



2004

Annual Report
Tuarascáil Bhliantiúil

COMHAR
THE NATIONAL
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP



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Chairman's Foreword

It has been a particularly busy year for Comhar. I am pleased to say that Comhar has continued to make a significant contribution to advancing the case for sustainable development in Ireland through the submission of advice and recommendations to Government and support for awareness-raising activities aimed at promoting discussion on sustainable development.

Comhar is committed to building a higher national profile for sustainable development. Key outputs during the last year include:

- ❖ The submission of recommendations to the Department of Finance on proposals to introduce carbon energy taxation.
- ❖ The submission of recommendations to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Draft Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing.
- ❖ The submission of comments to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the Draft Guidelines for Regional and Planning Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- ❖ The submission of recommendations to the managing authorities in the context of the mid-term evaluation of the National Development Plan and related Operational Programmes.

Comhar has also continued its engagement with the international agenda for sustainable development. The Kinsale conference on sustainable development held during the Irish EU Presidency was a significant highlight during the year. It provided an important platform for contributions to the forthcoming revision of the European Sustainable Development Strategy.

Comhar, together with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, jointly hosted the Conference "The Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development in an Enlarged EU". The conference, which was held in Kinsale in April 2004, was organised as part of Ireland's EU Presidency programme. Over 100 participants attended from most member states in the enlarged EU; these included sustainable development co-ordinators, representatives from the European Commission and from the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) network.

Through the EEAC network, Comhar is further strengthening links with similar multi-stakeholder councils. EEAC participants made a significant contribution to the Kinsale conference, notably the development of the "Kinsale Challenge" which makes recommendations about the approach to the review of the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy and the related Lisbon process.

Comhar is participating in an EEAC study of national strategies for sustainable development, with a particular focus on the role of national councils for sustainable development. The study was financed by councils from nine EU member states, including Comhar, and the results will be published in early 2005.

Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development continue to provide the overall guiding philosophy for much of the work, which Comhar undertakes. For example, Comhar is sponsoring, together with ENFO, two pilot projects on sustainability awareness and education. These are exciting and innovative projects:

- ❖ The aim of the schools pilot project is to develop a practical version of Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development for use in both primary and secondary schools. It is managed by Eco-Unesco and explores the existing curricula and their relationship to Comhar's Principles. Participating schools are encouraged to develop a sustainable development policy for their schools.
- ❖ The pilot awareness programme for civil society groups is being undertaken in the south-east region under the management of the Waterford Institute of Technology. Comhar's Principles are presented in a practical way in order to enhance the understanding of sustainable development amongst civil society groups, the third level education sector and other potential target groups.

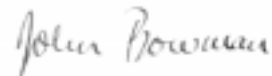
In the longer term, I hope that these two pilot projects will help us develop good models to communicate sustainable development in a more meaningful and accessible way. This is a significant challenge but we must meet it if we are to see the necessary behaviour and lifestyle changes consistent with sustainable development.

Comhar continues to engage in strategic partnerships and co-financing with other organisations as an efficient way of promoting key messages on sustainability. Examples of such initiatives over the last year include the open debate during the 5th Annual Convergence Festival which took place in Dublin during April 2004 and the open space event on delivering sustainability at the same

festival. I am pleased that Comhar was able to facilitate the participation of Mr. Frits Schlingemann the European Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at both of these events.

Finally, as this is the conclusion of my term of office as Comhar Chairman, I would like to thank the Comhar staff – Noel Casserly, Marie Hughes and Ida Connolly, for their exceptional commitment and contribution to the work of Comhar. It has always been a pleasure to work with them. I would also wish to record my thanks to the staff of ENFO and especially to their library staff for their unfailing courtesy and generosity.

I wish Comhar success in the years to come. I hope that it can continue to exert a positive influence on the future progress of the sustainable development agenda. It is in the nature of such influence that it is not easily measurable – if at all. However my guess is that the unselfish commitment of those who have served Comhar since its inception will prove to be pervasively and incrementally influential and that all of that influence will be constructive.



John Bowman

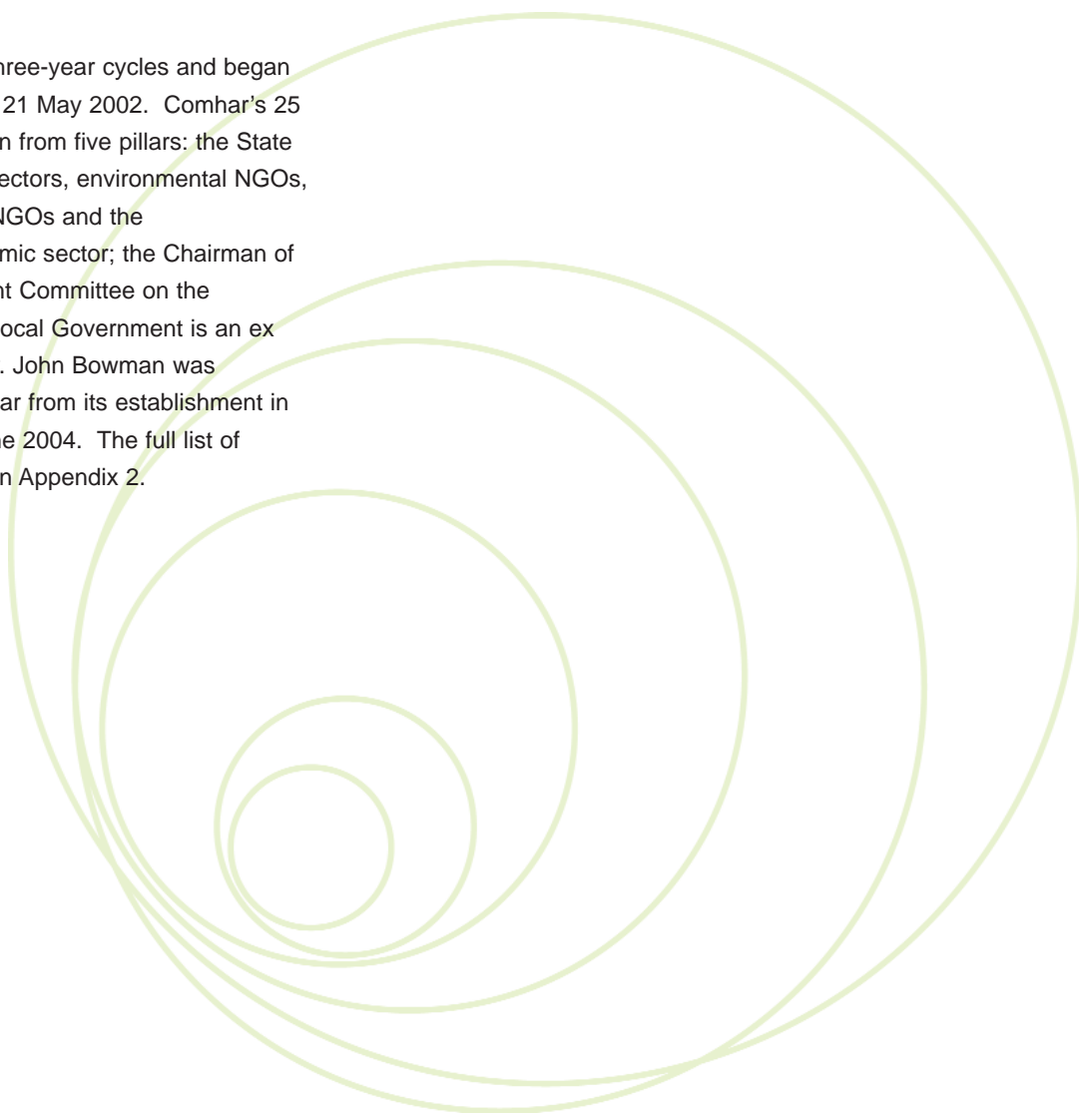




1. Introduction

Comhar, the National Sustainable Development Partnership was established in 1999 as the forum for national consultation and dialogue on all issues relating to sustainable development. Its terms of reference are, in brief, to advance the national agenda for sustainable development, to assist in devising suitable mechanisms and advising on their implementation, and to contribute to the formation of a national consensus in these regards. The full terms of reference are set out in Appendix 1.

