

# PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## BRIDGING THE GAP: INFORMATION FOR ACTION

### MOBILISING KNOWLEDGE FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

The Burlington Hotel, Dublin, Ireland, 28-30 April 2004

#### Wednesday 28 April 2004 Plenary Session and Keynote Addresses

**Facilitator:** Miriam O'Callaghan, presenter, Radio Telefís Éireann

09.30 Opening of the Conference  
**Mary Kelly**, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland (Conference Chair)  
**Pat the Cope Gallagher T.D.**, Minister of State for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland

#### Morning

#### Changing the World: what moves us to action?

10.00  
Information for Action in Europe: an East-West perspective  
**Catherine Day**, Director General, DG Environment, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium  
**Jacqueline McGlade**, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (EEA), Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Marta Bonifert**, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Szentendre, Hungary

11.00 Break

11.20 The Knowledge Gap: A national perspective on what we need to know to deliver a better environment  
UNEP perspective  
Water science for policy actions: are we doing a good job?  
**Barbara Young**, Chief Executive, Environment Agency of England and Wales, Bristol, UK  
**Shafqat Kakakhel**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya  
**Laszlo Somlyody**, European Environment Agency (EEA) Scientific Committee, and Budapest University of Technology and Economy

**Panel Discussion**, opened by **Anders Wijkman** MEP, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

13.00 Lunch

#### Afternoon

**Taking stock and charting progress: Monitoring and reporting**  
**Chair:** Maurice Coughlan, Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland

14.00 Environmental information and reporting: OECD experience  
Progress since Bridging  
**Myriam Linster**, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, France  
**John Seager**, Environment Agency of England

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the Gap 1, London  
25 years' experience with  
EU monitoring on water:  
lessons learned and  
future perspectives

and Wales, Bristol, UK

**Torben Moth Iversen**, National Environmental  
Research Institute, Denmark

15.15 **Panel Discussion**

15.30 Break

**Taking stock and charting progress:  
Research, technology and innovation**

**Chair:** Jacqueline McGlade,  
EEA, Denmark

15.45 Sustainability research  
and sectoral integration:  
Progress since Bridging  
the Gap 2001, Stockholm

**Erik Fellenius**, Swedish Environmental Protection  
Agency, Stockholm, Sweden

Environmental Science  
and Technologies: an  
Action Plan

**Timo Mäkelä**, Director, DG Environment,  
Brussels, Belgium

Operational integration of  
sustainable development:  
the contribution of  
environmental  
technologies, scientific,  
economic and social  
knowledge

**Pierre Valette**, Acting Director, DG Research,  
Brussels, Belgium

Industry perspective

**Paul Ridout**, Chairman, Association of Marine  
Scientific Industries (AMSI), London, UK

17.00 **Panel Discussion**

17.30 Close of session.

19.00 **Reception, National Gallery of Ireland.**

## Thursday 29 April 2004

## Parallel Sessions

Session 1	<a href="#">Environment and human health</a>
Session 2	<a href="#">Climate change: managing impacts and communicating issues</a>
Session 3	<a href="#">Impact assessment: the environmental dimension</a>
Session 4	<a href="#">Biodiversity: policies, research and information for action</a>
Session 5	Environmental information needs 2010 and beyond

19.00 Conference dinner, The Cusack Suite, Croke Park.

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## Session 1: Environment and human health

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*The focus will be on the four priority diseases of the EU Action Plan on Environment and Health (2004-2012), including neurodevelopmental and respiratory diseases in children. Knowledge and communication gaps between the reality, research and effective priority actions will be explored.*

**Rapporteur:** David Gee,  
EEA, Denmark

Each speaker is allocated 20 minutes.

### Morning

#### Closing gaps between reality and research: what do we know?

**Chair:** To be confirmed

09.00	Introduction	<b>David Gee</b> , European Environment Agency (EEA), Copenhagen, Denmark
	Neurodevelopmental disorders and children	<b>Herbert Needleman</b> , Dept of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, US <b>Janna Koppe</b> , Dept of Neonatology, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
	Respiratory diseases and children	<b>Peter J Helms</b> , Dept of Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK
11.00	Break	
11.30		<b>Gennaro D'Amato</b> , Dept of Chest Diseases, Ospedaliera ad Alta Specialita, Naples, Italy
	Biomonitoring	<b>Lisbeth Ehlert Knudsen</b> , Environmental Medicine Institute of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
	Discussion	
13.00	Lunch	

### Afternoon

#### Closing the communications gap between research and policy action

**Chair:** Philippe Bordeau,  
Université Libre de Bruxelles

14.30		<b>Sylvia Medina</b> , National Institute of Public Health, Paris, France <b>Leendert van Bree</b> , Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (RIVM) and coordinator of AIRNET, a thematic network on air pollution and health <b>Hanns Moshammer</b> , Institute of Environmental Health, University of Vienna, Austria
16.00	Break	
16.30	Panel discussion	Chair: <b>David Briggs</b> , Dept of Environment and Health Sciences, Imperial College, London, UK
17.30	Close of session.	

