



Environmental Commission - EnviCom –

Chairman
Harald Koethe
Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs
Unit WS 14; climate change, Environmental Protection, Hydrology
53175 Bonn
Robert-Schuman-Platz 1
Germany

Vice Chairman/Secretary
Edmond Russo
Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory
U.S. Army Engineer Research and
Development Center
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180, USA

ENVICOM ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Background

The Environmental Commission (EnviCom) is

- Responsible for dealing with both broad and very specific navigation sustainability and environmental risk-related issues of interest to PIANC,
- Developing and providing environmental guidance for **sustainable** waterborne transport, ports and waterways.
- Responsible for generic environmental risk-related issues that cross cut all PIANC areas, partners activities and the other PIANC commissions,
- Networking/communicating with international organizations and associations dealing with sustainability and environmental risk issues such as the London Convention, OSPAR, WODA, IAPH, UNESCO, UNEP, EC, SedNet, IADC, PARALIA, INE, EUDA, ESPO, COPRI, CEDA, WEDA, New Delta Interreg, COPEDC, CCNR, and non-traditional groups,
- Initiating efforts to enhance PIANC membership and co-operation with environmental specialists, and sharing of information on navigation and the environment with Countries in Transition.

Members

30 members from 14 nations and 6 partner organizations (see member list on EnviCom website).

Meetings

The EnviCom meetings no. 28 and 29 took place in

- **Brussels, Belgium, hosted by PIANC Headquarters, 31.January/01. February 2008**
A nice farewell dinner for the outgoing chairman Bob Engler from EnviCom took place on 31st January in Restaurant Vincent in Brussels with participation of PIANC President Eric van den EnviCom chairman Harald Köthe who co-chairs EnviCom with Bob since 2006 presented to Bob the booklet “EnviCom history” (see EnviCom website) which was made on the occasion of Bob’s farewell from EnviCom. It acknowledges the merits of Bob as EnviCom initiator and Chairman. Also the long lasting fruitful activities of Tiedo Vellinga as EnviCom Vice-Chair and Secretary who handed over this function to Edmond Russo now were appreciated. Furthermore outgoing CEDA Environmental Committee Chairman Neville Burt had his farewell from EnviCom.

- **Strasbourg, France, hosted by the Central Commission for Navigation on river Rhine (CCNR), 25./26. September 2008.**

CCNR hosted the first meeting day on the German boat MS Mainz during a Rhine River boat trip from Strasbourg to Iffezheim (Germany) including a technical visit of locks, the weir and the fish passage at Iffezheim barrage. EnviCom had guests from Austria, The Netherlands and from IAPH which gave technical presentations. The second meeting day took place in the impressive historic offices (Palais du Rhin) of CCNR. The French PIANC section hosted a dinner in a historic building next to the cathedral the center of Strasbourg. CCNR rounded up its perfect hosting with a post meeting tour along Route du Vin Tour of the Picturesque Alsace Region including a wine tasting.

Next meetings in 2009:

- **04./05. February 2009 in Brussels, Belgium,** hosted by PIANC Headquarters
- **28. - 30. October 2009 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** hosted by PIANC USA, including a PIANC Seminar “Navigation and the Environment – International Perspectives and Gulf of Mexico Applicability”

Technical recommendations and guidance

* please consider that PIANC has introduced a new numbering system for working group and technical reports in 2008 which does not yet apply for already existing working groups but for their reports.