Comhar works in three-year cycles and began its second term on 21 May 2002. Comhar's 25 members are drawn from five pillars: the State sector, economic sectors, environmental NGOs, social/community NGOs and the professional/academic sector; the Chairman of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Environment and Local Government is an ex officio member. Dr. John Bowman was Chairman of Comhar from its establishment in 1999 until 30th June 2004. The full list of members is given in Appendix 2.



2. Overview of Work

This annual report covers the second year of Comhar's second term, i.e., the twelve-month period from May 2003. Comhar's terms of reference provide a broad scope for Comhar's work programme. Comhar has discretion to design its own agenda or it may be asked by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, or by any other Minister, to examine and report on relevant matters.

The current work programme covers the period 2002-2005 and was submitted to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2002 (see Appendix 3). Working arrangements also allow for a degree of flexibility in the work programme, to allow for adjustment, if necessary, in the light of experience or to take account of new issues arising during the term. Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development provide the overall guiding philosophy.

Comhar considers that the following criteria are particularly relevant in defining the context for its work:

- ❖ adding value to existing work;
- ❖ assessing the policy relevance of issues, with a view to positioning itself at the developmental end of policy;
- ❖ avoiding duplication of work being carried out by other bodies; and
- ❖ using its unique nature and the strength of its broad representation to come to informed and balanced perspectives and recommendations.

During the year, Comhar engaged with the national and European policy agendas as well as outreach and awareness raising activities. As in previous years, four Plenary meetings of Comhar were held during the twelve month period. Comhar Bureau, consisting of five members, one from each pillar, facilitated decision-making and working arrangements. Significant highlights of the year included:

- ❖ Hosting the European conference on sustainable development in Kinsale.
- ❖ Comhar events at the Convergence festival in Dublin.
- ❖ Bilateral meeting with the UK Sustainable Development Commission in Belfast.
- ❖ Participation at the Irish EU Presidency event at the Commission for Sustainable Development in New York.
- ❖ The submission of recommendations to the Department of Finance on proposals to introduce carbon taxation.
- ❖ The submission of recommendations to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Draft Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing.

3. Irish EU Presidency Conference Sustainable Development in Kinsale

As part of Ireland's EU Presidency, Comhar in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, hosted a conference on sustainable development – Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development in EU 25 – in Kinsale, County Cork, on 15-16 April 2004. The conference was attended by over 100 participants, including national and EU level sustainable development co-ordinators, representatives from the European Commission, and the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) network.

The purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity to:

- ❖ consider the planned review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), explore linkages between EU and national sustainable development strategies, take stock of progress in implementation, and highlight best practice and innovative processes;
- ❖ examine ways of moving towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and greater decoupling of economic activity and growth from environmental degradation;
- ❖ consider ways to promote increased public and political awareness of, and to communicate, sustainable development in the newly-enlarged EU; and
- ❖ provide a platform for Sustainable Development Councils, participating in the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Council.

The conference was opened by Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Keynote speeches were given by Catherine Day, Director-General of DG Environment, European Commission, Professor Franc Lobnik (EEAC Chairman) and Derek Osborn (Co-chair of the EEAC Sustainable Development Working Group and member of the UK Sustainable Development Commission). Workshop sessions were held on strategic issues for sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production, and communicating sustainable development.



Martin Cullen, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Noel Casserly, General Secretary to Comhar. John Bowman, Chairman of Comhar. Joe Walsh, Minister for Agriculture and Food at the S.D. Conference in Kinsale



Noel Casserly, General Secretary to Comhar. John Bowman, Chairman of Comhar. Pat Finnegan, Emer O'Siocrú, Jeanne Meldon and Lorraine Fegan (Members of Comhar) at the S.D. Conference in Kinsale



Streetscape in Kinsale

Important conference outcomes included exchange of experiences and information among the participants and strengthening of the informal EU Sustainable Development network. During the conference the EEAC participants jointly developed the "Kinsale Challenge". This document makes a number of recommendations about approaches to the review of the European Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon process which are to be undertaken in 2005 (see Appendix 4). Further information is available at www.eeac-network.org/

The Conference Summary was forwarded to the European Commission as an input to the Sustainable Development review process. Further information can be obtained from the conference website:

www.comharconference2004.ie

4. Comhar Working Groups

Many of Comhar's policy proposals and recommendations are initially developed within the Comhar working groups. The main working group activities during the year are summarised as follows:

Awareness and Education Working Group

The working group was established to consider and make recommendations on developing Comhar's outreach activities. Comhar recognises that there is major challenge to communicate sustainable development in a manner, which is more meaningful and understandable to the broader general public. The working group is overseeing two pilot projects on sustainability awareness and education, which are being jointly sponsored by Comhar and ENFO:

:: Developing Comhar's Sustainable Development Principles for Schools

This aim of this pilot project is to develop a practical guide to Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development for use in both primary and secondary schools. The pilot project, which is managed by Eco-Unesco, is being undertaken in 8 schools (primary and secondary). It explores the existing curricula and their relationship to Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development. Participating schools are encouraged to develop a sustainable development policy for their schools.

:: Sustainability Training for Civil Society Groups

The aim of the project is to develop, on a pilot basis, a training and awareness framework to enhance the understanding of sustainable development amongst civil

society groups, the third level education sector and other potential target groups. Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development provide the overall guiding philosophy; supporting awareness material is available from ENFO. The project is being co-ordinated by the Waterford Institute of Technology and the Tipperary Institute. Approximately eighty talks were delivered to existing meeting and event structures in the South East Region and North Tipperary.

The members of the working group are Billy Murphy, Elaine Nevin, Gavin Harte, Vivienne Brophy, John Hammond, Noel Casserly and Brendan Linehan (Director of ENFO).

Climate Change Working Group

The aim of the working group is to provide a channel for Comhar's engagement with the implementation and review of Ireland's National Climate Change Strategy.

During the year, Comhar made a submission to the Department of Finance in relation to proposals on the introduction of carbon energy taxation in Ireland.

Two studies on climate change issues were commissioned by Comhar and completed during the year. The aim of the studies is to promote a greater understanding of climate change issues. The recommendations put forward were not necessarily those of Comhar but were intended to encourage debate on these important issues.

