



## *Invitation*

### **Workshop on Improving Assessment of the Environment in Impact Assessment**

**15 January 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Brussels**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the pleasure of inviting you to a Workshop on improving the assessment of environmental impacts in Impact Assessment, which will be held in Brussels on **15 January 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., in the Borschette Center, Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Bruxelles, 1st Floor, Room C.**

#### **Background to Workshop**

Impact Assessment is a process to improve policy design - making sure that objectives are achieved in ways that maximise benefits whilst minimising costs. One of the ways it does this is by playing an integration role and ensuring that impacts from other policy areas are taken account of in decision-making. As such, Impact Assessment is potentially a key tool for making Sustainable Development a reality.

This is a time of fast change for Impact Assessment systems in Europe. An increasing number of Member States are implementing, or plan to implement, their own Impact Assessment systems, mirroring what is already taking place in the Commission and in a small number of Member States. The question is how best to do this to ensure that they systematically assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of new legislation as part of an integrated process.

This workshop will present and discuss the findings of the project “Improving Assessment of the Environment in Impact Assessment” commissioned by DG Environment. We will be pleased to welcome you at the Workshop together with other impact assessment EU and Member State practitioners and experts to share your experiences and views on how to improve consideration of environmental impacts in impact assessments.

#### **Aim of Workshop**

The purpose of the Workshop is to analyse to what extent impact assessments in other policy areas consider environmental impacts, to highlight best practice and the factors that lead to best practice. Based on the project’s findings, suggestions will be made on how to ensure that Member States and the Commission consider environmental impacts within impact assessment.

The outcome should be a series of recommendations to be taken into account in the design and application of Impact Assessment systems if they are to deliver Sustainable Development.



### **Programme and Registration**

For the **programme** and the **registration** form please download the form at <http://www.ecologic-events.de/eu-impact-assessment/en/contacts.htm> and send it before **5 January 2007**

We will be very pleased to welcome you in Brussels in January.

**Updated versions of the conference programme as well as any logistical information** can be found in the **Internet** at <http://www.ecologic-events.de/eu-impact-assessment/en/index.htm>. This is also where you will be able to download the report which is to prepare Workshop discussions.

Anneke von Raggamby and Conference Team

For questions please contact: Anneke von Raggamby, Ecologic ([raggamby@ecologic.de](mailto:raggamby@ecologic.de)) or Stephen White, DG Environment ([Stephen.White@cec.eu.int](mailto:Stephen.White@cec.eu.int)).