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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN RECOMMENDATION
INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:

A SHORT SURVEY OF THE NORTH SEA COUNTRIES

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- Final -

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Background to this survey

On 30 May 2002, the European Union adopted a Recommendation on implementing integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in Europe. The Netherlands has responded by commissioning an interdepartmental project for the implementation of the recommendation. From the outset it was realized that the implementation process would be strengthened by a regular exchange of information with the European coastal nations, especially with the neighbouring (North Sea) countries.

The North Sea Coastal Managers Group (NSCMG) has been established as an informal platform for national experts and managers on coastal flood safety in Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands. When it called for a report on the implementation of the EU Recommendation, to be presented on its annual meeting in June 2003, this was seized as an opportunity to do a short survey on the status of the implementation in the North Sea countries.

ICZM

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is a process that brings together all those involved in the development, management and use of the coast within a framework that facilitates the integration of their interests and responsibilities. The objective is to establish and maintain sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the marine environment.

EU Recommendation on ICZM

The adoption of the Recommendation on implementing integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) by the European Union marked an important milestone in a process that started in 1992 with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, where the signatories agreed that: "Coastal States commit themselves to integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and the marine environment under their jurisdiction."

The EU Recommendation on ICZM asks Member States to develop a vision and national strategies to implement ICZM. A thorough stocktaking of legislation, institutions and stakeholders involved in the management of the coastal zone should be the basis for the implementation strategy.

Implementation of the EU recommendation in the Netherlands

The Netherlands coast is an attractive living, working and recreational environment, with substantial economic and environmental value. In the future, however, coastal defences will face a heavy battering from rising sea levels and an expected higher frequency of storms. The ability to combat these challenges requires space in the coastal zone, which is often claimed by other functions. The national government is undertaking the duty to guarantee the safety of the hinterland and maintain – and where necessary enhance – the spatial quality of the coastal zone.

Flood safety issues initiated the cooperation between governmental departments and between national government, provincial government, coastal towns and water boards in the early 1990's. This cooperation is now slowly extending towards other coastal issues. The EU recommendation reinforced this ongoing trend towards integrated development and implementation of policies for the coastal zone.

Because of the traditional emphasis on safety issues, the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management is the leading department, with the National Institute of Coastal and Marine Management/RIKZ as the main executing agency.

The experience in the Netherlands of the last decade has shown that the development and especially the implementation of integrated policies is a complex process, in which the long cultural and social history is simultaneously a strength and a weakness. The EU Recommendation synchronizes the ICZM efforts in the EU countries and provides an opportunity to establish contacts. The synchronization facilitates the comparison of approaches and the exchange of ideas on the implementation of ICZM, especially with neighbouring countries where the social and cultural differences are relatively minor.

Approach to this survey

Questions, relevant for the implementation process in the Netherlands were structured on the EU Recommendation (English version: annex 1) in a questionnaire (annex 2). This questionnaire was sent out to the experts of the North Sea countries, responsible for the national implementation of the recommendation. This was followed up by a visit and an interview (list of interviewees: annex 3).

The response to the questionnaire and results of the interview are aggregated in the next chapter.

This survey was commissioned at a very short notice. Interviews were arranged with only one or two key officials responsible for the implementation in their respective country. The authors are very grateful for the cooperation obtained and would like to stress that the results of the interviews are not equivalent to official country positions. Any errors or misreporting of policies in this survey are the exclusive responsibility of the authors.

Results of this survey

Approach to the Recommendation

The representatives for the North Sea countries consider the implementation of the EU recommendation as a welcome step in an ongoing process rather than a completely new approach. Between the countries there is a great diversity in issues and urgency, which is reflected in the approach of the implementation process.