❖ Subsidies and Emissions of Greenhouse Gases from Fossil Fuels

The study was undertaken jointly by Feasta and Friends of the Irish Environment with the aim of:

- identifying such subsidies, state aids and tax exemptions and, as far as possible, to ascertain their value or extent; and
- making recommendations in relation to reformulating/removing/altering these subsidies, state aids and tax exemptions so that the incentive to emit greenhouse gases is reduced.

❖ Options for Carbon Taxation Expenditure in Favour of Renewable Energy

The objective of the study was to examine the options for carbon taxation expenditure in favour of renewable energy and against fuel poverty in Ireland. The study was undertaken by Greenhouse Ireland Action Network (Grian) and aimed to inform Comhar's response to the Department of Finance's consultation paper on carbon taxation.

The members of the Working Group are Donal Buckley, Pat Finnegan, David Healy, and Noel Casserly.

Spatial Planning/Housing Working Group

Rural housing, particularly one-off urban generated rural housing, provides the main focus of the working group; Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development were the starting point for developing a set of recommendations on "principles for sustainable settlement".

The working group submitted comments on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's draft guidelines on sustainable rural housing in April 2004. In addition, the working group undertook three research projects to inform the Comhar submission on the Department's draft guidelines on sustainable rural housing.

The three research projects were:

- ❖ Local Rural Housing Patterns: Pressures and Constraints affecting Sustainable Settlement Development
- ❖ Comparative Study of Development Plan policies in relation to Rural Development
- ❖ One-off housing and town and village expansion.

The group met representatives from the National Economic and Social Council to discuss housing and land issues as an input to a study being carried out by that Council.

The members of the working group are Jeanne Meldon, Rachel Kenny, Joe Gavin, Emer Ó'Siocrú, James Pike, Aileen Pyne, Padraig Haugh, Billy Murphy, Josephine Henry and Noel Casserly.

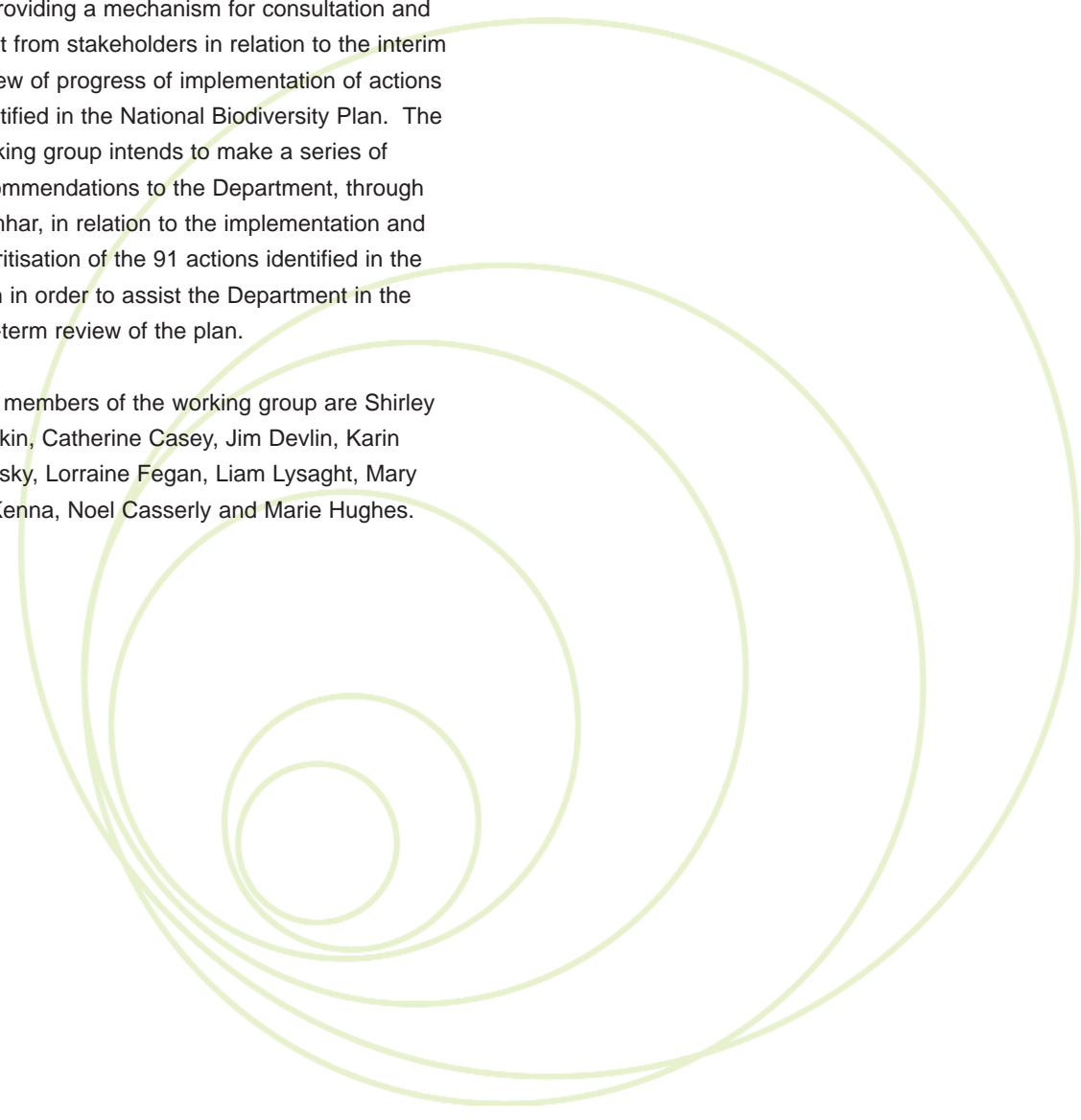




Biodiversity Working Group

Comhar decided, in early 2004, to establish a new working group on biodiversity with the aim of providing a mechanism for consultation and input from stakeholders in relation to the interim review of progress of implementation of actions identified in the National Biodiversity Plan. The working group intends to make a series of recommendations to the Department, through Comhar, in relation to the implementation and prioritisation of the 91 actions identified in the Plan in order to assist the Department in the mid-term review of the plan.

The members of the working group are Shirley Clerkin, Catherine Casey, Jim Devlin, Karin Dubsy, Lorraine Fegan, Liam Lysaght, Mary McKenna, Noel Casserly and Marie Hughes.



5. Work Items Concluded

During the period covered by this report, Comhar completed the following work items:

- ❖ Submission to the Department of Finance on proposals for carbon energy taxation: sent to Department of Finance, October 2003.
- ❖ Comments on sustainability in the context of the mid-term evaluation of the National Development Plan and related Operational Programmes: sent to the Chairpersons of Operational Programme Monitoring Committees, September 2003.
- ❖ Comments on the Mid-term review of the National Development Plan: sent to Department of Finance, November 2003.
- ❖ Comments on the Draft Guidelines for Regional and Planning Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment: sent to Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, April 2004.
- ❖ Recommendations on Draft Guidelines to Planning Authorities on sustainable Rural Housing: sent to Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, April 2004.

Submission to the Department of Finance on proposals for carbon energy taxation

The Department of Finance issued a consultation document on the proposal to introduce a carbon energy tax in July 2003. Comhar's response addressed the seven questions in the consultation paper and made recommendations on a number of specific aspects including the rate of tax, phasing and collection and recycling the tax revenue to compensate low-income households and provide for a de-carbonisation fund.


