Conclusions of the International Workshop on
"Best Practices for Integration
of Environmental Protection Requirements into Other Policies"
Bonn, 25 & 26 May 1999

1. The "Workshop on Best Practices" was held in Bonn on 25 and 26 May 1999 under the auspices of the German Presidency of the EC Council of Ministers and at the invitation of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in co-operation with the European Commission (DG XI). Among the 100 participants were representatives of EU Member States, Applicant Countries, and other European countries, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as environmental non-governmental organisations.¹

2. A prerequisite for achieving sustainable development is the integration of environmental requirements into the definition and implementation of all sector policies and activities. This received priority in the 5th Environmental Action Programme which established the integration into key economic sectors (agriculture, industry, transport, energy, tourism). Article 6 of the EC Treaty, as amended by the Amsterdam Treaty – frequently referred to as the "integration principle"² – stipulates the need to integrate environmental protection requirements into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities. Based on the European Commission’s communication "Partnership for Integration", the European Council at Cardiff committed itself to rapidly implementing the "integration principle" and invited all relevant formations of the Council to establish their own strategies to give effect to environmental integration and sustainable development within their respective policy areas. The Conclusions of the European Council at Vienna called for a review of the integration of environmental protection and sustainable development into European Union policies. This review is to be discussed at the European Council at Helsinki. This review includes the identification of main difficulties and obstacles as well as "Best Practices" in Member States to overcome the lack of integration and substantial improvement in the state of the Community environment.

¹ EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom;
EU Applicant Countries: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia;
Non-EU Countries: Norway, Switzerland;
Non-Governmental Organisations: Birdlife International/NABU, Climate Network Europe, Deutscher Naturschutzing, European Environmental Bureau, European Federation for Transport and Environment.

² At the Workshop several participants highlighted the need for caution when using the term "integration principle". This is because Article 6 of the ECT in its current form does not constitute a recognised principle of environmental law, such as the polluter pays principle or the precautionary principle. Article 6 of the ECT does, however, establish an overarching legal responsibility and a mandate for the Organs of the European Union to integrate environmental concerns into all Community policies. It is this character of Article 6 of the ECT which has resulted in the legal literature and political discussion to frequently refer to Article 6 of the ECT as the "integration principle".
3. The objective of the Workshop was to serve as a forum for exchanging experiences and ideas on how best to give effect to the “integration principle” in establishing institutions and administrative structures, adopting suitable instruments, and developing effective policy strategies. In two plenary sessions and three separate working groups the participants heard and discussed 18 presentations and country statements. The German Presidency of the EC Council of Ministers as the convenor of the Workshop arrived at the conclusions outlined below on Best Practices for the Integration of Environmental Protection Requirements into Others Policies.

Institutions and Structures for Integration

4. Member States and non-Member States pursue a range of strategies for advancing the integration of environmental protection requirements into other policies. They have introduced or plan to introduce a variety of institutional and structural arrangements, based on “horizontal” and “vertical” co-ordination and (public) coalition-building, in order to meet the challenges of integration. The main challenges are:

- Securing lasting political commitment at the highest level for the process of integration;
- Overcoming misunderstanding and mistrust between and within ministries;
- Securing sufficient resources for ministries of environment and other ministries to ensure the effective implementation of integration;
- Effecting a “cultural change” in environmental policy making from relying on legislation towards managing of complex issues using a wider variety of instruments;
- Ensuring adequate training for officials in applying the techniques of integration;
- Building acceptance for the need to compromise, which may involve concessions from all sides.

5. Improved “horizontal” co-operation and co-ordination among sectors of policy can enhance effective participation of environmental administration in sectoral decision-making relating to other policies. The below examples are illustrative of this point.

6. Collective cabinet responsibility may help to find highest-level support for the co-ordination among policies and allows for the implementation of the “integration principle” across all government ministries or departments. This would be in keeping with the general aim of integrating environmental concerns and actions into all policy areas with a view to achieving sustainable development.

7. The exchange of information across governmental ministries or departments can be facilitated by allocating responsibilities and establishing information channels. This might include establishing a “green” network of government ministries or departments, possibly chaired by the minister of environment, or other similar types of inter-ministerial or inter-departmental mechanisms.

8. When planning sectoral activities with significant environmental implications, the ministry of environment should participate in the setting of environmental objectives. Consultation at an early stage is important.
9. The influence of ministries of environment on other policies can be strengthened by attaching certain sectoral responsibilities, such as energy conservation or transport, to them.