EnviCom continued its work in the following fields:

Dredging:

- EnviCom **WG 11 “Management, Reclamation of Dredged Material End Use of Existing Disposal Facilities”** reduced the scope of the TOR to finalize the report in early 2009. Risk analysis and risk communication will be not addressed in the report. Emphasis now will be put on a collation of case studies and the experiences.
- Under the chairmanship of Axel Netzband (Germany) EnviCom **WG 13 “Dredging Management Practices for the Environment”** finished at the end of 2008 its report with publication in early 2009 (PIANC Report No. 100).
- Under the chairmanship of Lindsay Murray (United Kingdom) EnviCom **WG14 “Dredged Material as a Resource”** was finished and with publication in early 2009 (PIANC Report No. 104). WG 14 produced a public interest brochure for separate distribution.
- EnviCom will assist the RecCom WG 130 “Anti-sedimentation systems for marinas and yacht harbours”

Ports:

- EnviCom **WG 15 “Environmental Aspects of Dredging and Port Construction Around Coral Reefs”** continued its work and is in preparations for publication in 2009.
- EnviCom **WG 16 “Fish and Shellfish Habitat Management in Ports and Waterways”** started in 2007 but unfortunately lost important members due to illness and had not much progress in 2008. The group still need additional members to restart.
- EnviCom and the IAPH developed a strategy to set up a common WG on electrical **Onshore Power Supply (OPS)**. Final preparations for the kick off will be done in early 2009.
- EnviCom contributed to MarCom WG 43 “Minimizing Harbor Siltation”
- EnviCom will contribute to the new MarCom WG “Applications of Geotextiles in waterfront Protection”.

Navigation:

- EnviCom contributed to InCom WG 27 “Environmental Impacts of Vessels” which was published in 2008.
- Final works were done for EnviCom **WG 12 “Sustainable Waterways within the Context of Navigation and Flood Management”**. The report will be published in 2009.

- EnviCom **Task Group 1 “EU Water Framework Directive”** (with members from CEDA, ESPO, EBU, INE, IAPH, EFIP and others) met 30th January and 19th November in Brussels and continued its successful work under the **lead of Mrs. Jan Brooke (United Kingdom)**. The Group contributed papers and close contacts to the European Commission and participated intensively to the various activities of the WFD implementation process (e.g. Priority substance daughter directive, Navigation as water user). A thematic website has been set up in 2008 under the PIANC website containing all important activities, contributions since 2003 and links (see <http://www.pianc.org> → Commissions → Envicom → EU WFD Task Group)
- EnviCom **Task Group 2 “Environmental Benefits of Waterborne Transport”** had its kick off meeting on 30./31. January 2008 in conjunction with the EnviCom meeting in Brussels and another meeting on 18./19. September 2008 in Rotterdam. **Chairman of TG 2 is Keith Hofseth (USA)**. TG 2 intends to change the title into “Sustainable Waterborne Commerce”. TG 2 made good progress and the plan is for having a draft complete by February 2009.
- EnviCom **Task Group 3 “Climate Change and Navigation”** finished its work successfully under the **lead of Hans Moser (Germany) and Peter Hawkes (United Kingdom)** in April 2008. Their report “Waterborne Transport, Ports and Waterways: **A Review of Climate Change Drivers, Impacts, Responses**” was presented on 26. May 2008 during the AGA 08 in Beijing/China. The report and the presentation is available on PIANC website (<http://www.pianc.org/downloads/envicom/envicom-free-tg3.pdf>). As there is currently no comparable review for navigation and climate change on the market the report has a leading position and reached quickly worldwide recognition.
- The TOR for the **new EnviCom WG 136 “Recommendations for Sustainable Maritime Navigation”** were developed, finalized and adopted by ExCom. An important goal of this WG is to provide practical guidance to the navigation community on how to use to many and overlapping environmental regulations and demands. The kick off meeting is planned for 3rd February 2009 in Brussels.
- For a follow up of former EnviCom WG 10 “Environmental Risk Assessment in Dredging and Dredged Material Disposal (2006)” EnviCom worked on a **new TOR about Environmental Risk Management**. A brainstorming meeting for a small task group was organized by Peter Whitehead on 5th June in Southampton (UK). The objective of the proposed WG is to develop robust methodological guidance to address the deficiencies in the overall risk assessment process. Final agreement for the TOR is aimed for the EnviCom meeting in February 2009.
- EnviCom has contributed to the set up of the new InCom WGs 127 “Fish Passage” and 128 “Alternative Bank Protection Methods for Inland Waterways” Working Groups and will partner in the activities.