Comments on the Mid-term review of the National Development Plan/Operational Programmes

Comhar submitted comments to the managing authorities for the National Development Plan/Operational Programmes, in the context of the mid-term review of the plan and programmes. The comments underlined the need to take greater account of the sustainability agenda and highlighted the significant difficulties with reporting in respect of horizontal principles, especially environment, rural development and social inclusion. As a result it is very difficult to gauge real impacts in terms of the measures adopted in the programme and more importantly the overall impact of the NDP/CSF.

Comments on the Draft Guidelines for Regional and Planning Authorities on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

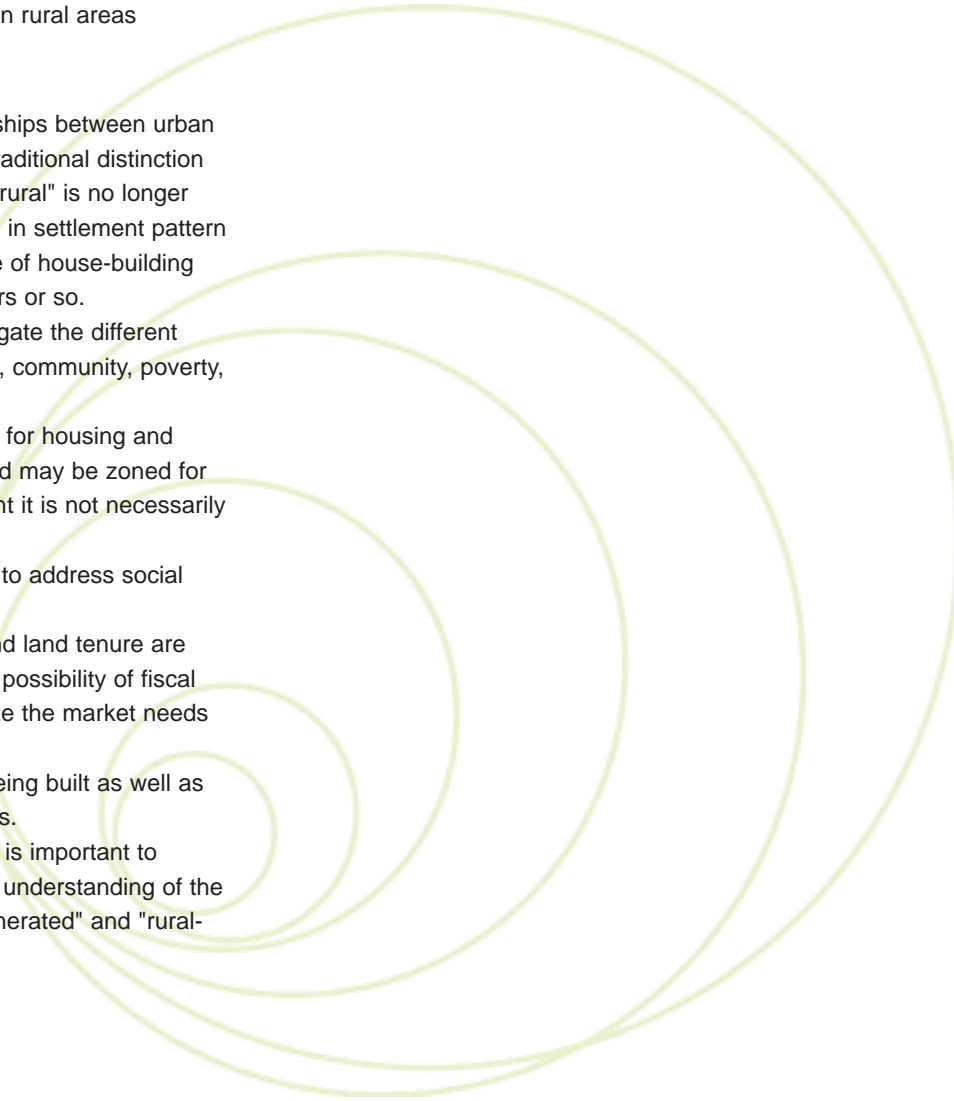
Comhar's submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government made a number of key recommendations including:

- ❖ SEA should be mandatory for all Development Plans and Local Area Plans including those for towns or areas with a population of fewer than 10,000.
- ❖ The role of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government needs to be stated more broadly in the context of the designation of Environmental Authorities, e.g. climate change and energy scarcity.
- ❖ Greater emphasis should be placed on the need to ensure complete integration between the plan under preparation and the environmental report – it should be an integral part of plan preparation.
- ❖ More explicit reference to Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development.



Recommendations on Draft Guidelines to Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing

Comhar's submission identified a number of issues that need to be addressed to underpin sustainable development in rural areas including:

- ❖ The changing relationships between urban and rural areas - the traditional distinction between "urban" and "rural" is no longer valid given the change in settlement pattern and the significant rate of house-building over the last thirty years or so.
 - ❖ The need to dis-aggregate the different issues, e.g. landscape, community, poverty, ownership issues, etc.
 - ❖ The availability of land for housing and affordability - while land may be zoned for residential development it is not necessarily available for sale.
 - ❖ Measures are needed to address social exclusion.
 - ❖ Ownership patterns and land tenure are important factors - the possibility of fiscal intervention to stimulate the market needs to be considered.
 - ❖ The type of housing being built as well as the role of rural villages.
 - ❖ The issue of language is important to developing a common understanding of the issues, e.g. "urban-generated" and "rural-generated".
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6. Comhar Sponsorship

Comhar continues to engage in strategic partnerships and co-financing arrangements with other organisations as an efficient way of promoting key messages on sustainability. Examples of such initiatives over the last year include:

Comhar event to mark World Environment Day

Comhar and ENFO jointly organised a special event on Thursday 5th June 2003 to mark World Environment Day. Talks focusing on the theme of "Water – two billion people dying for it", took place in the ENFO offices. Fr. Sean McDonagh, environmental campaigner, author and lecturer spoke about global context and social justice issues. Mr. Gerard Cunningham, Ireland Aid Programme, Department of Foreign Affairs, addressed the contribution which Ireland makes in the context of Official Development Aid to the developing world.

Feasta conference "Land: the Claim of the Community"

Comhar contributed to the cost of a conference on land and housing which took place on 9th and 10th October 2003. The conference was organised by Feasta in partnership with the Henry George Foundation, a long established social reform organisation based in London and Edinburgh. The purpose of the conference was to explore initiatives in affordable housing, infrastructure provision and local government financing.

Feasta conference "Debt, Climate and Global Justice"

Comhar assisted Feasta to organise a conference on the links between climate change, the debt crisis and global inequity. Input to the conference was made by live video link from a simultaneous conference on the same topics in South Africa. This event formed part of the Convergence Festival in April 2004.

Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

Comhar sponsors a number of special awards in the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition each year. The awards are made for projects which best demonstrate sustainable development. The sponsorship, which began in 2000, is a means of both raising awareness of Comhar and its purposes and also encouraging greater involvement/interest by young students in sustainable development issues. The award winners in 2004 were:

(continued next page)



Gearóid Conneely and Darren O'Gorman being presented with their award by Ms Annette Cahalane, Communications Officer Environmental Protection Agency



David Mitchell and Fergal Leonard being presented with their award by Ms Annette Cahalane, Communications Officer Environmental Protection Agency



Front: Gearóid Conneely and Darren O'Gorman
Back: Pat "The Cope" Gallagher, Minister of State at the Dept of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. John Simons Teacher. John Bowman, Chairman of Comhar. John O'Gorman, Darrens father



Aoife Sharkey, Shauna Duffy and Louise Ferry being presented with their award by Ms Annette Cahalane, Communications Officer Environmental Protection Agency

Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition Award winners

- ⌘ David Mitchell and Fergal Leonard, Kilcormac Vocational School, Co. Offaly, for their project "Calf nutritional scour – could natural yoghurt save lives?",
- ⌘ Darren O'Gorman and Gearoid Conneely, Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvara, Co. Clare for their project "Attitudes to Green", and
- ⌘ Aoife Sharkey, Shauna Duffy and Louise Ferry, Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair, Co. Dun na nGall, for their project "Rogha eile foinsé d'usaid scoile"

Some of the entries from the competition were subsequently displayed at a special exhibition in ENFO, the environment information service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.



Bernie Walsh, Sunflower Recycling Project; David Healy, Friends of the Irish Environment; John Bowman, Chairman of Comhar; Fritz Schlingemann, European Regional Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Billy Murphy, County Wexford Partnership, Eamonn Quinn, Superquin at Questions and Answers on Sustainability at the Convergence Festival, April 2004.

Comhar Events at the Annual Convergence Festival

Comhar sponsored three events at the 5th Annual Convergence Festival which took place in Dublin from 22nd April to 2nd May 2004. The Festival brought together a wide range of people from a variety of backgrounds with the intention of promoting sustainable development in Ireland. It featured conferences, workshops, films, theatre, music and exhibits. The following events were sponsored by Comhar:

❑ Questions and Answers

This event, similar to the well known TV series, was chaired by Comhar's Chairman Dr. John Bowman. The panel of experts included Frits Schlingemann, Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Europe, Bernie Walsh, Sunflower Recycling Project, Eamon Quinn, Superquin, Billy Murphy, Wexford Community Partnership, and David Healy, Friends of the Irish Environment. A stimulating session ranged over a variety of subjects focusing in particular on food, climate and energy, consumption and waste and the importance of community.



∴ Delivering Sustainable Development

This Open Space event was facilitated by Sustainable Ireland in conjunction with Sustainable Northern Ireland. The keynote speech was delivered by Frits Schlingemann of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and introductory remarks were made by Noel Casserly. The event addressed the importance of consumption in today's world including issues such as:

- The economics of transforming consumption patterns.
- The opportunities for business from sustainable consumption.
- The role of government in leading changes in consumption patterns.
- The role of public procurement.
- Remaining prosperous and consuming less.

∴ Guidelines for the management of environmentally sustainable events

In addition to the two events at Convergence, Comhar sponsored Sustainable Ireland to prepare guidelines on best practice for the production and management of events to deliver low environmental impact. The guidelines offer practical guidance for event managers on minimising waste, saving valuable resources and stimulating demand for alternative sustainable products at rates that will have a significant positive impact on the ground. The guidelines informed Comhar's preparations for the Kinsale Conference "Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development in an Enlarged EU" held in April 2004.

Comhar Award in Tidy Towns Competition

During the year Comhar, with the agreement of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government offered a new award in the annual Tidy Towns Competition. The award is for the town or village where a building, group of buildings or space has been improved in a manner that is consistent with Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development.

7. International Dimension of Comhar's Work

EEAC Network

During the year, Comhar participated actively in the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) network and strengthened links to similar councils in other European countries. EEAC participants made a significant contribution to the Kinsale Conference (see also Section 3 of this report). During the conference the EEAC participants jointly developed the "Kinsale Challenge" which makes recommendations about the approach to the review of the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon process. There is an opportunity to draw the two processes together in a more coherent way, which is more supportive of the over-arching integrative goals of sustainable development.

Comhar participated in an EEAC study of national strategies for sustainable development, with a particular focus on the role of national councils for sustainable development. The study was financed by councils from nine EU member states, including Comhar, and supported by EEAC. All six countries in the European Union with well-established Sustainable Development Councils participated, plus three countries with other councils engaged in the SD agenda. Seven of these countries have a sustainable development strategy and one is currently developing one; some have already seen at least one revision phase.

During the year, Jeanne Meldon of Comhar was elected to the steering committee of the EEAC. Further information on the EEAC is available at www.eeac-network.org

Bilateral meeting with UK Sustainable Development Commission

In February 2004, a Comhar delegation travelled to Belfast for a bilateral meeting with the UK Sustainable Development Commission. The meeting provided a good opportunity for informal discussions on issues of mutual concern including issues such as climate change and renewable energy as well as awareness raising and how best to connect with civil society.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The annual meeting of UNEP National Committees was held in Geneva in November 2003; Noel Casserly represented Comhar at this meeting. The objective of the meeting was to discuss effective engagement strategies and to gather regional inputs for a civil society statement to be addressed to the 8th Special Session of the UNEP Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF), on the implementation of sustainable development, scheduled for Jeju, Korea in March 2004. This was called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) at its Eleventh Session in 2003 to address specifically the thematic cluster of Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.



Fergus Doyle, Brian Mc Keon, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Pat Oliver, Michael John O' Mahoney, An Taisce, and Noel Casserly, Comhar, at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in New York

The global civil society statement on the themes of water, sanitation and human settlements was finalised at UNEP's 5th Global Civil Society Forum held in Jeju Korea prior to meeting of the GMEF. At the invitation of UNEP, Noel Casserly attended the meeting of UNEP's 5th Global Civil Society Forum and acted as rapporteur for the session. Further information on UNEP is available at www.unep.net

12th Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)

The Irish EU Presidency organised a special side event on the role and value of multi-stakeholder councils for sustainable development at CSD 12 in New York in April 2004. Presentations were made by Noel Casserly of Comhar and Felix Dodds, Executive Director of the UK Stakeholders Forum for our Common Future.

International Consultation on Education for Sustainable Development

Billy Murphy and Elaine Nevin represented Comhar at the conference Learning to Change our World, an international consultation on education for sustainable development held in Göteborg, Sweden, in May 2004. The purpose of the conference was to contribute to further development of learning for sustainable development, in the light of the Johannesburg commitments and as an input to preparations for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Conference documentation is available at www.learning2004.se

8. Operational Programme Monitoring Committees

A number of Comhar members continued to represent Comhar on the Monitoring Committees for the National Development Plan and the various Monitoring Committees for the Operational Programmes and the Environment Co-ordinating Committee. The current representation is set out below:

Committee	Comhar Representative
National Development Plan/ Community Support Framework	Jeanne Meldon
Southern & Eastern Regional OP	Billy Murphy
Border, Midlands & Western Regional OP	Emer O Siocru
Economic & Social Infrastructure Employment & Human Resources Development OP	David Healy
Productive Sector OP	Pat Finnegan
CAP Rural Development Plan	Ruaidhri Deasy
Peace OP for Northern Ireland and the Border Region	John Bowman
Interreg IIIA	Bernie Walsh
Leader+	Billy Murphy
Environment Co-ordinating Committee	Jeanne Meldon

Comhar submitted comments on the mid-term review of the National Development Plan and the Operational Programmes in November 2003.

