

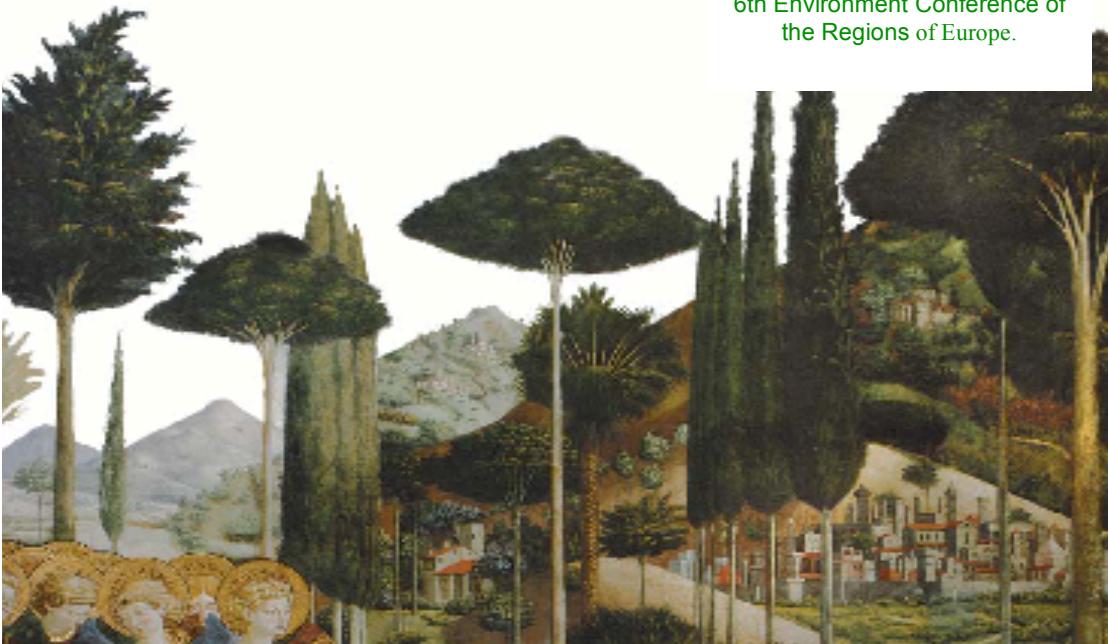


Environment Conference of the Regions of Europe

EN.CO.RE



**ENCORE, Florence 2004**  
6th Environment Conference of  
the Regions of Europe.



**MONITORING  
THE  
FLORENCE ACTION  
PLAN 2004-2006**

# **MONITORING THE FLORENCE ACTION PLAN**

## **Introduction**

When Tuscany took over as the Chair of ENCORE in 2003, offering to organise the ENCORE Conference in 2004, it had to face a number of criticisms from the EU Commission. Together with the ENCORE Steering Group, Tuscany worked hard to demonstrate that ENCORE was willing to listen to these critical remarks and to learn from them. During the ENCORE 2004 Conference in Florence, a number of new elements were introduced in the work method of ENCORE.

- I The Conference adopted the Florence Action Plan (FLAP) which contains concrete and measurable commitments;
- II In the FLAP, a Work Programme is outlined for the period until the next ENCORE Conference. This Work Programme has been monitored and the results of the monitoring are contained in the present Report;
- III In between Conferences ENCORE engages in a number of activities that guarantee continuity and visibility.

The Monitoring Report refers to each of the commitments contained in the Florence Action Plan and describes how each action has been implemented. First, the strategy, the priorities and the six areas of work that were specified in the Florence Action Plan are listed. The subsequent Tables show for each of the six areas of work how they were implemented. Each Table also gives an overall assessment of the results that were achieved.

It is our wish and hope that the Monitoring Report of the Florence Action Plan will remain in the history of ENCORE a milestone that marks the progressive improvement of Regional cooperation in Europe on environment and sustainable development policies as a process of governance. Participation, transparency and reporting are essential elements of such cooperation.

