

## Foreword

**T**he principal aim of the OECD Environmental Performance Review programme is to help member and selected partner countries improve their individual and collective performance in environmental management by:

- helping individual governments assess progress in achieving their environmental goals
- promoting continuous policy dialogue and peer learning
- stimulating greater accountability from governments towards each other and public opinion.

This report reviews the environmental performance of the Netherlands since the previous OECD review in 2003. Progress in achieving domestic objectives and international commitments provides the basis for assessing the country's environmental performance. Such objectives and commitments may be broad aims, qualitative goals or quantitative targets. A distinction is made between intentions, actions and results. Assessment of environmental performance is also placed within the context of the Netherlands' historical environmental record, present state of the environment, physical endowment in natural resources, economic conditions and demographic trends.

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The OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance discussed the draft Environmental Performance Review of the Netherlands at its meeting on 18 June 2015 in Paris, and approved the Assessment and recommendations.



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