9. Comhar representation at Conferences

Comhar was represented at a number of conferences and seminars during the period under review:

- :: "Boats and Planes, Cars and Trains: The Effects of Human Transport on Ecosystems" Royal Irish Academy conference on 1-2 April 2003
- :: National Landscape Forum in Cork 2 May 2003
- :: "Making Business Sense of Climate Change" organised by Irish Business and Employers Confederation on 13 May 2003
- :: "A Showcase of Environmental Research; Pathways to a Sustainable Future" Environmental Protection Agency's conference on 15-16 May 2003
- :: "The Brussels Climate Change Conference" on 20-21 May 2003
- :: "Meeting Kyoto Targets in the EU – Challenges for the Power Sector" Conference organised by World Wide Fund for Nature in Brussels on 25-26 June 2003
- :: "Land: the Claim of the Community" Feasta's conference on 9-10 October 2003
- :: "Low Cost Solutions to Ireland's Waste Crisis" arranged by Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment on 21 November 2003
- :: "EU 25: Economic Instruments in EU Energy and Climate Policy" Workshop Series arranged by the World Wide Fund for Nature in Budapest 6-8 November 2003
- :: "Beyond Two Dimensional Zoning – Techniques in Urban Design" RIAI Conference on 27 February 2004
- :: "Bridging the Gap: Information for Action" organised by the Environmental Protection Agency and the European Environment Agency in Dublin on 28-30 April 2004
- :: "Learning to Change our World: International Consultation on Education for Sustainable Development" in Sweden 4-7 May 2004.

10. Quality Customer Service

Comhar is committed to the provision of high quality services to all its customers. During the year under review Comhar continued to support the strategic management initiative process through the continued review and implementation of the Customer Service Action Plan.

APPENDIX 1

Comhar's Terms of Reference


(1) The Terms of Reference of the National Sustainable Development Partnership are to advance the national agenda for sustainable development, to evaluate progress in this regard, to assist in devising suitable mechanisms and advising on their implementation, and to contribute to the formation of a national consensus in these regards.

The Partnership will:

(A) Have a specific focus on:-

- Consideration of policy proposals and issues relating to the environment and sustainable development, and advice to Government on them;
- Researching and making recommendations, tailored to national conditions, on specific approaches to, or instruments for, environmental management and protection, employment creation in the environmental sector, environmental performance in economic sectors;
- Reviewing the implementation in Ireland of Agenda 21 and the other Rio Agreements, and contributing to annual national reports to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;
- Reviewing/responding to national data on environmental quality trends;

- Recommending mechanisms for greater integration of environmental and sustainable development considerations into the development and implementation of all Government policies;
 - Promoting information exchange, dialogue and consultation on environmental policy and sustainable development among the social partners and non-governmental organisations;
 - Advising on means of raising public awareness of sustainable development and environmental issues, and encouraging positive behaviour at individual, community and sectoral levels.
- (B) Examine and make recommendations on other issues related to environment and sustainable development.
- (C) Review and monitor the implementation of the Partnership's recommendations and if necessary make further recommendations; and
- (D) Examine and report on relevant matters referred to it by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government or any other Minister.

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- (2) The Partnership may consider sustainable development issues on its own initiative or at the request of a Minister of the Government.
- (3) The Partnership will work in three year cycles and will inform Government, through the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, of its programme of work within three months of the beginning of each cycle.
- (4) In drawing up its work programme, the Partnership will take account of the role and functions of other bodies in areas related to sustainable development (environmental, social and economic) such as the NESF, the NESF, the EPA and the Heritage Council to ensure complementarity.
- (5) The Partnership may be invited/designated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to attend relevant international fora, including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.
- (6) The Partnership may invite Ministers, Public Officials, Members of the Partnership, and outside experts to make presentations and to assist the Partnership in its work. It may also constitute appropriate subsidiary, consultative fora to assist in its work.
- (7) The Partnership will publish and submit all its reports (which shall include annual reports on progress) to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, who shall bring them to Government; to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Environment and Local Government; and to such Government Departments and bodies as may be appropriate.
- (8) The Partnership will be drawn from five broad pillars:
- State/public sector;
 - economic sectors;
 - environmental NGOs;
 - social/community NGOs;
 - professional/academic sector.
- (9) Bodies designated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under these five pillars shall nominate candidates for the Partnership, and the Minister shall appoint no less than three of the nominees from each pillar to the Partnership.
- (10) The Partnership will have an independent Chairperson appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Chairperson's term of office shall be five years, and may be extended by the Minister.

- (11) The term of office of members will be three years during which term members may nominate alternates. Casual vacancies will be filled by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government from among the original nominees within the relevant pillar and members so appointed shall hold office until the expiry of the current term of office of all members. The size of the membership may be varied by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the approval of the Government.
- (12) The Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Environment and Local Government shall be an ex officio member of the Partnership.
- (13) The Partnership is under the aegis of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and is funded through a Grant from that Department. This Grant is part of the overall estimate for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.



APPENDIX 2

Membership of Comhar

Chairman	Dr. John Bowman ¹
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Pillar 1	State/ Public Sector
Name	Representing
Mr. Declan Burns	Environmental Protection Agency
Cllr. Aileen Pyne	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland
Mr. Joe Gavin	County & City Managers' Association
Cllr. Jim Shortt	General Council of County Councils
Ms. Geraldine Tallon	Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government/ Environmental Network of Government Departments

Pillar 2	Economic Sectors
Name	Representing
Olga Carey	Construction Industry Federation
Donal Buckley	Irish Business and Employers Confederation
Sandra Kehoe	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Padraig Haugh	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Ruaidhrí Deasy	Irish Farmers Association

Pillar 3	Environmental NGOs
Name	Representing
Ms. Elaine Nevin	ECO (The Irish Environmental Conservation Organisation for Youth)
Catherine Casey ²	An Taisce; Coastwatch Ireland;
Pat Finnegan	Conservation Volunteers Ireland;
David Healy	Feasta – Foundation for the
Emer O'Siocrú	Earthwatch; Economics of Sustainability;
	Friends of the Irish Environment; Irish Doctors
	Environmental Association; Irish Peatland
	Conservation Council; Irish Wildlife Trust;
	Irish Women's Environmental Network;
	Keep Ireland Open; VOICE

¹ Dr. Bowman's term of office expired on 30th June 2004

² Replaced Dr. Elizabeth Cullen

Pillar 4	Social and Community Sector
Name	Representing
Br. Kevin Codd	Conference of Religious in Ireland (CORI)
Ms. Josephine Henry	National Youth Council of Ireland
Billy Murphy	PLANET (Partnerships for Local Action Network)
Ms. Sharyn Long	People with Disabilities in Ireland
Ms. Bernie Walsh	Community Platform, CORI, National Association of Tenants' Organisations, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, Community Workers' Co-operative, ACRA

Pillar 5	Professional/ Academic Sector
Name	Representing
Rachel Kenny	Irish Planning Institute
Dr. Richard Moles	Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland,
Jeanne Meldon	Universities Research Group on the Environment
John Hammond	National Council for Curriculum Assessment
James Pike	Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland

Ex-officio member:	
Mr. Sean Power,	Chairman, Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment and Local Government.