Marino Artusa  
Minister for Environment, Tuscany  
Florence, June 2006

**At the ENCORE Conference in Florence in April 2004 the following strategy was adopted by the Regions:**

- to strengthen the environment and sustainable development throughout Europe by promoting Agenda 21 at a regional level in co-operation with citizens, organisations, enterprises, other governmental levels and other social and economic partners;
- to work in partnership with businesses at a regional level and to involve educational and research institutions in this co-operation in order to acquire new environmental research and knowledge - and to implement this in both enterprises and public institutions;
- to co-operate with the European Commission in implementing the 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme and ensure that the practical experience of the Regions in implementing EU law is reflected in the future work of the Community.

**ENCORE priorities 2004 - 2006**


The Conference agreed to the following priority actions for ENCORE for the period 2004 - 2006:

- Revising of Valencia Charter.
- Organising seminars and other events to communicate innovative and effective policies on sustainable production and consumption and on climate change.
- Making ENCORE a forum for communicating ideas and best practice on other sustainable development issues.
- Organising an annual meeting between ENCORE and the European Commissioner for Environment.
- Cooperating with other EU-wide networks which have an interest in environmental and sustainable development issues.
- Exploring opportunities for cooperating with EU officials in the preparation of policies, plans and indicators on the environment and sustainable development.
- Establishing partnerships between EU Regions and Regions from the Accession Countries to facilitate the implementation of EU environmental law in the new Regions.


**Six areas of work were identified:**

- I. Contacts with other networks and European institutions**
- II. Activities related to the implementation and monitoring of decisions taken by ENCORE .**
- III. Revising the Valencia Charter**
- IV. Seminars, workshops, (virtual) working groups and research on specific themes.**
- V. Activities related to the setting up of partnerships between "old" and "new" Regions.**
- VI. Activities related to the preparation of the next Conference.**


## Contacts with other networks and European institutions

What the FLAP says	What has been done	What should be done	In brief
<p>It is important that the experience of the Regions of Europe in implementing environmental and sustainable development legislation and other measures is reflected prominently in policy discussions in the Member States and in the European Union. The Conference welcomes the meeting of ministers from ENCORE Regions led by the Environment Minister of Tuscany Franci with Commissioner Wallström which took place in October 2003. The Conference asked the Steering Group to seek to organise such meetings with the Commissioner each year.</p> <p>There is a number of bodies with an EU-wide mandate which includes environmental and sustainable development matters. The Conference asked the Steering Group to consider co-operation with such bodies if this could lead to benefits for the sustainable development work in the Regions of Europe.</p> <p>Similarly, the Conference supported the idea to have regular exchanges to strengthen relations between ENCORE and the global Network of regional governments for sustainable development (nrg4SD), created at the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002, in order to promote participation by ENCORE Regions in international partnerships for sustainable development, the so-called Type 2 outcomes of WSSD.</p> <p>The Regions of Europe should seek dialogue and co-operation with the EU institutions in the preparation of policies, plans and indicators in the field of environment and sustainable development. The Steering Group was asked to pursue these matters with the European Commission.</p>	<p>Contacts with NRG4SD</p> <p>Contacts with EU officials and meeting with Commissioner Dimas.</p> <p>Contacts with RES (Network of European Regions on Education for Sustainability)</p>	<p>Implement relationships with other networks (es. ENEA)</p> <p>Develop specific work programmes for cooperation</p>	


## Implementation and monitoring of ENCORE decisions

What the FLAP says	What has been done	What should be done	In brief
<p>The Florence Conference asked the Regions of Europe to contribute actively to the monitoring of activities carried out by the Regions in the fields of IPP and climate change. The Steering Group was asked to determine how monitoring of ENCORE decisions and work in the Regions on chosen themes can be carried out, and to implement monitoring mechanisms which give a good picture of regional activity and performance, without giving the ENCORE Steering Group an unrealistic number of tasks or task complexity. Simple monitoring measures should be created. The Villach Resolution Review was accepted by ENCORE 2004 as an example of such a monitoring mechanism. It will be fine-tuned and further elaborated for future Review processes.</p>	<p>The monitoring of the Work Programme 2004-2006 in the FLAP</p> <p>Tuscany prepared 2 short questionnaires on IPP and Climate Changes.</p>		


## Integrating and updating the Valencia Charter

What the FLAP says	What has been done	What should be done	In brief
<p>The Conference agreed to the formation of a virtual working group, reporting to the Steering Group, comprising representatives of the following Regions, to review the Valencia Charter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Valencia</li> <li>- Basque Country</li> <li>- Carinthia</li> <li>- Tuscany</li> </ul> <p>The Working Group was asked to integrate parts of the Encore Resolutions into the Charter and to update the Charter to include the outcome of recent international developments to make sure that the Charter contains all the basic principles of ENCORE.</p> <p>The revised draft will be distributed to all Regions of Europe and adopted at a special event of ENCORE in 2005, Valencia +10.</p>	<p>A draft for a revised Valencia Charter has been approved during the SG Meeting in Valencia, Spain, October 2005.</p> <p>Bavaria joined the Working Group, submitted a first draft and coordinated the agreement process in the working group</p>	<p>The revised Draft is to be adopted at ENCORE 2006 in Åre</p>	

## Partnership between “old” and “new” Regions





What the FLAP says	What has been done	What should be done	In brief
<p>The Regions were asked to continue to improve contacts with and start new partnerships with Regions from the new member states. The Steering Group was asked to ensure that Regions from new member states are represented in the ENCORE Steering Group</p>	<p>Contacts have been established with several regions (by a formal letter of the Presidency)</p> <p>A representative of Poland joined the SG</p> <p>Czech Republik and Hungary representatives contacted</p>	<p>To contact representatives of new members States involving them in the activities of the SG.</p>	

## Preparation of ENCORE2006

What the FLAP says	What has been done	What should be done	In brief
<p>The Conference welcomed the offer of the Swedish region of Jämtland to host the next ENCORE conference in 2006 and asked the ENCORE Steering Group to work with Jämtland to organise a successful conference.</p> <p>The organizers were asked to consider scheduling parallel discussion groups during the ENCORE 2006 Conference for participating ministers and political leaders.</p> <p>The Steering Group was asked to keep the Regions of Europe informed of the progress on all these issues through the ENCORE website, e-mail and other forms of communication. The Steering Group was asked to produce a full report on its work in 2004-2006 at the next conference in Jämtland in 2006. This report should also include its proposals for the following two years. These proposals are to be debated and agreed upon at the next conference.</p>	<p>Detailed discussion of the Conference programme which is in final stages of preparation</p> <p>Jamtland is making the detailed arrangements</p> <p>An Åre Action Plan for the years 2006 - 2008 has been drafted and will be debated and agreed upon at ENCORE 2006.</p>		






## SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS


What	Leading Region	What the FLAP says	State of the Art	In brief
<b><u>SOIL PROTECTION</u></b>	Bavaria, DE	The objective of the workshop “European Strategy of Soil Protection” held in Brussels on 29 <sup>th</sup> of April 2004 is to present and discuss current activities in Europe in light of the new EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection. The workshop will concentrate on three issues: site management, site recycling and soil information and monitoring systems. In Bavaria, various initiatives and projects to support sustainable land use have been carried out. These activities, as well as best practices from selected member States, will be presented and discussed at the workshop.	Hosted in Brussels on 29 April 2004.	
<b><u>PARTNERSHIPS WITH BUSINESS</u></b>	Vejle Amt, DK	To establish partnerships between businesses and public authorities at both tactical/ strategic level and at an operational level. The action will focus on involving and empowering SMEs in environmental initiatives and voluntary agreements. The public sector cannot deliver sustainable development on its own. Business has a vital role to play and much has already been achieved. The initiative should involve the sharing of experience between regions to ensure that regions benefit from the findings of others	Hosted on September 20th – 21st 2004 in Vejle Region, Denmark.	
<b><u>IPP SEMINAR</u></b>	Baden-Wuerttemberg, DE	IPP, as described in the EU greenpaper and the EU communication, is a rather abstract concept. Different regions in Europe have initiated innovative IPP pilot projects to bring this new strategy to life. The seminar offers a platform for EU regions to present their approach to IPP and share their experiences done so far in model projects.	Hosted on 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2004 in Brussels	
<b><u>INTEGRATED RIVER-BASIN MANAGEMENT SEMINAR</u></b>	Aragon and Catalonia, ES Emilia Romagna and Tuscany, IT	The idea is to approach the river-basin as a system, in the context of regional implementation of the EU water framework directive, integrating the spatial dimension, the ecological aspects and the economic activities involving all the different stakeholders.  <u>It is proposed to start a virtual working group</u> on the subject of integrated river-basin management in order to prepare the seminar. The outcome of the seminar will be: exchange of best practice; elaboration of common guide lines; launching of pilot projects in which the guidelines are applied.	Hosted on 27th and 28th October 2005, at Zaragoza, Aragon's Region Capital City, Spain.	



## THEMATIC (VIRTUAL) WORKING GROUPS

What	Leading Region	What the FLAP says	State of the Art	In brief
<p><b><u>VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS</u></b></p>	<p>Basque Country, ES</p>	<p>To collect information about existing regional indicators and study the possibility to apply them more widely.</p> <p><i>Activities:</i> Benchmarking between regions on indicators. Prepare a draft proposal on common regional environmental and sustainable development indicators by the end of 2004. The suggestion is to use the encore website to present existing regional environmental and sustainable development indicators in order to prepare the draft proposal.</p>	<p>A seminar was hosted on 9-12th November 2004 in Bilbao, in the Basque country.</p> <p><u>An open consultation is open at the moment at NRG4SD website. Regions can participate on the debate.</u></p>	
<p><b><u>VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON THE REFORM OF THE EU STRUCTURAL AND COHESION FUNDS</u></b></p>	<p>Tuscany, IT</p>	<p>To make sure that environment and sustainable development are adequately integrated in the new EU policy and to understand the opportunities for the Regions in the new policy of the EU Commission to finance activities on environment and sustainable development</p>	<p>A common document has been presented: <i>Comments on the communication issued by the European Commission dated 5th July 2005 called: Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013.</i></p>	
<p><b><u>VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE</u></b></p>	<p>North Rhine Westphalia, DE</p>	<p>Objectives: to develop and refine Regional strategies and to share best practice.</p> <p>Activities: sharing information on best practice using the ENCORE website; identifying projects with a common interest; commenting on EU legislation on this topic.</p>	<p>The activities started. At the moment a wide discussion has opened on CC on the occasion of the Are Conference.</p> <p>North Rhine-Westphalia is creating a website (virtual forum).</p>	

## THEMATIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

What	Leading Region	What the FLAP says	State of the Art	In brief
<p><b><u>RESEARCH PROJECTS ON REGIONAL COMPETENCES IN THE MEMBER STATES</u></b></p>	<p>Tuscany, IT</p>	<p><i>Objective:</i> To analyse the competences of the Regions in the different Member States in the field of environment and sustainable development.</p> <p><i>Activities:</i> Finance a research project involving possibly other research institutions and resulting in a Conference on this topic hosted in Florence or in ENCORE 2006.</p>	<p>The research started in 2005.</p> <p>During the Conference in Are a first document will be published on the WebSite.</p> <p>Regions of every Member State will have the possibility to integrate or to propose correction of the document using the WebSite Forum.</p> <p>The Conference will decide if the research is to be considered concluded or if it is necessary and/or useful to provide more in-depth information and analysis.</p>	

Legend:



**Done. The activity has been concluded in accordance with the Florence Action Plan**



**The activity will continue in the Åre Action Plan**