

## **Minutes EPNB meeting – Edinburgh, 12 April 2011 (EPNB-5)**

*April 12, 2011*

### ***Participants:***

Wilfried Winiwarter, Donal Murphy-Bokern, Gabriele Wechsung, Michela Rogora, Natalia Kozlova, Klaas van der Hoek, Alessandra de Marco, Nick Hutchings, Albert Bleeker, Anne Christine le Gall, Adrian Leip, Juerg Heldstab, David Fernall, Anne Miek Kremer

### ***Welcome***

Wilfried welcomes all participants and introduces the concept of this meeting: while the technical issues and discussions will be dealt with in the current session, all the individual results by countries have been moved into the scientific session of the “Nitrogen 2011” conference (oral presentations scheduled for Wednesday April 13, Session 13). EPNB work presented there thus is an integrative part of this EPNB meeting. All participants therefore are encouraged to also attend S13. Moreover, the current session will conclude directly in the poster session S13, to discuss the poster prepared by Adrian and Juerg on the “Development of a tool for dynamic prediction of changes in integrated nitrogen budgets”.

### ***Reaching out towards relevant work of OECD and Eurostat***

*The DireDate project (Anne Miek Kramer)*

More detailed information about the recently completed project and its conclusions can be found via a dedicated website (<http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/diredat/library>)

There are different indicators that address nitrogen, but data needs that are difficult to collect.

Possible data collection procedures are proposed (Farm Structure Survey / remote sensing / farm panel)

When focusing on the Gross Nutrient Balance, there is work ongoing to institutionalize this work.

### **Conclusions of the work presented by Anne Miek:**

- Some new data may come available however collecting new data is difficult
- Cooperation EPNB – Eurostat/OECD:
  - Avoid duplicate data flows
  - Combined actions: review, guidelines, etc.
  - Eurostat Task Force autumn 2011: legal act for GNB
- Considerations:
  - Type of balance impact data needs – ease and reliability of data

- WG AEI: improve current methodology
- Use of available data from GHG/NH3 reporting

Based on the presentation by Anne Miek, a discussion follows on how to join forces between Eurostat / EPNB: this has to do with the legal status of the work with respect to the work to be done.

*EPNB vs. OECD and Eurostat (Wilfried presents the input from OECD – Kevin Parris)*

- OECD ‘agri-environmental indicators’
- Currently 3<sup>rd</sup> series being produced
- OECD nutrient balances reflect farm scale budgets on a country scale
- Based on statistical input data, supported by ‘national correction factors’ (integrating agricultural practice)
- Better statistics available due to DireDate – can EPNB look at the ‘national factors’ from a scientific perspective?
- OECD offers to organize a meeting, e.g. in Paris close to end of 2011
  - Also with the purpose of reviewing their methodological report on the GNB.
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- EPNB could build on existing structures, and extend agricultural N budgets towards all sources

Proposal is to continue the linkage the with Eurostat / OECD. Improve the OECD balance, in order to eventually extend the work to the N budgets to an overall budget (including the other N sources).

#### Discussion:

EPNB participants feel that a closer look on the requirements posed to EPNB participant would be needed before committing EPNB to tasks which would exceed their possibilities. Nick / Juerg / Klaas / Wilfried are volunteer to look into that issue and feed results and recommendations back to the group.

#### ***Annex IX issues***

In the context of the Annex IX we are dealing with input-output balances / nitrogen use efficiency / ‘until a level of high efficiency is achieved’

Are we talking about balance or budgets? We need to deliver guidance on how to work on the items mentioned in the Annex IX text (i.e. how do we do what we mention in the Annex IX text + include material here that might change over time more than can be justified in the main text)

Remark about the fact that the text as it is now has more an educational status than really come to something substantial. However, as it stands this is what it is, but it shows that we (as EPNB) have to deal with ‘input-output balances’ on a farm level.

### *Guidance document "Budget boxes"*

Information about this will be put on the website. National level / starting from zero (but making use of existing information/structures).

Question: what would be time frame for guidance on this? Answer: it really depends on the possibilities of individuals, since it is often a matter of having volunteers for doing the job.

Lack of resources should be mentioned at the Task Force meeting in Rome (Action for Wilfried). There might be a possibility that further funding becomes available when the legal act is 'passed' later this year (OECD / Eurostat).

Comments on "budget boxes" to the guidance document should be provided within two weeks from now.

### ***Dynamic tool to develop and display national N budgets***

The EPNB meeting moved and concluded in the poster session of the "Nitrogen 2011" conference, with a presentation of the poster on the "Development of a tool for dynamic prediction of changes in integrated nitrogen budgets" by the authors, Adrian Leip and Juerg Heldstab. EPNB acknowledged the work on this dynamic tool and the support of Switzerland that made it possible, and expressed interest that this tool would be further developed.

### ***Next EPNB meeting***

- Related meeting: TFRN Rome, May 10-12
- Tentatively late 2011 (Paris?)

Revision 1, May 23, 2011