

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 6. Chemicals

Intervention by the Mama-86¹

OPs (obsolete pesticides) problem is indeed one of most acute in the EECCA countries. There are tens thousands of tons in each of these countries being stored improperly or buried in thousands of places covering almost all rural areas. Majority of these OPs are mixtures therefore considered as POPs. Recent inventory done by Mama-86 in Ukraine in cooperation with Milieukontakt international and TAWH consulting company using FAO methodics demonstrated clearly that real quantity is at least twice larger than official data says, and Ministries of Environment often agree with this since they never had capacities to make proper inventory in countries.

Also, where practical clean-up operations are taken by MoE, it always demonstrates difference with official data in two times in average. (This is due to the specificity of this problem, as it is mainly legacy of the past, and in EECCA, for example, no producers could be found as USSR is gone (in Africa at least the producer still could be found), and previous owners – collective farms – are also gone, transition period caused abandonment and transformation, data loses, etc.)

There is also lack of local technologies for safe destruction of OPs inside countries, therefore the only method is to re-pack and transport OPs to destruction in western hi-tech plants using Basel Convention provisions. All these operations require highest safety level and entail a lot of resources, which are not usually available inside the country.

Therefore, we strongly support previous speakers mentioned OPs acute problem (Swedish Presidency, ECO-Accord, WECF) and especially proposal of Slovenia to address OPs specifically at the CSD 18 and 19 to review existing instruments and cooperation mechanisms in terms of their efficiency to help countries to combat OPs problem.

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.