Launch of UNEP’s 4th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4)
Roundtable on “Europe’s environment: Belgrade and beyond”

Thursday, 25 October 2007, 11:00-13:00
International Environment House II, ground floor

On 25 October, at over 40 sites around the world, UNEP launches its fourth Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-4) - the result of five years of intensive consultation and preparation with stakeholders from all regions of the world. The report links findings on the state of the environment with policy analyses, and highlights emerging environmental issues that require policy attention, 20 years after the Brundtland report was issued.

Environment Ministers and senior officials from the 56 countries of the UNECE region gathered in Belgrade from 10-12 October for the sixth Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference to take stock of the current state of the European environmental situation including the main areas of achievements and concern, and critical next steps.

At today’s roundtable, we will hear the most recent assessment of the health of our planet, at the global level and in our own European region. Where are the new environmental priorities? What were the main outcomes of the recent Belgrade Ministerial Conference on Environment, and are they sufficient to address Europe’s regional environmental challenges?

You are cordially invited to discuss these questions in the presence of the GEO-4 authors and senior experts who attended the Belgrade Ministerial Conference on Environment.

10:30 Coffee
11:00 Welcome and introduction by the moderator, Christophe Bouvier, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe
11:10 Video on GEO4
11:20 Main findings of the fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4), Ronald G. Witt, Regional Coordinator, UNEP/DEWA/GRID-Europe
11:40 Main findings of the report “Europe’s Environment: the fourth assessment”, Adriana Gheorghe, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen
12:00 Outcome of the Belgrade “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, Paolo Garonna, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
12:20 General discussion and question-and-answer session
12:50 Wrap-up by the moderator
13:00 Closure, followed by refreshments
14:00 End
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Biographies of speakers

Christophe Bouvier is Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Europe. Prior to this, he was the UNOPS Regional Director for Central Asia, North Africa, Near East and Europe, and most recently Strategic Advisor for UNDP Iraq. He has over 27 years of experience within the United Nations system and has held senior positions at UNDP and the FAO, in charge of a range of development, humanitarian, peace-building and environment-related activities.

Paolo Garonna was appointed Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in August 2001. He was previously the Director of the UNECE Statistical Division. He has also served as Director General of the National Statistical Institute of Italy, and at the OECD as Deputy Director for Manpower Social Affairs and Education. He has also had an academic career at Padua University, first as lecturer, then Associate Professor and then Full Professor, and is the author of many books and articles.

Adriana Gheorghe is the coordinator and one of the lead authors of the recent fourth pan-European assessment report prepared by the European Environment Agency. An environment lawyer, Ms Gheorghe has worked in environmental field for more than 15 years, at both the national and international level. She has extensive experience in various EU assistance programmes and was a main contributor to the EEA enlargement process which took place in 2002. She holds a PhD in international environmental law.

Ronald G. Witt is the Regional Coordinator for Europe from UNEP’s Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA). He joined UNEP in January 1986, serving first at the Nairobi Headquarters as a specialist in environmental data, geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, following an earlier career at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Mr. Witt is a geographer with extensive experience in environment assessment and capacity development, and the architect of the "Partnership Agreement" between UNEP, the Swiss federal government and the University of Geneva.
Global Environment Outlook

GEO4

environment for development

United Nations Environment Programme
The world has changed since 1987...
Unprecedented environmental change is indisputable…

Re-infestation by *Aedes aegypti* in Latin America and the Caribbean
Land

Unprecedented environmental change is indisputable…
Total area under protected status

Protected area ratio to total territorial area (per cent)
Algal blooms in the East China Sea

Frequency of algal blooms/year

- 100
- 80
- 60
- 40
- 20
- 0

Outlook

Rate of change in global water withdrawals

Decadal change (billion m³)

- Markets First
- Policy First
- Security First
- Sustainability First

Note: WaterGap modeling results.
Main Messages
Main Messages
Main Messages
Main Messages

The time to act is NOW!

Environment for Development
Thank You!

Merci!

Gracias!

Spasibo!

Asante sana!!!

The GEO-4 report is available at:
www.unep.org/geo/geo4 and on
UNEP’s official distributor’s website:
http://www.earthprint.com/

Thank You!
Europe’s environment: the fourth assessment

Adriana Gheorghe
European Environment Agency
Europe’s Environment

Western and Central Europe (WCE)

South Eastern Europe (SEE)

Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)
From Dobris to Belgrade
The fourth assessment
- scope

Prepared *regularly* in support of the ‘Environment for Europe’ process.

Provides *policy relevant, up-to-date and reliable* information on the interactions between the environment and society.

Covers *entire pan-European region* (ie. 53 countries).
The fourth assessment - key issues

The report presents findings on:

- environment-related health concerns;
- climate change;
- biodiversity loss;
- overuse of marine resources;
- production and consumption;
- sectors that drive environmental change.
Environment and Health - Air Quality

Changes in emissions

2000 - 2004

Western and Central Europe

-9% NO$_x$, -20% SO$_2$, -10% PM$_{10}$

South Eastern Europe

6% NO$_x$, 2% SO$_2$, 2% PM$_{10}$

EECCA

13% NO$_x$, -10% SO$_2$, 13% PM$_{10}$
Environment and Health - Inland Waters

Population with access to an improved water source 2002/2004

Legend:
- **100%**
- **80-99%**
- **below 80%**
- **no data**
Biodiversity loss

Number of globally threatened species of terrestrial vertebrates

2006

- Red: Endangered
- Yellow: Vulnerable

Western and Central Europe

South Eastern Europe

EECCA

European Environment Agency
Climate Change

Changes in arctic sea ice coverage

1979 - 2007

16 September 2007
Consumption and Production Patterns

Change in waste generation and landfill 1995 - 2005

Western and Central Europe
- Generated: 18%
- Landfilled: -21%

South Eastern Europe
- Generated: 1%
- Landfilled: 22%

EECCA
- Generated: 32%
- Landfilled: 32%
Socio-Economic Environment

472 mil. 20,000 $/cap 10 Mt CO$_2$/cap

124 mil. 3,000 $/cap 5 Mt CO$_2$/cap

278 mil. 1,750 $/cap 10 Mt CO$_2$/cap
Socio-Economic Environment

Trade across the pan-European region (in US Dollars)

2005

Source: WTO, 2006
The fourth assessment - options for action (1)

Need to strengthen our will to act:

*Overcome ‘information gap’ and improve our understanding of complex environmental issues.*

*Strengthen awareness and support for public participation, including environmental education.*

*Build a shared environmental information system, expanding on existing pan-European partnerships.*
The fourth assessment - options for action (2)

Need to strengthen our capacity to act:

*Set clear, realistic environmental targets and corresponding monitoring mechanisms.*

*Integrate effectively environmental consideration in all sectoral policies.*

*Overcome ‘implementation gap’ to ensure that existing commitments are fully implemented.*

*Promote cooperation across the region and provide targeted financial and technical support.*
Europe’s Environment: The Fourth Assessment

is available at

www.eea.europa.eu/pan-european