10. The creation of mirror departments within ministries of environment that shadow other ministries and "green" mirror departments within other ministries have, in some cases and in some countries, proven useful in facilitating inter-ministerial or inter-departmental communication.

11. Information, education, and training programmes for government officials are essential to raise the awareness in different governmental organisations of environmental protection and sustainable development. Mutual understanding can be hastened by "rotating" officials among ministries. The personnel of the "green" mirror departments could be recruited from both the environment and the respective sectoral ministries.

12. Joint project groups composed of representatives from various ministries or departments – sometimes also involving stakeholders – have been successful in addressing complex cross-cutting issues, such as the elaboration of sustainable transport or energy and climate protection strategies. Where there are clear and binding commitments, such joint project groups can be usefully lead by a sectoral ministry.

13. Enhanced "vertical" co-ordination among various levels of government (European, national, regional, local) helps build alliances in favour of integrating environmental concerns and actions into all policy areas. Vertical co-ordination may be of crucial importance where responsibilities for sectoral policies and environmental protection are allocated to different levels of government.

14. Co-ordination units have proved successful in facilitating policy co-ordination between different levels, particularly in federal or decentralised systems of government. Often such units or committees include representatives and stakeholders from local communities.

15. The implementation of sustainable development strategies can be helped by combining 'top-down' with 'bottom-up' activities and projects, using general guidelines including, inter alia, action plans and sectoral targets for higher levels of administration and more specific guidelines for lower levels. ‘Regional Sustainability Fora’ have proved to be particularly useful in developing such complementary strategies.

16. Transparency and participation already during policy formulation are important to build on the commitment of those responsible for implementing environmental policies on the regional and local level.

17. Mechanisms for external or public consultations can mobilise the wider citizenship and facilitate coalition building with non-environmental interests. Examples of this follow in the next paragraphs.

18. Advisory bodies established jointly by two or more ministries or departments can be useful in bringing together different networks of scientific experts and promoting an integrated discussion of cross-sectoral issues. These bodies may be round tables, multi-stakeholder consultative committees, and similar structures. In addition, existing non-environmental advisory bodies can help promote integration when their membership is expanded to include environmental interests.
19. Broad-based co-operation between environmental non-governmental organisations, trade unions, industry, agricultural organisations, consumer organisations, and governmental representatives has, for example, been successful in comprehensively assessing possibilities for reducing the use of pesticides.

20. In conclusion, there is a range of practical experiences with institutions and structures for integration of environmental protection into political decision-making, and their wider application would strengthen the practical application of the "integration principle". No one institutional model is applicable to all countries, however, because of differences in institutional structures and political cultures. Institutional innovations are a necessary but not a sufficient condition for successful integration. Successful integration requires political commitment from the highest level (mainstreaming) to formulate and co-ordinate integrated policy approaches, send strong signals to all sectors, and enhance the standing of ministries of environment. Organisational and procedural arrangements may have to be revised from time to time in order to allow for improved co-operation among officials and to build ownership of and commitment for the integration process. The ministries of environment should explain their objectives by providing reliable information and emphasise win-win options as between environmental and other social and economic benefits in order to gain the commitment of sectoral ministries.

Procedures and Instruments for Integration

21. There are a number of procedural obstacles to introducing and implementing effective instruments for integrating environmental protection requirements into other policies, which give rise to the following challenges:

- Setting clear objectives and targets, as well as establishing suitable indicators and appropriate time-frames for their attainment;
- Making available adequate data and information for decision-making;
- Ensuring that key staff responsible for implementing the "integration principle" have appropriate education, information and training;
- Ensuring effective and transparent public communication and participation during policy formulation;
- Communicating public policy objectives and progress to the public on a continuous basis.

Governments operate a varied set of procedures and instruments to give effect to the "integration principle", notably policy appraisals and evaluation mechanisms, "greening" of government and market-based instruments.

22. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)\(^3\) of policies, plans and programmes (including draft legislation, administrative orders, and fiscal measures) is a key tool for providing decision-

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\(^3\) During the Workshop discussion there was some confusion with respect to the terminology "Strategic Environmental Assessment". Instead of this terminology, some countries use the terms "Environmental appraisal of policies" or "Environmental Test". In essence, all refer to a process which ensures that the likely environmental impact of draft
makers with the necessary information to enable them to integrate environmental considerations into their decisions. In some countries, SEA is an integral part of the decision-making process in certain areas of particular environmental concern and sets the framework for the use of indicators and further monitoring. SEA is particularly important for measures that greatly interfere with the environment, such as transport and energy policies. The following paragraphs describe procedures and instruments that appear to be particularly effective.

