

## EUROPEAN NETWORK OF THE HEADS OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCIES

European Commission  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

EPA Network secretariat  
Kongens Nytorv 6  
DK-1050  
Copenhagen

09/10/2012

Dear commissioner Hedegaard,

Many Environment Protection Agencies (EPAs) across Europe are engaged in providing advice on climate change adaptation through close involvement in the development of the adaptation strategies of EU Member States. EPAs are involved in the implementation and evaluation of adaptation policies and measures, collection of data and information that are relevant for adaptation actions and in communication of issues and challenges at local, regional and national levels. In this position, the European Network of the Heads of EPAs (EPA Network) has over the past years supported the European adaptation policy development process. The network has been actively involved, in informing the development of the Green and White Papers on climate change adaptation and in the development of the information platform CLIMATE-ADAPT. We look forward to continuing in these roles and await with interest the publication of the European Commission strategy on climate change adaptation, which is expected in March 2013.

The EPA Network welcomes the European Commission's initiative to develop a European strategy to support the adaptation process within Europe, as outlined in the White Paper. We encourage stronger involvement of the stakeholder community and EPA Interest Group on Climate Change Adaptation, in the on-going development of the European strategy. This is needed to ensure that the EU adaptation strategy adds value to existing activities by and within Member States, and reflects the thinking and experience of those already involved in delivering adaptation responses across Europe in an effective manner. The EPA Network would welcome dialogue on this issue and looks forward to further engagement with DG Clima on this.

We look forward to receiving your response to this letter.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the Interest Group on Climate Change Adaptation of the EPA Network



Reinier van den Berg  
Chair of EPA Network Interest Group on Climate Change Adaptation

Deputy Director PBL – Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

This letter is supported by a number of EPA Network members, namely the Executive Environment Agency of Bulgaria, the Environment Agency for England and Wales, the Flemish Environment Agency, the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), the Irish Environmental Protection Agency, the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, the Polish Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection (GIOS), the Romanian National Environmental Protection Agency, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Basque Environmental Protection Agency (IHOBE).