



Meeting of Copenhagen
London Group – September 2004

Summarised inventory and projects on environmental accounts

Among what is called “environmental accounting”, the more developed in France are still expenditure accounts. They are regularly produced. Elaborated within the SERIEE framework, they are published every year in a report and presented to the Commission of Accounts and Economy of Environment, chaired by the Minister of Environment. Besides this annual report, the Commission examines each year one or two special reports linking economy and environment. In 2004, the topic was “Enterprises and Environment”. We are now working on “Agriculture and Environment”, and “Social aspects of Environment” for the next meeting (spring 2005).

Though these monetary accounts have been realised for many years, they need to be improved in different ways :

- All the domains (according to CEPA) are not yet covered : soil and groundwater are the main missing domains. According to the French energetic choice, the elaboration of nuclear waste management accounts was a priority and we achieved it last year. Besides, these environmental protection expenditure accounts are complemented with some environment-related specific accounts : water abstraction and recycling.
- We also wish to improve the estimation methods for the accounts we elaborate. So, air, noise and biodiversity accounts are being revised, in particular, by exploring new sources of data. For instance, we prepare a survey to ask the motorway firms how much they spend for reducing noise and protecting biodiversity and landscape.
- Lastly, we plan to elaborate wastewater account at the basin level to conform the European directive.

We are progressing too in linking physical and monetary data :

- We published regularly results on natural resource accounts for forest, with wooded land and forest products, and subsoil assets. Namea Matrix is also an analysis format we use now for air emissions.
- Besides our usual elaboration method for waste and wastewater expenditures, actually based on producers' sales, we are studying the possibility of measuring expenditures value with a method sharing quantities and prices effects in order to analyse evolutions' causes.

- As regards physical accounts, and especially in the field of water, considerable steps have been realized. After first accounts of quality and resources were tried out - they were presented last year at the London Group by P. Crouzet - first accounts of emissions of pollutants in water were calculated. A draft of a methodological note is being prepared. But test results have been produced right now, which cover the whole of the national territory.
- The search for a bringing together between physical and monetary data is also one of the objectives of a deep reorganization of Ifen. The production of the accounts was the task of a separate unit in the organization. Now, the experts in charge of the production of the accounts of the various fields are functionally associated to the specialists working on the physical aspects. A greater synergy between one and another is expected from it.

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