23. SEA of draft policies, plans or programmes may be undertaken by “green” focal points within sectoral ministries or departments, as well as Parliaments. This facilitates the mobilisation of knowledge within the sectoral ministries or department but requires an effective co-ordination or review mechanism. Instituting a review mechanism, when potential conflicts are anticipated by sectoral ministries or departments, can be an incentive for them to formulate policies that take better account of environmental requirements. Scrutiny by parliaments or parliamentary committees plays an important role in SEAs and reviews.

24. Combining SEA with other kinds of economic and social assessments helps to establish SEA as an integral part of the legislation process and is a suitable means to promote sustainable development.

25. Clear and concise guidance to key staff in sectoral ministries about SEA methods is useful in maintaining sectoral responsibility while at the same time promoting the recognition of environmental concerns further ‘upstream’ in the decision-making process.

26. Introducing SEA leads to transparency in decision-making, with data and information as well as results being made accessible to the general public. This provides the public with the opportunity to make comments and helps initiate and sustain well informed debates. Such debates are facilitated by the creation of “policy memory”, i.e. an institutionalised pool of knowledge about past policy-making experience within a policy area, which itself should be accessible and in the public domain.

27. Sustainable development strategies, national environmental policy reports, or state of the environment reports, that set out desirable trends, targets and timetables, can be used as benchmarks for assessing the environmental impact.

28. Follow-up or evaluation mechanisms such as benchmarking or the use of indicators provide essential guidance to decision-makers about the effectiveness of policies and programmes. These also enhance transparency, underline sectoral responsibilities for achieving environmental objectives, and facilitate SEA. The following instruments and procedures seem particularly effective.

29. Environmental accounts, published in similar format to economic accounts, can reveal how various sectors of the economy contribute to environmental degradation. Changes in the “eco-productivity” of individual sectors, which examine environmental effects in contrast to employment and output, can be tracked through integrated environmental and economic policy documents, plans and programmes, and of their alternatives, are identified, described, assessed and monitored. This ensures public information and involvement and that all results are taken into account during the decision-making process in a transparent manner.
accounts. A manageable set of environmental indicators (headline indicators) – such as economic indicators in economic policy—is necessary. This set of indicators should not be too complex nor designed to achieve scientific precision.

30. At the policy level, integrated assessments of sectoral measures can be communicated through reports detailing each sectoral ministry’s or department’s proposals on measures and expenditures. The relevant data base is often incomplete, and full access of national authorities to environmental data can be problematic in Member States with decentralised or federal systems of government. Difficulties in data collection must not be used as an excuse for not undertaking integrated assessments.

31. Periodic evaluation by independent (parliamentary) commissions or advisory bodies, such as an environmental auditing unit, will raise the credibility of policy formulation and the quality of evaluation results. A precondition for successful evaluation is the competence of auditing units to have access to all relevant data and information and to compel all government officials to give evidence. Where results are accessible to decision-makers and the public, the quality of policy debates is improved and awareness and support for the integration process will be enhanced.

32. With respect to the various European and international efforts to develop sustainability indicators, care must be taken to ensure compatibility between national, European and international methodologies. A core set of indicators applicable in all countries and across sectors is being developed by the European Environment Agency, which should facilitate communication and send clear signals to decision-makers.

33. ‘Greening’ government activities is an important practical application of the "integration principle", which sets a positive example for others. The market impact of green government schemes gives an impetus for greener management techniques, as well as production and consumption patterns in society as a whole. Some best practices appear in the following paragraphs.

34. Government agencies raise the visibility and credibility of their efforts to integrate environmental concerns into government activities by seeking to have their activities certified under recognised environmental audit schemes. Theses schemes include independent assessments of environmental management and performance.

35. Environmental purchasing guides can help public procurement officers in identifying environmentally sound products and services. If made accessible to the public, green procurement guidelines stimulate the development of suitable products and services. Ecolabels are important instruments for providing clear guidance to purchasing officers and at the same time informing consumers. They also reward companies offering labelled products or services with a market advantage.

