

EUCC COASTAL GUIDE NEWS  
No 4, 18 March, 2003

\*\*\*\*\*

EUCC Coastal Guide News is a biweekly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union, currently without external funding. Readers are therefore encouraged to join the EUCC as a member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in <http://www.eucc.nl/members>. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact [news@coastalguide.org](mailto:news@coastalguide.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

BREAKING NEWS !!!

The Editors of the EUCC Coastal Guide News request the urgent attention of the entire European coastal community for the items below:

#### COMMISSION REMOVES COASTAL ZONES FROM RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The European Commission has revised the priorities of the 6th Research and Development Programme on Global Change and Ecosystems. In the revised programme several topics have been transferred from the 2003 call for proposals to the first call of 2004, mainly for budgetary reasons. Some topics have been entirely removed; among these topics are the Coastal Zones. The original programme called for the establishment of a long lasting Network of Excellence on coastal research in support of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

#### EUROPEAN COASTAL COMMUNITY DEEPLY CONCERNED

At a joint meeting of two European research networks, ENCoRe ([www.coastalguide.org/encore](http://www.coastalguide.org/encore)) and COASTAL INFO (led by EUCC - The Coastal Union), 15 March at Schiphol Airport, serious concern was expressed about the implications of the Commission's proposal. Both initiatives, that have agreed to merge under ENCoRe, represent a large number of research institutes and many coastal practitioners throughout Europe.

The meeting stressed the urgent need to enhance the capacities of the European scientific community to respond to the knowledge needs of coastal planning and ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management).

Knowledge on coastal zones is carried by a very large number of institutions throughout Europe. Most coastal research groups are very small, however, addressing only a few aspects of ICZM. Coastal issues generally need a broader range of expertise than individual research institutions can offer. The existing organisation of coastal sciences does not adequately match the knowledge needs of coastal practitioners. Dedicated initiatives, such as ELOISE, ENCoRe, and COASTAL INFO, have been motivated by this concern about the communication gap between coastal practitioners and the coastal science community.

#### IMPLICATIONS FOR COASTAL PLANNING AND ICZM

The Commission's initial support the establishment of a coastal research network through the 6th Framework Programme has therefore been welcomed as an important step to strengthen the relationship between science, planning and management (ICZM). The objective of such a network is to tackle fragmentation of coastal knowledge and to stimulate more comprehensive approaches to coastal issues. One can think, in particular, of the challenges posed by long term trends of coastal zone occupation, structural erosion, climate change and sea level rise. The European Commission launched its Coastal Strategy for Europe in September 2000, followed by the European Council and Parliament Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, in 2002. These promising initiatives need to

be supported through a 6th Framework project that aims to enhance the capacities of the European scientific community to respond to the knowledge needs of coastal managers and planners, especially while a coastal practitioners network is still to be formally established.

CALL FOR ACTION:  
HELP AVOIDING THIS MISTAKE BEFORE 25 MARCH!!

The editors of the EUCC Coastal Guide News call upon all members of the European coastal community to express their concern about the Commission's most recent proposal.

The revision of the Framework Programme will be submitted for approval to the Programme Committee at its meeting of 25 March.

In the Programme Committee all member states are represented.

It is important that the coastal community makes the national representatives aware of the consequences of the proposal for the implementation of ICZM in Europe. You will find a list of the national delegates at the Programme Committee on Global Change and Ecosystems attached to this message. Please excuse us for the small font and use the zoom function of Acrobat Reader Programme.

Alternatively you can approach your contacts in your ministry for research, or other key contacts in your government.

Let us help the Commission avoiding a serious mistake !

\*\*\*\*\*

Deadline for submitting contributions to Coastal Guide News No 5, 2003:

25 March 2003

\*\*\*\*\*

© Articles may be reproduced free of charge with acknowledgement and citation of Coastal Guide News and the URL of the Coastal Guide ([www.coastalguide.org](http://www.coastalguide.org)). The articles of this and previous issues of Coastal Guide News can be found at <http://www.coastalguide.org/news>

Members of the EUCC Coastal Guide News editorial team: Erik Devilee, Antje Ehrenburg (Amsterdam Water Supply), Marijke Kooijman, Irene Lucius, Piet Lansbergen, Toni March, Arnoud van der Meulen, Albert Salman.

Established in 1989, EUCC - the Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 750 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.nl>

\*\*\*\*\*