APPENDIX 3

Comhar Work programme for the period 2002-2005

1. Introduction

Comhar, the National Sustainable Development Partnership, was formally established in 1999 and began its second term on 21 May 2002. Its terms of reference are, in brief, to advance the national agenda for sustainable development, to evaluate progress in this regard, to assist in devising suitable mechanisms and advising on their implementation, and to contribute to the formation of a national consensus in these regards.

These terms of reference provide a very broad scope for Comhar's work programme. Within them, Comhar has an independent brief to design its own agenda. It may also be asked by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, or by any other Minister, to examine and report on relevant matters.

Under its terms of reference, Comhar works in three-year cycles. This work programme accordingly outlines, in broad terms, the main areas in which Comhar will concentrate its contributions over the period from 2002 to 2005. It takes account of discussions at the Plenary Meetings, held on 21st May 2002 and 25th September respectively, and of points made in the review of Comhar's first term of office.

While seeking to be reasonably comprehensive, Comhar recognises the need for more focused definition in respect of the broader topics. Members also consider it important to retain a degree of flexibility in the work programme, to allow for adjustment, if

necessary, in the light of experience or to take account of new issues arising over the three-year period.

In defining its work programme, Comhar considers that the following criteria are particularly relevant:

- ⌘ adding value to existing work;
- ⌘ assessing the policy relevance of issues, with a view to positioning itself at the developmental end of policy;
- ⌘ avoiding duplication of work being carried out by other bodies; and
- ⌘ using its unique nature and the strength of its broad representation to come to informed and balanced perspectives and recommendations.

In delivering on its work programme, Comhar will give careful consideration to the most appropriate vehicles to disseminate its message. In this regard, its work and products may take a number of forms, as appropriate to particular issues, including:

- ⌘ advice to Ministers, to specific sectors, or to the general public;
- ⌘ opinions on critical issues in relation to the environment and sustainable development;
- ⌘ recommendations on policy development;
- ⌘ research and preparation of reports; and
- ⌘ sponsorships, conferences/seminars or other means to raise awareness.

Comhar will publish all its reports, opinions, and other products, using a range of relevant means for their dissemination, including electronic media. It will also submit its reports to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage

and Local Government, for appropriate referral to Government, to the Oireachtas Committee on the Environment and Local Government, and to relevant Government Departments and other bodies.

2. Major work areas

During its term of office Comhar will engage with the national and European policy agendas as well as outreach and awareness raising activities that involve key sectors and the general public. The three year Work Programme Framework will allow for some flexibility, enabling an annual review of work priorities. Comhar's Principles for Sustainable Development will provide the overall guiding philosophy.

Arising from discussions at Plenary Meetings in May and September 2002, Comhar has identified five broad areas of interest:

- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Spatial planning/ housing
- ❖ Waste prevention and recovery
- ❖ Awareness and education
- ❖ International issues

Working groups have been established to address these major areas. The working groups will develop more detailed terms of reference in each area, which will define and guide the work and establish more specific timetables and targets for each issue. Climate change as well as health, social inclusion and local sustainability are considered to be overarching themes, the implications of which will be an integral part of any issue addressed by Comhar.



2.1 Climate Change

A specific task is envisaged for Comhar in the National Climate Change Strategy; this provides that the biennial review of the Strategy will be undertaken by the cross-Departmental Climate Change Team "in consultation with Comhar". This review has now commenced and an initial Departmental consultation paper has been received by Comhar in order to assist its participation. In a related area, Comhar will also contribute to the preparation of a National Acidification Strategy.

2.2 Spatial Planning/ housing

The publication of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) in late 2002, and its subsequent implementation provide an important context. Comhar considers that rural housing, including one-off urban generated rural housing, requires particular attention. Related issues include transport, land use, social integration, and issues around viable rural communities and economies. Consideration will be given to how sustainable development principles could be implemented in a practical way in relation to rural housing.

Housing quality and construction are also relevant to climate change policies, mostly through energy efficiency but also in methods of construction (e.g. use of cement, the production of which is a major source of greenhouse gases). Health issues are also relevant (e.g. fuel poverty, energy efficiency, building quality and maintenance).

Comhar will take account of IPI and RIAI

ongoing work in this area and explore opportunities for collaboration which, because of Comhar's breadth of expertise, would bring added value.

Comhar will also address the broader planning agenda, e.g., it may review the issue of wind farms which are desirable from a renewable energy perspective but have raised concerns due to perceived environmental impacts including impact on the landscape, and noise pollution.

2.3 Waste Management

Waste management continues to be a major issue in all aspects from sustainable production/consumption to waste management and disposal. It includes contentious issues such as incineration, location of landfills and payment of waste charges. Comhar notes that the EPA's report, Environment in Focus 2002, records an increase of over 60% in generation of household and commercial waste in the five years to 2000. While there have been major changes in policy and practice in recent years (e.g. EPA licensing of landfill sites, new policy statement on prevention and recycling of waste, establishment of new bodies), much remains to be done in addressing the growing problem.

Comhar will address sustainable production and consumption issues such as market mechanisms and eco-efficiency, including consideration to extending the environmental levy to other products or packaging.

2.4 Awareness raising

To some extent, Comhar's mandate in relation to general awareness raising will be met in the course of delivering on its key objectives. In publishing its conclusions, opinions, reports, and recommendations, for example, Comhar will:

- ❖ raise awareness of environment and sustainable development issues in general;
- ❖ reinforce the value of pursuing sustainable development policies and provide influential and representative guidance for economic sectors and the general public; and
- ❖ seek to build consensus around best practice models for better environmental and sustainable development performance.

Comhar will also undertake specific awareness-raising actions from time to time as part of its work programme. A major challenge is to communicate sustainable development in a manner which is more meaningful and understandable to the broader general public. Comhar will consider how the Principles for Sustainable Development can be further developed, for specific target groups, e.g. schools.

Opportunities for co-operation with ENFO will be explored in relation to the provision of information on sustainable development. Comhar will bring forward advice and recommendations on environment/sustainability-friendly behaviour across society and sectors. The DOELG awareness campaigns The Environment: It's Easy to Make a Difference has ended its current phase; Comhar will contribute to the specification for any new or refreshed campaign.

2.5 International issues

Comhar must continue to engage with international developments. The outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) can be expected to guide and influence both international and national action for sustainability over the coming years. There will be important developments at EU level such as the roll out of the Sixth Environmental Action Programme, with the development of the thematic strategies provided for under the Programme. Comhar will also consider how best to contribute to the development of national positions on specific new initiatives such as the new Chemicals Policy.

Comhar will consider how best to contribute to Ireland's Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2004; possibilities include appropriate contributions to policy initiatives or hosting a European conference for equivalent National Sustainable Development Councils.

Comhar will also consider how it can contribute a national perspective in promoting the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

3. Ongoing work

Comhar recognises that a number of ongoing and recurring issues arise from its terms of reference, including:

- ❖ monitoring overall progress under the National Sustainable Development Strategy, and progress towards sustainable

APPENDIX 4

The Kinsale Challenge

Reinforcing Sustainable Development in the European Union

Members and representatives of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils network (EEAC) met in Kinsale, Ireland on April 15-17 2004, during a Conference on Sustainable Development jointly organised by the Irish Presidency and Comhar, the Irish Sustainable Development Partnership.

In addition to supporting the general conclusions of that conference the members and representatives of EEAC present have agreed to propose the following challenges to the European Union and its institutions and member states in the context of the reviews of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and of the Lisbon process that are to be undertaken in 2004/2005, and taking account of the enlargement of the Union to 25 members.