36. Tender specifications are an important element in greener public purchasing and should be adapted to reflect environmental protection priorities and harmonisation across ministries or levels of government. Thus, the market potential of green procurement can be fully exploited.
37. Green public procurement can be an important element in successfully implementing integrated product policies (IPP) or other complex policy challenges, such as climate change abatement initiatives.

38. Market-based instruments of environmental policy, such as ecological tax, environmental subsidy reform, and environmental charges, are essential elements for providing market support for environmental protection. This is highlighted in the following paragraphs.

39. General tax structures can affect a broad range of economic activities, notably transport, energy, agriculture, and industry. For instance, higher or differentiated taxes on fuel and vehicles can be expected to significantly reduce pollution and emissions of CO\textsubscript{2} and other greenhouse gases. The effect is that environmental concerns are incorporated into the economic decision-making of affected sectors, especially where tax rates increase steadily over time ("phasing in" or "escalator effect").

40. Environmental taxes—in combination with exemptions for those taking state-of-the-art measures to improve their environmental performance—can provide powerful incentives for behavioural change. In implementing this approach, some states set clear targets and timetables, and establish monitoring mechanisms.

41. A successful strategy to gain support for introducing ecological taxation is to simultaneously reduce the cost of labour to firms (e.g. by lowering the social costs). This would have the effect of stimulating environmental improvement and fuller employment. Carrying out SEA of proposed environmental tax schemes also helps to stimulate a well informed public debate and thus contributes to public acceptance of such reforms.

42. Identifying, reforming, and reducing environmentally harmful subsidies results in a ‘double-dividend’, by reducing both public expenditures and environmental harm. This ‘win-win’-effect has in some cases helped to overcome conflicts between ministries of economics, finance and environment. Environmental subsidy reform often constitutes a first step towards broader reform of public budgets.

43. Road pricing systems are a good example of a useful mechanism to influence individual mobility and freight transport. Financial support to public transport systems can also promote a shift towards more sustainable mobility.

44. In conclusion, it was noted that there is a multitude of procedures and instruments to integrate environmental protection requirements into other policies. Furthermore, there is an ongoing process of policy learning by comparing national experiences—notably through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Energy Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and various groups and networks supported by the Directorate-General XI of the European Commission—which helps to disseminate knowledge about best practices.

The Role of Policy-Making Initiatives, Information and Communication

45. There are many obstacles and difficulties encountered in initiating policies and effectively using information and communication to further the integration of environmental protection requirements into other policies. Chief among them are:
• Insufficient experience in ministries of environment with communicating and co-ordinating, and a lack of transparency across sectors;
• Insufficient awareness of the concept of sustainable development in other ministries, and lack of experience in setting environmental targets and sub-targets;
• Insufficient application of socio-economic analyses and lack of cost-effectiveness in the adopted measures;
• Ineffective involvement of the general public;
• Lack of data and statistics to assess goal attainment.

Well-targeted policy-making initiatives, information campaigns, and public communication about the needs and objectives of environmental and sustainable development policies help create a favourable climate for implementing the "integration principle". These include general plans or strategies for sustainable development, specific programmes to meet particular challenges such as the commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

46. Most European countries have developed general sustainable development plans or strategies and increasing attention is being currently devoted to their implementation and revision. Certain aspects of such plans and strategies, which may be complemented by more specific sectoral programmes or measures, appear particularly important.

47. Some strategies are based on definitions of sustainable development that are more specific or precise than that in the 'Brundtland' Report. The procedural character of sustainable development may be highlighted, characterising it as a guided process of societal change. The relationship between the environmental, social, and economic dimensions may need to be clarified in order to avoid confusion over the concept of "sustainable development".

48. A number of sustainable development plans or strategies define and prioritise overall policy objectives, set out specific national targets and identify corresponding sectoral responsibilities, including medium and long-term time-frames for meeting targets and indicators. A committee for sustainable development might support the elaboration of policy objectives, the definition of targets on higher and lower levels of government, and the implementation of strategies. Sectoral ministries or agencies should be responsible or closely involved in the setting of targets.

49. When designing sustainable development plans or strategies, it has proven useful to build consensus on long-term objectives and ownership of the integration process before specific measures for achieving these have been identified. The involvement of mediators, such as elected representatives, experts, including academics, and stakeholders, such as environmental non-governmental organisations or industrial associations, helps to establish broad and inclusive policy objectives and facilitates their implementation. Close involvement of affected sectors is of particular importance.