Organization

In all countries the national government is formally responsible for the implementation of the EU Recommendation and is reporting back to the EU. There are differences with respect to the administrative level responsible for the implementation process. This depends primarily on the administrative structure. The structure is relatively uncomplicated in Denmark and the Netherlands with a national, a provincial and a municipal level. Germany and Belgium are federal states and the implementation process is guided by the regional and federal level. In the UK, the relation between 'London', the Home Counties and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is even more complex as a result of the devolution. The implementation process in the Home Counties is guided by the national government in London. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are more autonomous, but London is reporting back to the EU for the whole of the UK.

In the Netherlands the national government is guiding the implementation process. Even though the country is relatively small, there is a substantial gap to bridge between the development of a national vision and a strategy and the practical implementation of ICZM. It appears that in countries where the implementation is done also at a regional level (e.g. Belgium and Germany), the distance between the executing agency and the local level is smaller. This may facilitate translation of the principals to practical guidelines.

In the UK the relative autonomy of the governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may result in a situation similar to Belgium or Germany. The situation for the English regions might be comparable to that in the Netherlands, even though the distance between the national government in London and the county and municipal councils appears to be much greater.

Cross-departmental cooperation exists in all countries. Leading department for the implementation is often the ministry of environment. In Germany and Denmark the department of spatial planning is responsible. Involvement of the spatial planning department may facilitate integration of different (sectoral) issues.

In Belgium the ministry of environment is leading at national level. At regional level the province of West Vlaanderen and the Flemish region feels very much responsible for the implementation, because they feel the need for integration. Cooperation

between national, regional, provincial and local level is arranged through the center of integrated coastal zone management.

In the Netherlands the ministry of Transport, Public works and water management is the leading department. Integration is established by cooperation with other ministries who have responsibilities in the coastal zone. A core team with representatives from four departments is meeting once a month to discuss the implementation process.

NGO's

Most countries recognize the importance of NGO's and are planning to involve them more often in future, but NGO's are hardly involved in the process right now. In most countries governmental parties primarily do the work, subcontracting is limited to elements of the stocktaking. Only in the UK most of the work is subcontracted to consultants.

Stocktaking

Most countries have started their stocktaking exercise. The problems and issues in the coastal zone are well known, together with the relevant legislation and regulation. The stocktaking concentrates on filling in information gaps and on balancing and integrating information from sectoral sources.

The EU recommendation lists issues which should be covered in the strategy, see annex 1. Underneath two tables are given. The first table presents the priority issues covered by coastal policy in the 5 countries before the EU Recommendation. Only items which were indicated as strong or weak are presented in table 1. The second table shows issues that are expected to become more important, e.g. from weak to moderate or from strong to dominant. In some cases the EU recommendation is the driving force.

From table 1 it can be seen that not all the issues mentioned in the recommendation are of importance now or will be in future.

Some issues like safety and species and habitat protection which are of importance at this moment will stay important in future, but their importance will not grow.

Therefore they are not mentioned in the second table.

Issue	Country
Energy	Germany
Flood safety	Netherlands, Belgium
Species and habitat protection	All
Regional development	UK, Germany
Tourism and recreation	Germany, Denmark, Belgium
Waste management	Germany, Denmark

Table 1: Priority issues in current coastal policies

Issue	Country
Aquaculture	Germany, Belgium
Energy	All
Cultural Heritage	All
Regional development	Belgium, Netherlands
Education	All

Table 2: Issues of increasing importance (partly) due to the EU implementation.

In current policies priority issues differ for each country for obvious reasons such as geography, history, culture or organization. Convergence of priorities can be seen on subjects such as cultural heritage, education and energy. The increase of attentions for energy can be explained by the increasing popularity of plans for near shore and off shore wind parks.

Added value

All countries have indicated that the implementation of the EU Recommendation has added value through its emphasis on a wide scope and integration. An example is the integration of land and sea issues which may be strengthened through combined spatial planning as a result of the Recommendation. Another example is the focus on stakeholder involvement and awareness building, especially in the UK and the Netherlands.

