Dear Colleagues,

As the Auditor General of Norway, I am honoured to be the new chair of EUROSAI WGEA. We have high ambitions for the coming years and will do our very best to continue the important work of the EUROSAI WGEA. I am proud to launch the first newsletter which introduces the new secretariat for the EUROSAI WGEA. I hope that you all can attend the 6th EUROSAI WGEA Meeting, which will be held 7-9 October 2008, in Kiev. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the future direction of the EUROSAI WGEA and how to improve the management of natural resources and the environment in the public sector in Europe.

Sincerely yours,

Jørgen Kosmo

Herdis Laupsa, who heads the secretariat, has a Master in Science in the field of meteorology from the University of Bergen, and has worked with environmental issues for more than 10 years. From 2000 to 2008 she worked as a senior scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), at the Department of Urban and Industrial Air Pollution. Her main activities have been related to Air Quality Assessments and Management projects for private business sector and national and international authorities. Her international experience is from projects in Poland, China, Sweden, Senegal and Bangladesh and she has also worked on several EU-funded research projects related to urban air quality issues.

Anne Hilde Torvik has a Masters degree in ‘Social Change and Development’ from University of Newcastle and a Bachelors degree with majors in development and environmental studies. After finishing her degree in 2002, she worked for a humanitarian, non-governmental organisation as a Programme Coordinator for 5 years. Her main focus was the Middle East, Southern Africa and East Africa. Her tasks involved follow-up of field offices, partners and projects, planning, reporting, proposal writing, capacity building and coordination.

Kjell Kristian Darum has a Master in Political Science from the University of Oslo with specialization within international resource and environmental politics. From 1998 to 2006 he worked as an adviser in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. His main tasks were related to the management of living marine resources. On the international level this has included bilateral and multilateral fisheries negotiations, bilateral and regional fisheries co-operation, and global processes within the UN and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Since 2006 he has worked as senior audit adviser in the Office of the Auditor General of Norway where he has worked on a parallel audit together with the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation on the management of living marine resources in the Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea.

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