

Executive Summary

Defra held a post Kiev stakeholder event on Monday 21 July to look at key areas of follow-up for the UK, how the UK can deliver its commitments, stakeholder involvement in the process, and funding options for stakeholders.

The day started with a report back of the Kiev Environment for Europe Conference from Government and civil society perspectives. One clear message was related to stakeholder involvement in the preparatory phase of the Conference. Although Defra had made a significant effort to involve UK stakeholders in the preparation of the Conference, more work was needed to develop stakeholder awareness and participation in the process in the UK and internationally in the future. There was a particular need to encourage more private sector participation.

Following this, 3 break out groups looked at different policy areas. It was suggested that there should be 3 key UK priorities: water and sanitation, energy and biodiversity. Education for Sustainable Development and public participation should be cross-cutting themes. It was suggested that a network be established to continue involving stakeholders in the Environment for Europe process and in addition, a smaller contact group be established on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The aim of this group would be to try to tap into the expertise that exists in this area within the UK and to be involved in the development of the ESD strategy.

The Government had an important role to play in the follow-up process and they aimed to be real partners in capacity building and facilitating investment. There were a number of links and synergies between Kiev follow-up and WSSD follow-up. Kiev should build upon the WSSD process, with a focus on particular aspects of the agenda. A number of the outcomes of Kiev would help address WSSD targets and commitments.

The afternoon started with a report of a stakeholder survey that had been carried out on behalf of Defra by Stakeholder Forum. The survey aimed to gather stakeholders' views on the agenda of the conference and level of stakeholder participation and awareness. A number of recommendations were made to Defra and stakeholders relating to increasing stakeholder awareness and involvement, increasing dissemination of information and facilitation of stakeholder participation.

The final session, organised as a panel led discussion, looked at funding options open to stakeholders. The session aimed to look at what funding was available and how it could best be accessed and used most effectively. It seemed that it was sometimes difficult to get funding for small projects and that there was insufficient contact between organisations that worked in the same sectors or regions. More collaboration would be useful to avoid duplication of effort and streamline assistance to the region.