Strategy

The strategy is still a point for discussion in many countries. Should the strategy focus on new policy or implementing new policy? None of the countries have started yet. Most countries aim at making one strategy integrated with the spatial planning policy. UK, Belgium and Germany will most probably make a separate strategy for each region.

International relations

There are many relations on coastal issues between the North Sea countries. Examples are the cooperation between Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands on the management of the Waddensea, the cooperation between Belgium and the Netherlands on the management of the Scheldt, or the cooperation between all North Sea countries in OSPAR. The EU is stimulating regional cooperation through its INTERREG programmes.

However, for the implementation of the EU recommendation as such, there is only one annual meeting between the national experts from all member states including the accession countries. This one day meeting, organized by DG Environment of the European Commission is highly appreciated, but is considered insufficient for an in depth exchange.

All North Sea experts interviewed for this survey agreed that the implementation would be strengthened, especially at this stage in the implementation process, by sharing approaches, ideas and experiences in an informal meeting between the North Sea experts.

Annex 1: EU recommendation on ICZM

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 30 May 2002
concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe

(2002/413/EC)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Commu-
nity, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social
Committee ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the
Regions ⁽²⁾,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article
251 of the Treaty ⁽³⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) The coastal zone is of great environmental, economic, social, cultural and recreational importance to Europe.
- (2) Coastal zones possess a unique biodiversity in terms of flora and fauna.
- (3) Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development summit in Rio in June 1992, should be taken into account.
- (4) The 1999 assessment report of the European Environment Agency indicates a continuing degradation of conditions in the coastal zones of Europe as regards both the coasts themselves and the quality of coastal water.
- (5) Community coastal zones are further threatened by the effects of climate change, in particular rising sea levels, changes in storm frequency and strength, and increased coastal erosion and flooding.

- (6) Population growth and the development of economic activities are increasingly threatening for both the environmental and social equilibria of coastal zones.
- (7) The decline of fishing activity and related employment makes many fisheries-dependent areas particularly vulnerable.
- (8) Existing regional disparities in the Community affect the management and conservation of each coastal zone in a different way.
- (9) It is essential to implement an environmentally sustainable, economically equitable, socially responsible, and culturally sensitive management of coastal zones, which maintains the integrity of this important resource while considering local traditional activities and customs that do not present a threat to sensitive natural areas and to the maintenance status of the wild species of the coastal fauna and flora.
- (10) The Community promotes integrated management on a larger scale by means of horizontal instruments. These activities therefore contribute to integrated coastal zone management.
- (11) The Commission notes in its Communications ⁽⁴⁾ to the Council and the European Parliament that integrated management of the coastal zone requires strategic, coordinated and concerted action at the local and regional level, guided and supported by an appropriate framework at the national level.
- (12) The Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management identifies principles of good coastal zone management.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 155, 29.5.2001, p. 17.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 148, 18.5.2001, p. 23.

⁽³⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 5 July 2001 (OJ C 65 E, 14.3.2002, p. 309), Council Common Position of 13 December 2001 (OJ C 58 E, 5.3.2002, p. 1) and Decision of the European Parliament of 10 April 2002. Council Decision of 7 May 2002.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(97) 744 and COM(2000) 547.

- (13) There is a need to ensure coherent action at a European level, including cooperative action and consultation with regional seas organisations or international organisations, such as the International Maritime Organisation, to address cross-border coastal zone problems.
- (14) Council Resolution of 6 May 1994 on a Community strategy for integrated coastal zone management ⁽¹⁾ and Council Resolution of 25 February 1992 on the future Community policy concerning the European coastal zone ⁽²⁾ both identify the need for concerted European action to implement integrated coastal zone management.
- (15) Since the Resolution of 6 May 1994 the European Union has experienced an increase in pressure on coastal resources, an increase in coastal population and an increase in near-shore and on-shore infrastructure.
- (16) An integrated coastal zone management involves multiple factors among which town and country planning and land use are only accessorially concerned.
- (17) In accordance with the subsidiarity and proportionality principles as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty, and with Protocol 7 to the Treaty of Amsterdam on the implementation of subsidiarity and proportionality, and given the diversity of conditions in the coastal zones and the legal and institutional frameworks in the Member States, the objectives of the proposed action can best be achieved by guidance at the Community level,
- (e) a functioning social and cultural system in local communities;
- (f) adequate accessible land for the public, both for recreational purposes and aesthetic reasons;
- (g) in the case of remote coastal communities, maintenance or promotion of their cohesion;
- (h) improved coordination of the actions taken by all the authorities concerned both at sea and on land, in managing the sea-land interaction.

