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**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

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**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND  
REPORTING BY ENTERPRISES**

Note by the secretariat<sup>1</sup>

This note presents the results of the Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises convened by the Working Group in Debe (Poland) on 4–6 September 2006 pursuant to a decision taken at its sixth session (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006, para. 35). Workshop documentation and the list of participants are available at <http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/workshops>. The Working Group is expected to take note of this report and to agree on the text of revised *Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises* prepared by the workshop (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/4/Rev.1).

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<sup>1</sup> This document is being submitted on the above date because of processing delays.

1. The Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises was held on 4–6 September 2006 in Debe (Poland), at the invitation of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of Poland.
2. The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Secretariat of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP TF) for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) cooperated in the organization and holding of the workshop.
3. The workshop was attended by experts from national and subnational governmental bodies responsible for environmental monitoring and/or compliance, statistical agencies and other government institutions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
4. Representatives of UNECE and EAP TF attended the meeting.
5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: the Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption (Kazakhstan), the Czech Coalition of Consumers' Activities – KOSA (Czech Republic), the Independent Environment Rating Agency – NERA (Russian Federation), the Kazakhstan Business Council for Sustainable Development – KBCSD (Kazakhstan), the Volgograd-Ecopress Information Centre (Russian Federation) and ZNIT Kaliningrad (Russian Federation).
6. Senior environmental affairs officers from Almaty Power Consolidated (Kazakhstan), Belarus Steel Making Plant (Belarus), BOT Górnictwo i Energetyka (Poland), JSC “Caustic” (Russian Federation), Karachaganak Petroleum Operating (Kazakhstan), Kazkchrom (Kazakhstan), Kombinat Koksochemiczny “Zabrze” SA (Poland), NOVOGOR-Prikamye (Russian Federation) and the Ust Kamenogorsk Thermal Power Station (Kazakhstan) attended.
7. Mr. Wojciech Stawiany, Chief Inspector, Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of Poland, made an opening statement. He welcomed the participation of various stakeholders in the workshop, highlighted the importance of the *Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises* that the workshop was expected to prepare, and indicated the preparedness of Poland to provide further support, especially through bilateral cooperation, to countries of Eastern Europe on environmental monitoring and assessment.

## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE DISCUSSION

8. The workshop exchanged the experience gained in subregions of the UNECE, primarily in countries of EECCA, in taking legal, normative, institutional, financial and technical measures

to improve environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. This was done at four subsequent plenary sessions through presentations each followed by a question-and-answer period and a general discussion. The work of these four plenary sessions alternated with the discussion, in three parallel expert groups, of individual sections of the draft *Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises*, with presentation of results to the plenary. The workshop concluded with two more plenary sessions, on (a) practical steps to reform environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises, and (b) general conclusions.

9. Mr. Andrzej Jagusiewicz (Poland) chaired the plenary sessions. A representative of the EAP TF secretariat and two UNECE consultants led the discussions in three parallel expert groups.

10. **Plenary session 1**, on issues involving the overall organization of environmental monitoring at enterprises, covered legal requirements for environmental monitoring by enterprises and their practical implementation in Poland; legal, regulatory and methodological issues involved in the organization and carrying out of air monitoring by enterprises in the Russian Federation; and activities of NGOs in Kazakhstan with regard to environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. The draft *Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises* were also introduced at this session.

11. **Plenary session 2** covered the relationship between self-monitoring and monitoring of environmental quality. Participants discussed problems and perspectives with regard to the monitoring of air quality and emissions in Belarus; the system of emission inventories and monitoring in the Russian Federation; and ratings of the social and environmental performance of Russian business. A general discussion was also held on the types of monitoring that enterprises in EECCA countries should be required to conduct.

12. **Plenary session 3** was devoted to trends in changing environmental reporting requirements for enterprises. It covered approaches to the implementation of the requirements of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) to the Aarhus Convention in EECCA; statistical observations on environmental protection by enterprises and modernization of these observations in Ukraine; corporate sustainability and environmental reporting in the Russian Federation; the experience of the NOVOGOR-Prikamye company (Russian Federation) with corporate sustainability reporting; environmental protection activities by Kazkchrom enterprises in Kazakhstan; and a review of practical experiences of Kazakhstan's enterprises with environmental monitoring.