EnviCom presentations

- EnviCom had three presentations on the AGA 08 on 26th May 2008 in Beijing, China held by Chairman Harald Köthe:
 1. PIANC and the Environment, Annual EnviCom report,
 2. Climate Change and Navigation,
 3. PIANC Position Paper (draft): Working with Nature.
- EnviCom contributed three presentations on the International Navigation Seminar (following PIANC AGA 2008), 28-29. May 2008 in Beijing, China:
 1. Dorothe Herpertz: On the way to reconcile environmental requirements and waterway management "Good Practice" examples from Germany. (EnviCom TG1),
 2. Hans Moser & Stefan Mai: Impacts of Climate Change on Navigation (EnviCom TG 3),
 3. Pol Hakstege: Dredged Material as a Resource – Options and Constraints (EnviCom WG 14).

Strategic Initiatives

Working with Nature

During 2008 EnviCom developed in an intensive process with its partner associations IADC, IAPH, CEDA, CCNR under the lead of Mrs. Jan Brooke resulting in the PIANC Position Paper “Working with Nature”. The Position Paper was presented by chairman Harald Köthe at AGA 2008 in Beijing/China, finalized and adopted by ExCom in October 2008. The development of the paper was supported by presentations on the last EnviCom meeting from

- Jan van der Meene, The Netherlands, EcoShape –Manager of the Program “Building with Nature”, and
- Robert Tögel (via-donau, Austria) with experiences about the “Integrated River Engineering Project on the Danube to the East of Vienna, Combining Ecological and Economic Goals through a Joint Planning Approach”

The Position Paper shall catalyze a **shift in thinking on how to approach future navigation projects** to reduce plan approval times and frustrations by seeking win-win-solutions. The paper was immediately and positively recognized in the environmental and navigation sector. It is an essential new element of PIANC’s strategy and available in several languages (English, French, German in prep.) on the PIANC website (<http://www.pianc.org/workingwithnature.asp>).

Climate Change and Navigation

EnviCom initiated strategic activities for PIANC in 2007 and created with the published TG 3 report a common knowledge ground within PIANC which serves to

- develop in what areas PIANC should elaborate specific technical guidance about climate change for the navigation sector and
- to communicate that PIANC has recognized the challenges of climate change in a pro-active way.

All PIANC commissions will deepen relevant technical aspects related to climate change on the basis of TG3-report and their recommendations. Therefore EnviCom developed a proposal for a climate change working structure in PIANC which takes into account the different aspects and needs for maritime and inland navigation, adaptation and mitigation and a professional networking/communication.

World Water Forum

EnviCom contributed to the preparations of PIANC’s participation on the 5th World Water Forum (WWF) which will take place in Istanbul, 16.-21.March 2009. For the first time the navigation sector is going to be present with an own session (17th March) and has the possibility to raise the economic and environmental benefits in the context of freshwater. EnviCom prepared and provided the environmental part of the PIANC paper to WWF and will give the presentation “Inland Waterways - procedures and concepts to ensure environmental sustainability”.

UNESCO

EnviCom started in 2008 to build up a co-operation with the UNESCO division of (fresh-) water sciences. Two meetings of EnviCom chairman Harald Köthe with UNESCO (at CHR UNESCO ISI workshop on “Erosion, Transport and Deposition of Sediments” on 28-30 April 2008 in Bern/Switzerland and a meeting on 27th May 2008 in UNESCO office Beijing) lead to a meeting with UNESCO water director Andras Szollösi-Nagy, PIANC president Eric van den Eede and Harald Köthe in UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 26th November 2008. It was agreed to prepare a MoU between UNESCO and PIANC for a future co-operation in the field of freshwater and navigation and to sign this in 2009.

EnviCom Action Plan

EnviCom started to develop the EnviCom Action Plan 2015. In this context EnviCom developed a new template for the working and task group management which is connected with the Action Plan.