CHAPTER II

Principles

In formulating national strategies and measures based on these strategies, Member States should follow the principles of integrated coastal zone management to ensure good coastal zone management, taking into account the good practices identified, *inter alia*, in the Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management. In particular, coastal zone management should be based on:

- (a) a broad overall perspective (thematic and geographic) which will take into account the interdependence and disparity of natural systems and human activities with an impact on coastal areas;
- (b) a long-term perspective which will take into account the precautionary principle and the needs of present and future generations;
- (c) adaptive management during a gradual process which will facilitate adjustment as problems and knowledge develop. This implies the need for a sound scientific basis concerning the evolution of the coastal zone;
- (d) local specificity and the great diversity of European coastal zones, which will make it possible to respond to their practical needs with specific solutions and flexible measures;
- (e) working with natural processes and respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems, which will make human activities more environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically sound in the long run;
- (f) involving all the parties concerned (economic and social partners, the organisations representing coastal zone residents, non-governmental organisations and the business sector) in the management process, for example by means of agreements and based on shared responsibility;
- (g) support and involvement of relevant administrative bodies at national, regional and local level between which appropriate links should be established or maintained with the aim of improved coordination of the various existing policies. Partnership with and between regional and local authorities should apply when appropriate;
- (h) use of a combination of instruments designed to facilitate coherence between sectoral policy objectives and coherence between planning and management.

HEREBY RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

CHAPTER I

A strategic approach

Member States take into account the sustainable development strategy and the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the sixth Community environment action programme ⁽³⁾, and take a strategic approach to the management of their coastal zones, based on:

- (a) protection of the coastal environment, based on an ecosystem approach preserving its integrity and functioning, and sustainable management of the natural resources of both the marine and terrestrial components of the coastal zone;
- (b) recognition of the threat to coastal zones posed by climate change and of the dangers entailed by the rise in sea level and the increasing frequency and violence of storms;
- (c) appropriate and ecologically responsible coastal protection measures, including protection of coastal settlements and their cultural heritage;
- (d) sustainable economic opportunities and employment options;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 135, 18.5.1994, p. 2.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 59, 6.3.1992, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Not yet published in the Official Journal.

CHAPTER III

National stocktaking

Member States conduct or update an overall stocktaking to analyse which major actors, laws and institutions influence the management of their coastal zone. This stocktaking should:

- (a) consider (but not be limited to) the following sectors and areas: fisheries and aquaculture, transport, energy, resource management, species and habitat protection, cultural heritage, employment, regional development in both rural and urban areas, tourism and recreation, industry and mining, waste management, agriculture and education;
- (b) cover all administrative levels;
- (c) analyse the interests, role and concerns of citizens, non-governmental organisations, and the business sector;
- (d) identify relevant inter-regional organisations and cooperation structures, and
- (e) take stock of the applicable policy and legislative measures.

CHAPTER IV

National strategies

1. Based on the result of the stocktaking, each Member State concerned, in partnership with the regional authorities and inter-regional organisations, as appropriate, should develop a national strategy or, where appropriate, several strategies, to implement the principles for integrated management of the coastal zone.

2. These strategies might be specific to the coastal zone, or might be part of a geographically broader strategy or programme for promoting integrated management of a larger area.

