to be found to the pure voluntary basis on which the indicator work is progressing currently, especially to ensure cooperation of a wider number of countries and long-term resource allocation. Sten Jerdenius, Sweden, Athena Mourmouris, Greece, stressed that flexibility is needed as not all sustainability indicators are relevant to their countries. Hans Balffoort, the Netherlands, indicated that the Dutch national report would cover the indicators and that the Netherlands has asked Flanders to assess its coastal report.

The Chairman thanked the working group for its excellent work and invited all countries to provide input to its work. On the current basis of the EU ICZM Recommendation, a more firm requirement for the delivery of the indicators is not feasible. Possible further action after the ICZM evaluation clearly should provide a stronger basis as regards data and indicators. That being said, the diversity of coastal situation is a reality and the sustainability indicators could be regarded in terms of concentric circles, whereby the core is formed of indicators on which all agree, a second circle would be indicators on which most agree and a third circle, indicators that countries add to cover the specificity of its coastal areas. However, to have a better view across Europe more countries should participate in the actual indicator work.

8. Progress towards the state of the European coasts report – European Environment Agency

Andrus Meiner, European Environment Agency, reported briefly on progress made towards the state of the European coasts report. In March a first consultation meeting was held in Barcelona. A first draft of the report is being circulated in the EIONET⁶, with a deadline of end September. A final draft is expected for November/early December. The report is due for publication early 2006. The report is a pilot-exercise as there is no established framework for an integrated assessment of data. The work so far shows that there are still significant data availability constraints. Consultation, such as through the WG-ID, is important to fill data gaps and to bring in a representative range of examples and case studies.

The chairman invited the experts to liaise with the colleagues of the EIONET/EEA network and to provide input to the EEA on this report.

Conclusions

The Chairman concluded by urging the Member States to present the national ICZM reports and strategies on time, i.e. by the end of February 2006. Member States are encouraged to use the reporting guidance provided for the national reports. To finalise the interim 'state of play', countries that have not yet responded to the questionnaire should do so within 2 weeks.

The question of a possible European Coastal Stakeholders Forum will be revisited in the future, but in the meantime relevant stakeholder organisations will be invited to the expert group's meetings and a better use and linkage of websites is to be put in place.

To support the publication on ICZM, the experts are invited to provide contribution directly to the COPRANET lead partner EUCC.

The Member States are invited to follow closely the development of the Green Paper towards a future European Maritime policy and provide contributions.

The Working group on indicator and data is encouraged to continue its work along the orientations presented for 2006. Countries that have not yet actively contributed to the data and indicator work are encouraged to do so. The experts are also invited to liaise with EIONET/EEA to provide input to the report on the State of the European Coasts.

The next meeting would be probably around April 2006, when the interim report of the ICZM evaluation should be available.

⁶ http://eea.eionet.eu.int/Public/irc/eionet-circle/te/library?l=/products_eionet/eionet_consultation&vm=detailed&sb=Title



Agenda

Expert group ICZM Recommendation

**5th Meeting, 22 September 2005
Charlemagne, room S1, Brussels
10 hrs – 17 hrs**

10.00 Welcome

- State-of- play implementation of the ICZM Recommendation
- presentations by Member States of national processes

[11.00 coffee break]

- presentations by Member States of national processes
- presentation and discussion of implementation matrix
- discussion European Stakeholders Forum (Chapter V.2 Recommendation)

- ICZM evaluation, reporting guidance
- Discussion

- COPRANET publication on ICZM

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

- Green Paper on EU Maritime Policy
- Presentation, discussion

[15.00 coffee break]

- Progress Working group “Indicators and Data” report
- presentation, discussion
- Progress towards the state of the European coasts report – European Environment Agency
- presentation

16.30 Conclusions

ATTENDANCE LIST

Fifth meeting Expert group - Integrated coastal zone management ICZM

22/09/2005 – Brussels

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