50. Local Agenda 21 initiatives can facilitate dissemination of "best practices" for integrating environmental protection requirements into other policies, particularly where effective networks for information exchange, co-operation, and co-ordination exist at the local
community level. Experience with Local Agenda 21 initiatives can also be usefully incorporated into the design and implementation of policy strategies also at the Member State and EC levels.

51. Some sustainable development strategies are subject to regular revision by parliament, parliamentary committees, or other bodies. Such revisions can ensure that objectives are up-dated to take account of progress and new challenges and that the plans or strategies retain their role in guiding societal change. In this way, resilience and continuity can be built into the process of implementing sustainable development.

52. Meeting certain specific objectives or commitments, such as those contained in the Kyoto Protocol, requires co-ordinating cross-sectoral policy goals (national emission targets) and sectoral strategies. For example, climate change initiatives underline the need for effective implementation of the "integration principle" across a wide range of policies. They have a pioneering function in implementing sustainable development strategies, and allow lessons to be learned. The below examples illustrate this point.

53. An overall energy strategy is required. This may include the promotion of research and development, the establishment of energy information centres, energy auditing schemes, voluntary agreements and provision of investment support for measures to strengthen energy efficiency or renewable energies.

54. Various tax schemes (for example, taxes on electricity, fuel or CO₂ emissions) can be valuable components of strategies to implement the Kyoto targets. Public support for such tax schemes can be raised by placing eco-taxes in the broader context of the overall taxing system.

55. Benchmarking in various industrial sectors, the development and diffusion of clean technologies, and pilot projects aimed at changing consumption patterns can help improve energy efficiency.

56. Enhanced transparency in policy-making, involvement of affected parties and provision of information to the general public are important elements in facilitating the implementation of the "integration principle". The below examples may be regarded as "best practices".

57. Access to environmental information and justice in environmental matters strengthens the role of stakeholders in implementing the "integration principle". The dissemination of information about environmental concerns and "best practices" can be improved by an active government information dissemination policy, such as the establishment of environmental information centres or working with public libraries, and by using effective information channels.

58. Training programmes for journalists and media representatives can raise the quality of information about environmental problems and sustainable development strategies.

59. Mandatory consultation with environmental non-governmental organisations during political decision-making increases the consideration given to environmental protection requirements in all policy sectors. Respect for the "integration principle" is more likely where environmental non-governmental organisations are regular members of advisory bodies to the government, including in economic and social affairs.
60. Regular funding for environmental non-governmental organisations and improved “rules of the game” allow for more effective public participation in decision-making, increases the capacity of non-governmental organisations to build up expertise and actively participate in policy-processes with relevance for sustainable development.

61. Some countries have a tradition where responsibility is placed with the private sector. Voluntary agreements and the picking up by the government of sectoral initiatives to integrate environmental concerns into their practices were mentioned as successful examples.

62. The general public regards information provided by environmental non-governmental organisations on environmental issues as highly reliable, making such organisations effective channels of information.

63. The inclusion of sustainable development issues into the curricula of schools and universities, as well as educational games, can elevate the quality of public discussion and strengthen individual responsibility in environmental matters. Advisory panels on sustainable development education have been successful in promoting adjustments in education systems.

64. Identifying the beneficiaries of or “winners” resulting from changes, and informing them about likely gains has proven effective in stimulating support for sustainable development measures, particularly where social, economic and employment benefits can be demonstrated. By corollary, support for environmental protection measures can be raised by making transparent the social costs of environmental degradation caused by policies in other sectors.

65. Information and transparency concerning the causes and effects of environmental degradation, and of the economic and social consequences of policy measures, can be powerful elements in providing legitimacy for policies and actions. In some cases, the victims of pollution even can be persuaded to accept the cost of pollution abatement in violation of the polluter-pays-principle.

66. In conclusion, environmental ministries and other environmental actors appear to have some difficulty in advancing from their traditional role of proposing and implementing legislation towards broader policy approaches based on communication, co-ordination, and public participation. There are numerous examples of good practice which may beneficially be applied in more instances.