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## Session 2: Climate change: managing impacts and communicating issues

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*This session aims to explain the science of extreme weather events, what impacts are expected, what we can learn from responses to these events, and explore how actions can be accelerated through effective communications between governments and civil society.*

**Rapporteur:** Andre Jol, EEA, Copenhagen, Denmark

Each speaker is allocated 20 minutes.

### Morning

#### Reviewing the science: what impacts are expected?

**Chair:** Donal Enright, Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland

- 09.00 Adapting to climate change: learning from experiences with current extreme weather events
- John Schellhuber**, Tyndall Centre, UK and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impacts Research, Germany  
**Simon Brown**, The Hadley Centre, Met Office, UK  
**Halldor Thorgeirsson**, Director, Office of Sustainable Development and International Affairs, Ministry for the Environment, Iceland  
**Ad de Roo**, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

11.00 Break

#### Recent experiences and emerging responses

**Chair:** Artur Runge-Metzger, DGEnvironment, European Commission

- 11.30 Recent experiences of extreme events, and emerging responses
- Marie Zahradnikova**, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic, **Sandor Toth**, National General Directorate for Environment, Nature Conservation and Water, Hungary, **Régis Juvanon du Vachat**, Météo France, **Merylyn McKenzie Hedger**, Environment Agency of England and Wales, UK, **Janusz Zaleski**, representative from Poland

13.00 Discussion  
Lunch

### Afternoon

#### Communicating climate change

**Chair:** Prudencio Perera, DG Environment, European Commission

- 14.00 Getting the message out: presentations from different countries and sectors
- John Sweeney**, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland  
**Bettina Menne**, World Health Organisation, Rome  
**Thomas Voigt**, European Topic Centre Air and Climate, EEA  
**Kerstin Heikenfeldt** and **Malin Fritzén**, Swedish Climate Change Information Campaign, Stockholm, Sweden
- 15.30 Break
- 16.00 **Panel discussion:** communicating the need to respond to climate change impacts
- Paul Brown**, The Guardian newspaper, **Philip Campbell**, Nature journal, **Kerstin Heikenfeldt** and **Malin Fritzén**, Swedish Climate Change Information Campaign, **Leo Enright**, science broadcaster
- 17.00 Close of session.

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## **Session 3: Impact assessment: the environmental dimension**

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*In this session there will be an examination of current experiences with impact assessment at EU, country and regional level. The session will in particular examine how environmental issues are assessed in relation to the economic and social pillars, and how synergies and trade-offs between impacts are addressed.*

**Rapporteur:** To be confirmed

Each speaker is allocated 20 minutes.

### **Morning**

**Chair:** Frank Convery,  
Environmental Institute,  
University College Dublin

09.00	Chairman's Introduction	
	Learning from the European Commission's impact assessment experience	<b>Christine Dalby</b> , Secretariat General, European Commission <b>David Wilkinson</b> , Institute for European Environmental Policy <b>Catharina Sikow-Magny</b> , European Commission, Directorate General Energy and Transport <b>John Hontelez</b> , European Environmental Bureau, Brussels, Belgium <b>Francis Jacobs</b> , European Parliament Environment Committee
11.00	Break	
11.30	<b>Panel discussion:</b> Developing an effective Impact Assessment system	
13.00	Lunch	

### **Afternoon**

**Chair:** Frank Convery,  
Environmental Institute,  
University College Dublin

14.30	What can we learn from country and regional experiences?	<b>Karen Hill</b> , Cabinet Office, UK <b>Paul Klaassens</b> , Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands <b>Neil Maxwell</b> , Office of the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development, Canada
	Research and information needs for effective impact assessment	<b>Marialuisa Tamborra</b> , DG Research, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
16.00	Break	
16.30	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> What are the needs in terms of information, networks and research to improve impact assessment?	
17.30	Close of session.	

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## **Session 4: Biodiversity: policies, research and information for action**

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*This session will examine the policy response to biodiversity loss, land use change and sustainable development pressures. It will consider implementation, knowledge, action and communications gaps, discussing the research and information needed to support this policy response.*

**Rapporteur:** James Williams, JNCC, UK

Each speaker is allocated 20 minutes.