13. **Plenary session 4**, on the use of environmental reporting by enterprises in decision-making and public information, covered compliance monitoring and problems of environmental self-monitoring in Georgia; an enterprise's experience with environmental reporting and environmental decision-making in the chemical industry in the Russian Federation; the activities of Ust Kamenogorsk Thermal Power Station relating to environmental self-monitoring, reporting and interaction with public authorities on the environment; and the use of enterprise reporting as a basis for dialogue with the public.

14. *Plenary session 5*, on practical steps to reform environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises, considered the results of a pilot EAP TF project in Kazakhstan to reform environmental self-monitoring and lessons learned that could be applied in other EECCA countries.

## II. RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS

15. The presentations from EECCA countries and the ensuing discussions revealed both the achievements and the shortcomings and weaknesses of current systems for environmental monitoring and reporting in the subregion. The latter included, among other things, shortcomings or contradictions in setting basic requirements for enterprise environmental monitoring in legislation; lack of coordination and communication between various environmental, health and statistics authorities at different levels in handling environmental data collected and reported by enterprises; lack of trust between public authorities and industry; and frequent lack of commitment by the general management of industries to environmental issues.

16. The workshop stressed that strengthened efforts to effectively resolve existing shortcomings and weaknesses would improve the monitoring of enterprise compliance with environmental regulations and data collection to produce national state-of-the-environment reports and reports to the international community. It was also highlighted that increasing the quantity of environmental information produced by enterprises, improving the quality of this information and enhancing access to it by the general public would help to exert significant pressure on polluters to reduce their adverse environmental impacts.

17. The workshop welcomed the draft *Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises* prepared by the UNECE secretariat with the assistance of a consultant and in cooperation with the EAP TF (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/4). It supported the drafters' decision to base the *Guidelines* on good practices developed in various parts of the UNECE region and take into account the requirements of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Protocol on PRTRs, and supranational instruments such as EU Directive 96/61/EC on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control.

18. The workshop proposed that the *Guidelines* should cover salient issues involved in establishing an effective modern system for environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises, including (a) the legal basis, monitoring approaches and types, and cost issues; (b) the composition of an enterprise monitoring programme; (c) quality assurance and control; (d) record keeping and reporting; (e) data management by the public authorities; and (f) measures to promote enterprise monitoring and reporting.

19. Expressing support for both the structure and the content of the draft *Guidelines*, the workshop nevertheless stressed the need to better clarify specific elements of the *Guidelines* such as the definition of "operator"; the *Guidelines*' applicability, first, to enterprises of a certain threshold capacity in the main polluting sectors of economic activity; the responsibilities of individual public authorities; the incorporation of sets of basic measurement parameters into legislation; the coverage of discharges in addition to emissions as well as the inclusion of environmental quality (rather than impact) parameters in enterprise monitoring programmes; the

differences between certification and accreditation; and the differences between mandatory and voluntary types of reporting by enterprises.

20. The parallel discussion groups came up with a number of proposals to modify or supplement specific provisions of the *Guidelines*. The workshop invited the secretariat to introduce non-contentious amendments into the draft *Guidelines* and submit the resulting revised *Guidelines*, on behalf of the workshop, to the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for final agreement.

21. The workshop stressed that the endorsement of the *Guidelines* and their subsequent implementation would require strong commitments and close cooperation by all stakeholders, including governmental bodies at the national and subnational levels responsible for environmental policy and protection, public health, environmental monitoring, and monitoring of compliance with environmental legislation and regulations, as well as statistical agencies, business and industry and their associations, and civil society organizations. In this regard, the workshop stressed the need for all participants and the Working Group itself to raise the profile of the *Guidelines* in EECCA countries on the way to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 2007).

22. The workshop supported the proposal by the Enterprise Consultative Board at the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment that the latter should consider the development, as a follow-up to the general *Guidelines*, and in cooperation with business and industry, of industry-tailored specific manuals such as manuals on environmental monitoring of the exploration, drilling, transportation and refining of oil and gas, and on environmental monitoring programmes in the chemical industry.

23. The workshop expressed its gratitude to both the Netherlands and Poland for, respectively, the financial and in-kind support provided to the workshop. The participants thanked the host authorities for the excellent arrangements made for the workshop and the hospitality offered to all participants.

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