**General Results of the Discussion**

67. Successful integration of environmental concerns and actions into all policy areas requires that stakeholders in the relevant economic sectors take responsibility for establishing and implementing concrete measures that meet environmental requirements. This includes, for example, setting of environmental targets or establishing environmental action plans for all sectors. The main role of the government as a whole is to set an overall framework. Government also has an important role to play in providing relevant information to all economic sectors and initiating appropriate follow-up measures.
68. Integrating environmental requirements into other policies is a major challenge that will require strong and high-level commitment, as well as resources to overcome the many persistent obstacles and difficulties. On the basis of the information provided by the participants, and the presentations and discussions during the Workshop, it can be concluded that the integration of environmental protection requirements into other policies is widely perceived as a positive challenge to policy-makers, administrators, economic interests and the public. If applied successfully, integration will help modernise government, strengthen democracy and guide structural change towards higher resource efficiency. This will also improve the state of the environment, and ecological sustainability, which is a precondition for sustainable development.

69. This applies particularly to the economies in transition and the process of enlargement of the European Union. The future members of the European Union in Central and Eastern Europe now have many opportunities to improve policy integration and avoid unsustainable patterns of economic development that require costly adaptation measures later on. The European Union and the Member States have a responsibility to assist the Accession Countries in developing effective strategies for sustainable development, which should be reflected in accession strategies.

70. Some governments have already established holistic policy frameworks for sustainable development. Some of these are within the responsibility of the head of state or government, or cabinet as a whole. These frameworks include and combine a number of elements essential for policy integration, such as:

- sustainability strategies, often including guiding principles, specific and quantifiable targets and time-frames, which have been elaborated with broad public participation;
- setting of sectoral targets for the achievement of cross-sectoral policy objectives;
- SEA of policies, programmes, plans, and budgetary measures;
- monitoring progress based on global and sectoral indicators; as well as
- regular revisions of policies and feed-backs into decision-making to allow policy adjustments for improved goal attainment.

71. A regular exchange of information about best practices in integrating environmental protection requirements into other policies is useful to identify ways to consolidate specific or sectoral programmes or measures into holistic frameworks, and thus help create a broader institutional basis for integration.

72. Integration can be strengthened by linking the sustainable development strategies of the Member States and other European countries with a future EU strategy for sustainable development.

The Way Forward with Environmental Policy Integration

73. The German Presidency feels that continuing the dialogue initiated during the Workshop on Best Practice for Integration will help further policy integration, and that similar types of transnational fora will facilitate the implementation of the "integration principle".

74. The European Commission (DG XI) is carrying out a Global Assessment of the 5th EC Environmental Action Programme, including its successes and failures in the key economic
sectors. This is expected to result in conclusions that will be considered in preparing a strategy for future EC environmental policy and contributing to the process towards sustainable development.

75. The European Commission serves as an example to all Member States and institutions of the European Union and is instrumental in the formulation of Community policies. Therefore, the further strengthening of the Commission’s on-going efforts to integrate environmental protection requirements into all policies, in accordance with Article 6 of the EC Treaty as amended by the Amsterdam Treaty is important. Furthermore, the current deliberations on the future structure of the Commission and its services provide a unique opportunity for the designated president of the European Commission to consider integration requirements.

76. The Environmental Policy Review Group (EPRG), as a European forum for the exchange of information among the Member States, the EEA Countries and the European Commission, is invited to continue its work on policy integration, focusing for instance on the role of ministries of Environment, Directorate-General XI and the European Environment Agency in the integration process.

77. The European Environment Agency will continue its work on criteria for integration and possibly to include participatory aspects of integration for sustainable development in its criteria.

78. The ministries of environment of Austria and France will organise another EU workshop to discuss a core set of environmental and sustainability indicators that are particularly relevant to political decision-makers.

79. This summer The Green Ministers’ Committee in the United Kingdom will publish a report on its progress in integrating environmental and sustainable development concerns and objectives into the policies and operations of all government departments.

80. The Swedish government will host a Conference on Sector Integration entitled “Sustainable Development – A Challenge for All Policy Makers” in Stockholm on 2 September 1999, to discuss experiences and the outline for future integration in the sectors of transport, industry, agriculture, and energy.

81. The Netherlands is hosting an OECD Workshop in July 2000 on sustainable agricultural practices and especially on the integration of environmental concerns in farming systems and agricultural technology.

82. It is important to continue to strengthen the integration process in the European Union. Preparation of the sectoral strategies plays a key role in this. The European Council at Helsinki, in December 1999, will be a milestone in the process of linking sectoral strategies, the Global Assessment, and ongoing work on indicators, with a view to operationalising the strategy for integrating environmental concerns into all policies.