### **Morning**

#### **Implementation of current policy instruments**

**Chair:** Gordon McInnes, EEA, Copenhagen, Denmark

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 09.00 | Perspectives on the implementation gap | <b>Nicholas Hanley</b> , European Commission, DG Environment<br><b>Karin Zaunberger</b> , European Commission, DG Research<br><b>Mark Collins</b> , UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre<br><b>Jeffrey McNeely</b> , IUCN the World Conservation Union, Chief Scientist. |
| 11.00 | Break                                  |   |

#### **Biodiversity, agriculture and land use: Bridging the Gap between vision and reality**

- |       |            |  |
|-------|------------|--|
| 11.30 |            | <b>John Feehan</b> , Faculty of Agriculture, University College Dublin, Ireland<br><b>Jaroslav Prazan</b> , Agricultural Research Institute, Czech Republic<br><b>Ybele Hoogeveen</b> , EEA, Copenhagen, Denmark |
|       | Discussion |  |
| 13.00 | Lunch      |  |

### **Afternoon**

#### **The needs of effective biodiversity action plans – what are the gaps?**

**Chair:** To be confirmed

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 14.00 | Case study: the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation   | <b>Steve Waldren</b> , Trinity College Dublin, Ireland  |
|       | The Action Gap: using current instruments and available information to achieve the 2010 target                       | <b>James Williams</b> , JNCC, UK<br><b>Allan Watt</b> , CEH Banchory, Scotland, UK<br><b>Lilian van der Bijl</b> , National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark |
| 15.15 | Break  |   |
| 15.45 | The Communication Gap  | <b>Maria Johansson</b> , Dept of Environmental Psychology, Lund University, Sweden  |
|       | <b>Panel Discussion:</b> Articulating, communicating and addressing the needs of effective biodiversity action plans |   |
| 17.30 | Close of session.  |   |

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## Session 5: Environmental information needs 2010 and beyond

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*This session will address the gaps between foreseen policy needs for information, and current data flows and indicators. Initiatives such as GMES, INSPIRE and the review of EU reporting obligations provide opportunities to bridge these gaps, but also present risks if not effectively co-ordinated.*

**Rapporteur:** John Seager,  
Environment Agency,  
Bristol, UK

Each speaker is allocated 15 minutes.

### Morning

#### Current information needs, role of indicators and data flows

**Chair:** Torben Moth Iversen, NERI, Denmark

- 09.00 Chairman's introduction
- Information needs for environmental policy making **Prudencio Perera**, Director, DG Environment, European Commission, Belgium
- 10.00 Experiences in countries on networking, data flows and analysis (including indicators) to support policy **William Sonntag**, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
**Dennis O'Farrell**, Environment Canada  
**Barbara Clark**, Federal Environment Agency, Berlin, Germany  
**Claudio Maricchiolo**, Agenzia per la Protezione dell'Ambiente e per i servizi Tecnici (APAT), Rome Italy  
**Jan Voet**, IRCELINE, Brussels, Belgium
- 11.45 **Discussion:** Current experiences, what works best and what should be changed to take account of recent EPRG conclusions

#### Beyond current networks, data flows and analysis: How to close the gap up to 2010 and thereafter

- 12.30 EEA perspective **Jock Martin**, European Environment Agency (EEA), Copenhagen, Denmark
- 13.00 Lunch

### Afternoon

#### Examples of how Europe could move forward on closing the gap

**Chair:** Torben Moth Iversen, NERI, Denmark

- 14.30 Space observation **Mark Doherty**, European Space Agency  
**Dave Palmer**, Environment Agency of England and Wales, UK  
Integrated environmental data in Ireland **Gerard O'Leary**, Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford, Ireland  
Maximising existing data and modelling techniques **Phillippe Crouzet**, Institute Francais de l'Environnement (IFEN), France  
The role of research **Michel Cornaert**, DG Research, European Commission, Belgium
- 16.00 National viewpoints **Jan Voet**, IRCELINE, Brussels, Belgium
- 16.30 Discussion
- 17.00 Close of session.

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Friday 30 April 2004

Plenary Session

## Morning

**Facilitator:** Miriam O'Callaghan, presenter, Radio Telefís Éireann

### Summaries of five parallel sessions by rapporteurs

- 09.00
1. Environment and human health
  2. Climate change: managing impacts and communicating issues
  3. Impact assessment: the environmental dimension
  4. Biodiversity: policies, research and information for action
  5. Environmental information needs: 2010 and beyond

Responses and reflections

11.00 Break

### Future scenarios and directions for policy-relevant information gathering and research

- 11.30
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| "Contraction and Convergence - A Constitutional Framework for Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change"                            | <b>Aubrey Meyer</b> , Director, Global Commons Institute, London, UK                      |
| The importance of being a boundary worker   | <b>Roel In 't Veld</b> , Advisory Council for Research On Nature and Environment, (RMNO)  |
| The role of European Environmental Advisory Councils (EEAC) to enrich the quality of policy advice on national and EU level | <b>Franc Lobnik</b> , European Environmental Advisory Council                             |
| Future perspectives on policy support for efficient policy implementation   | <b>Lars-Erik Liljelund</b> , Director General, Swedish EPA, EEA Management Board Chairman |
- 13.00 Chairperson's Conclusions **Mary Kelly**, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland (Conference Chair)
- 13.20 Close of Conference and Lunch