

**MARKET TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (MTAC)**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 1999

Present	Papers
Bob Ryder, DETR - Chairman Teresa Smallbone, NCC Deborah Brown David Simpson, SSE Tim Curtis, EST Frans Berkhout Geoff Bushell, ETSU Paul White, ETSU Mark Hinnells, ETSU Chris Baker, DETR Owen Emery, DETR - Secretary	Annual Plan for 1999-2000 (ETSU)

Membership matters

1. Apologies had been received from Ian Andrews (DTI). Frans Berkhout was formally welcomed as a new Committee member, and introduced himself.

Minutes of MTAC(98)2

2. These were approved.

Market Transformation Programme (MTP)/Integrated Products Policy (IPP) update

3. The Department had issued a consultation paper on its proposed approach to developing an Integrated Products Policy. A large number of responses had been received and these were currently being analysed. A high-level advisory panel including representatives of stakeholder interests would be established in due course to help direct policy development. The panel would consider policy priorities looking at which product sectors and environmental impacts should be tackled. This could influence the future direction of the MTP which has a broad remit to respond to policy imperatives and provide general policy support in the environmental products area. In particular, it was envisaged that the MTP could expand further into non-domestic sectors and, specifically, cover feasibility studies and develop product criteria for non-energy environmental issues which would inform IPP Panel discussions. We would be seeking practical ways to link the Panel with MTAC and the MTP to ensure synergy and to avoid duplication of effort.

4. In other areas, the Department's sustainable goods and services policy had been developing on similar lines, although with different consultative processes. The Department would be producing its strategy later in the year. The Department had also taken over the

formal role of the UK's ecolabelling competent body on 1 January, following the demise of the United Kingdom Ecolabelling Board.

Annual Plan for 1999-2000

5. ETSU presented their draft Annual Plan to the Committee for their views. The Plan contained a prioritised programme of work covering all of the product sectors identified in the original contract specification, which represented ETSU's current brief. The document proposed 3 budget options: option 1 amounting to £670k for high momentum in all sectors, option 2 £490k for medium momentum in all sectors and option 3 £520k for high momentum in fewer sectors.

6. The outcome of the ensuing discussion was that the Committee generally endorsed the order of priorities as set out in the document, but felt that more analysis and information should be presented on the upcoming and strategic issues in each sector. It was noted that whilst the Annual Plan and Programmes of Work set out the practical actions to be undertaken by ETSU, these would inevitably evolve in response to the outcome of the main Sector Review consultations and discussions which were now underway. The aim was for the bulk of the strategic thinking to be expressed in public domain material and published on the Web site during the next six months.

7. With that proviso, the Committee was content to agree the broad strategy and outline programmes of work for individual product sectors as presented, and was of the view that it would not need to consider the details of proposals for specific new extramural sub-contracts which were identified in the Plan. The Committee would mainly concern itself with proposals to vary the priorities and direction of the Plan and with any proposals for new or contentious items on which the Department required advice. Committee members indicated their preference to be kept informed and consulted by mail on ad-hoc issues rather than to have more frequent meetings.

ACTION: DETR would consider with ETSU how the options could be refined in the light of the Committee's views to match the available budget (£500k for 1999-2000) - ie a mixture of options 2 and 3. ETSU would then agree with DETR revised programmes of work which it would routinely submit to Committee members for their information and further comments.

Date of next meeting

8. The next meeting of MTAC was arranged for Wednesday 9 June 1999 in the 6th Floor Conference Room, Ashdown House, starting at 11.00 am.