3. These strategies should:

- (a) identify the roles of the different administrative actors within the country or region whose competence includes activities or resources related to the coastal zone, as well as mechanisms for their coordination. This identification of roles should allow an adequate control, and an appropriate strategy and consistency of actions;
- (b) identify the appropriate mix of instruments for implementation of the principles outlined in Chapter II, within the national, regional or local legal and administrative context. In developing these strategies, the Member States should consider the appropriateness of:
 - (i) developing national strategic plans for the coast to promote integrated management ensuring, *inter alia*, the control of additional urbanisation and of the exploitation of non-urban areas while respecting natural features of the coastal environment;

- (ii) land purchase mechanisms and declarations of public domain to ensure public access for recreational purposes without prejudice to the protection of sensitive areas;

- (iii) developing contractual or voluntary agreements with coastal zone users, including environmental agreements with industry;

- (iv) harnessing economic and fiscal incentives, and

- (v) working through regional development mechanisms;

- (c) develop or maintain national and, where appropriate, regional or local legislation or policies and programmes which address both the marine and terrestrial areas of coastal zones together;

- (d) particularly, identify measures to promote bottom-up initiatives and public participation in integrated management of the coastal zone and its resources;

- (e) identify sources of durable financing for integrated coastal zone management initiatives where needed, and examine how to make the best use of existing financing mechanisms both at Community and at national level;

- (f) identify mechanisms to ensure full and coordinated implementation and application of Community legislation and policies that have an impact on coastal areas, including when reviewing Community policies;

- (g) include adequate systems for monitoring and disseminating information to the public about their coastal zone. These systems should collect and provide information in appropriate and compatible formats to decision makers at national, regional and local levels to facilitate integrated management. The work of the European Environment Agency can serve *inter alia* as a basis for this purpose. These data should be publicly available in accordance with relevant Community legislation, in particular with the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC⁽¹⁾;

- (h) determine how appropriate national training and education programmes can support implementation of integrated management principles in the coastal zone.

CHAPTER V

Cooperation

1. Member States should encourage, enter into or maintain dialogue and implement existing conventions with neighbouring countries, including non-Member States in the same regional sea, to establish mechanisms for better coordination of responses to cross-border issues.

⁽¹⁾ Not yet published in the Official Journal.

2. Member States also work actively with the Community institutions and other coastal stakeholders to facilitate progress towards a common approach to integrated coastal zone management, examining the need for a European coastal stakeholders forum. In this process, ways of using existing institutions and conventions should be explored.

3. In this context, cooperation with the accession countries is maintained and enhanced.

CHAPTER VI

Reporting and review

1. Member States report to the Commission on the experience in implementation of this Recommendation 45 months after its adoption.

2. These reports are available to the public and include, in particular, information concerning:

- (a) the results of the national stocktaking exercise;
- (b) the strategy or strategies proposed at the national level for implementation of integrated coastal zone management;

(c) a summary of actions taken, or to be taken, to implement the national strategy or strategies;

(d) an evaluation of the expected impact of the strategy or strategies on the status of the coastal zone;

(e) an evaluation of the implementation and application of Community legislation and policies that have an impact on coastal areas.

3. The Commission should review this Recommendation within 55 months following the date of its adoption and submit to the European Parliament and the Council an evaluation report accompanied if appropriate by a proposal for further Community action.

Done at Brussels, 30 May 2002.

For the European Parliament

The President

P. COX

For the Council

The President

J. PIQUÉ I CAMPS

Annex 2: Questionnaire

This questionnaire was sent to experts as basis for discussion. In italic the answers from the Netherlands are given.

On June 19 and 20, 2003 the Netherlands will host the annual meeting of the North Sea Coastal Managers Group (NSCMG). The NSCMG is an informal working group of professional managers and advisors of government and public authorities from the countries along the Southern North Sea Coast (Belgium, the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands).

