



PARTNERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION IN EUROPE

From the Chairman
18th May 2007

Dear colleague,

THE FUTURE OF PECE

I am writing to update you on the review, announced at the forum meeting in February, on whether and how PECE should continue; and in that context, to make you aware of a significant opportunity for a PECE member to take forward the work of the network.

First, I would like to thank the many members who participated in our membership survey. The emerging results from the survey are positive. There is good feedback from both our members and colleagues in the EECCA region on what we are doing well, and on where we need to focus our efforts in the future.

When PECE was launched in 2005, Defra agreed to become the first member organisation to host the PECE secretariat. Defra feels that it is now time for a new organisation to take forward the work of PECE. Defra has invited the PECE Steering Group to identify a suitable PECE member to take over this role from October 2007. This move presents a good opportunity to think creatively about how we can best build on our success and continue on a sustainable basis.

PECE is now associated with over 150 organisations from the UK and EECCA region. There is growing recognition of our work, growing demand for what we do, and we remain unique. The Steering Group therefore believes that the PECE network represents a significant asset.

I am pleased to have already received one expression of interest from a PECE member to host the Secretariat after October. However, PECE is owned by all its members, and it is therefore appropriate to offer the opportunity of taking on the secretariat role to all members. I attach a short note to inform any PECE member interested in playing this leading role in taking the network forward.

I should be grateful if you could contact the PECE secretariat by 7th June if your organisation is interested in this discussing this opportunity, or if you would like further information.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Hand
PECE Chairman



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The future of PECE

PECE is now associated with over 150 organisations from the UK and EECCA region with significant potential to engage a broader range of international partners and donors. The steering group believe that the PECE network, brand, website and communications represent a valuable asset and unique opportunity for a PECE member to develop PECE after 2007. This paper is intended to inform discussions between the steering group and PECE members with an interest in taking forward the network after October 2007.

The core aim of PECE remains the same: to promote and facilitate partnership working between government, civil society and the private sector in the EECCA region, To support this aim, PECE members and EECCA colleagues support a greater focus on the following objectives for PECE:

- **Provide a forum for awareness raising on the benefits of partnership working, exchange of good practice, replication of projects and information on donor priorities and funding opportunities.**
- **Act as a catalyst for the initiation of new multi-stakeholder projects, through networking.**
- **Increase the network of UK, European, International and EECCA organisations who are committed to contributing to the protection and improvement of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the EECCA region.**

The steering group believes that a web-based platform, where a significant amount of content is user generated, could be a focussed and resource-effective way of supporting the objectives noted above. This could provide an effective mechanism for working with a broader range of international and EECCA partners. It would continue to be desirable to offer periodic opportunities for members to meet and share information in person.

There is a proposal to upgrade significantly the PECE website to include an online “match-making” database for networking and identifying partners, plus searchable databases for funding opportunities and good practice. If agreed, the upgraded website could be handed over to another PECE member to provide a strong base to develop the network.

It is expected that administrative arrangements after October 2007 will be simplified, including an end to the PECE project “branding” process and the direct link to Defra funded projects. The PECE steering group will continue to meet as necessary (possibly on an annual basis) to provide strategic oversight and represent PECE members.

Resource Considerations

The Steering Group is open to ideas as to what administrative/secretariat functions and financial arrangements would best support the objectives above on a sustainable basis.



PECE

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This could include the need for transitional support to new arrangements. The key functions of a secretariat could include, but may not be limited to; management and editorial oversight of a new PECE website, arrangement of adhoc events and advice to steering group on long term strategic direction of the partnership.

Timing

A major European Ministerial Conference in October, the Environment for Europe Conference, will be an excellent opportunity to highlight the work of PECE. It is expected that organisations interested in this opportunity will hold discussions with representatives from the Steering Group in June. Defra will continue to host the Secretariat until the Environment for Europe Conference.

Contact

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