As recognised in the draft of the new Constitution for Europe sustainable development needs to be central to the vision and practice of the new Europe. One implication of this is that the objectives of economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental recovery and protection need to be better integrated than they are at present in Union practices and policies.

The reviews of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and of the Lisbon process which are to take place this year coming together with the enlargement of the Union present a uniquely favourable opportunity to achieve better coherence between the three pillars of sustainable development in European policy-making and actions programmes.

The representatives of EEAC accordingly call upon the European Union and its institutions together with the members states to ensure that

- ⌘ the review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy results in an articulated, authoritative and accessible statement of the long term sustainability vision and goals of the Union that can underpin and guide the work of all the relevant formations of the Union;
- ⌘ the review of the Lisbon process takes full account of the review of the Gothenburg conclusions and European Sustainable Development Strategy as agreed by the Spring Council in March 2004. The annual Lisbon process should be broadened in scope and direction so that it becomes the occasion for a true annual assessment and stock-taking of the progress of the Union towards the long term sustainability goals defined by the sustainable development strategy. To this end the environmental dimension of the Lisbon process needs to be strengthened and the Cardiff process revived, with a view to further prioritising the drive to decouple economic growth from the growth in adverse environmental trends such as the growth in greenhouse gases;
- ⌘ the review of the financial perspective should similarly take better account of the environmental dimension and ensure that EU Funds are used more efficiently and effectively to support sustainable development objectives. It should be made the occasion for promoting the application of sustainability criteria in public procurement policies and all public institutions both at European and at national level;

- ❖ sustainability should be given greater attention in the enlargement process, so as to secure that European sustainability acquis and objectives for the future are fully embraced by the accession countries and that the potentially damaging impacts on the accession countries' environments and biodiversity through accession are avoided or mitigated as far as possible;
- ❖ the sustainability ethic should be better communicated at all levels and debated in all parts of society.


National and European Sustainable Development Strategies should be more clearly and explicitly linked together and made mutually supportive and reinforcing. The review of the European Strategy should be made the occasion for launching a new EU initiative to enhance the effectiveness of national strategies. Such an initiative should

- ❖ encourage the creation and regular updating of national strategies in every country of the Union so as to achieve comprehensive and up-to-date coverage;
- ❖ define a common vision of sustainability in Europe and propose shared goals, targets and measures for those issues that need European co-ordination if they are to be advanced effectively, while identifying other issues and areas that are best addressed separately in national strategies;
- ❖ promote best practice in the way in which strategies can be created and implemented and engage a wide range of actors and stakeholders in making their own commitments;
- ❖ reinforce monitoring of progress at national and European level, using key indicators where appropriate;

- ❖ encourage and promote political leadership for sustainability throughout the Union;
- ❖ facilitate interchange of ideas and solutions and mutual learning between different countries and different stakeholder groups.

In order to create wider public understanding and public and political support for sustainable development it is crucial that stakeholders of all kinds be closely involved in the preparation and implementation of the European and national strategies, and that alliances for sustainable development be broadened and deepened. We believe that national Councils for Sustainable Development, if properly constituted and resourced, can play a valuable role in this regard. We recommend a European initiative in the context of the review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy to promote the formation of national Councils in every country of the Union and to establish informal guidelines as to their mode of formation and operation.

As an additional support for better communication and engagement of civil society we recommend that an independent advisory council or sounding board on sustainable development should be established at the European level with the appropriate linkages to national Councils. It should contribute to the agenda setting, the monitoring and the participation process. It would also be useful for the European Parliament and for the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to strengthen their work on sustainable development (possibly by establishing or reinforcing appropriate committees or task forces) and to reinforce their links with stakeholders at national and European level on this subject.



On strategic issues we support the initial priorities for the review of the strategy identified by the Commission and welcome the creative preparatory work being undertaken by EESC. We support also the detailed suggestions emerging from the Kinsale Conference. For our own part we have identified the following issues as being some of the key challenges that need to be addressed head on in the new sustainable development strategy:

- ❖ implementation of the Johannesburg commitments, both within the EU and globally;
- ❖ strengthening the synergies between the environment, nature and economic and social goals including health;
- ❖ energy, climate change, Kyoto and the longer term perspective beyond Kyoto;
- ❖ development of a more sustainable transport policy including road, rail and air transport;
- ❖ environmental taxation and other economic instruments;
- ❖ better reflection of sustainable development criteria in the planning and operation of the structural funds including systematic and effective application of strategy environmental assessment;
- ❖ an effective delivery plan for the Gothenburg target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010;
- ❖ further reform of the CAP and CFP to promote sustainable use of resources and effective implementation of those changes;
- ❖ more effective protection and balanced management of natural resources, including in particular soils, water and oceans and more sustainable land use;
- ❖ introduction of a new environmental investment fund.

A new more sustainable economic model needs to be developed that pays more attention to the maximisation of welfare and quality of life rather than simply maximisation of GDP. Such rethinking should form a fundamental part of the review of the Lisbon process, and should inform the quest for more sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

The EU needs to facilitate adjustments away from unsustainable patterns of production and consumption to a new pattern of responsible competitiveness with a lighter environmental footprint, greater social justice and investment in recovery of biodiversity and environmental quality. The new strategy should advance these objectives, and in particular there should be a more vigorous European policy to promote resource efficiency including a programme for steady improvement in product standards for major product categories, and promoting the excellent environmental technology action plan.

To promote more sustainable consumption we recommend a major effort by the EU to facilitate the engagement of the public and stakeholders of all kinds in a serious debate about the kinds of changes in behaviour that will be needed to achieve a transition to a more sustainable future, and the measures by the EU and national governments and the innovation by industry that will be needed to encourage this transition.

In order to advance the integration of the process for review of the Strategy and the Lisbon process we recommend that the Commission and the Presidency might take the initiative to organise a major European Conference on Sustainability, the shape of the new strategy and its role in shaping the goals and methods of the Lisbon process. Such a conference might appropriately take place in the autumn of 2004 at the end of the consultation on the new strategy and perhaps be linked with EESC plans for further stakeholder consultation on sustainable development.

Kinsale, 17.4.2004

Representatives of the following EEAC councils support this document:

Belgium	Federal Council for Sustainable Development, FRDO-CFDD Flemish Environment and Nature Council, Mina-Raad
Finland	Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, FNCSO
Germany	Council for Sustainable Development, RNE
German	Advisory Council on the Environment, SRU
Hungary	National Environment Council, OKT
Ireland	Irish Sustainable Development Partnership, Comhar
Netherlands	Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Environment and Nature, RMNO

Poland	State Council for Environmental Protection, PROS
Portugal	National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development, CNADS
Slovenia	Council for Environment Protection, CEPRS
Sweden	Environmental Advisory Council, MVB
UK	Countryside Council for Wales, CCW English Nature, EN Joint Nature Conservation Committee, JNCC Scottish Natural Heritage, SNH Sustainable Development Commission, UK SDC

Recent common work of EEAC councils include statements on

- EU SDS 2001 ('Greening SD strategies'),
 - CAP reform 2002,
 - Environmental Governance 2003,
- Forthcoming 2004: Marine Environment.

www.eeac-network.org





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