One item on the agenda this June will be a discussion on the progress of the implementation of the EU Recommendation on ICZM in the North Sea countries. To assist the discussion, a short report will be prepared on the various approaches used in the North Sea countries and on the progress made so far. This questionnaire is the basis for a series of interviews with members of the Expert Group, formed by the European Commission for the implementation of the EU recommendation.

WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THE ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE ARE PERSONAL OPINIONS WHICH MAY BE DIFFERENT BETWEEN VARIOUS EXPERTS WITHIN ONE COUNTRY.

THE RESULTS WILL BE TREATED AS SUBJECTIVE, AND WILL NOT BE USED TO REFLECT A FORMAL COUNTRY POSITION.

0. COUNTRY

Netherlands

1. ORGANISATION

a. Responsible department:

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management

b. Executive department/organisation:

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management; National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management/RIKZ

c. Interdepartmental cooperation:

*Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management
Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries
Ministry of Economic Affairs*

d. Cooperation between national and regional level:

Coastal Provinces, Water boards, Coastal Towns

e. Cooperation with non-governmental organisations:

none so far

f. Subcontracting to consultants

- Stocktaking 50%
- Strategy development 10%
- Stakeholder involvement 80%

2. BUDGET

a. What budget do you estimate to be available for implementation at a national level?

2003	2004	2005	2006
<i>0,75 M€</i>	<i>0,75 M€</i>	<i>0,75 M€</i>	<i>0,75 M€</i>

3. STOCKTAKING

a. Which issues have been covered by traditional (sectoral) coastal management policies?

	Not	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Dominant
Fisheries		x			
Aquaculture	x				
Transport		x			
Energy	x				
Safety					x
Resource management			x		
Species and habitat protection			x		
Cultural heritage		x			
Employment		x			
Regional development (rural and urban)	x				
Tourism and recreation			x		
Industry and mining	x				
Waste management				x	
Agriculture		x			
Education	x				

b. Which issues do you expect to be covered in the implementation of the EU Recommendation

	Not	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Dominant
Fisheries			x		
Aquaculture	x				
Transport			x		
Energy			x		
Safety					x
Resource management			x		
Species and habitat protection			x		
Cultural heritage			x		
Employment			x		
Regional development (rural and urban)				x	
Tourism and recreation				x	
Industry and mining		x			
Waste management				x	
Agriculture			x		
Education			x		

c. Which administrative levels have traditionally been involved in your countries (sectoral) coastal management?

	Weak	Moderate	Strong
National level (departments)			x
Regional level (provinces, water boards, . . .)		X	
Local level (municipalities, . . .)	X		

d. Which administrative levels do you expect to be the backbone of the implementation of the EU recommendation?

	Weak	Moderate	Strong
National level (departments)		X	
Regional level (provinces, waterboards, . . .)			x
Local level (municipalities, . . .)		X	

e. Which existing legislation will be the backbone of the implementation of the EU recommendation?

"Water Defences"

"Spatial Planning"

"Nature Protection"

f. What do you expect to be the added value of the EU recommendation for your country?

Better integration of land and sea issues

More awareness of coastal zone issues with authorities and the public

More focus on stakeholder involvement with national and regional authorities

4. STRATEGY

a. Does your country aim at one or more strategies?

One strategy

b. If there are more strategies, do the strategies specifically aim at sectors or regions?

N.a.

5. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

a. How does your country intend to involve neighbouring countries?

There is cooperation at different levels with Belgium and Germany. The Netherlands intends to build on that cooperation for regional implementation of the strategy.

b. How does your country intend to involve the EU countries?

The Netherlands intends to focus on cooperation with the North Sea countries.

Annex 3: list of interviewees

Belgium

Kathy Belpaeme of the Coordination Centre for integrated Coastal Zone Management

Denmark

Jane Kragh Andersen and Malene Wiinblad, both of the Ministry of Environment and Energy

Germany

Karl Heinz Vesperman of the Ministry of Rural area's, Nutrition, Agriculture and Consumer protection
Niedersachsen

United Kingdom

Sam Rowbury of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs