

EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

THE 2000 REVIEW ON STRATEGIES AND POLICIES
FOR AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES
REPLIES TO QUESTION 64 OF THE 2000 QUESTIONNAIRE

Prepared by the secretariat from submissions by the Parties

Introduction

1. This document is the basis for part of the 2000 Review of Policies and Strategies requested by the Executive Body at its seventeenth session in December 1999. It provides the answers as received from Parties in response to the questionnaire circulated in January 2000. It is in English only, non-English submissions were passed to the UN translation services, and are incorporated as translated. Answers have been reformatted for the document but have been subjected to minimal editing. Indication is given where responses have been altered, e.g. moved where an answer appears to be for a different question.

2. The document is intended as a reference for the summary to be found in the 2000 Review of Strategies and Policies (EB.AIR/2000/1/Add.3) and will be provided to the Executive Body, the Implementation Committee and will be made available on the Executive Body document Web site. The document is one section of the questionnaire.

3. This section summarizes the answers received to question 64 of the questionnaire. The question in this section is of a general nature and optional. Its purpose is to provide further information that will enable the secretariat to analyse the current situation regarding air pollution abatement in the region, and provide information that the Executive Body would like the Parties to the Convention to share to identify air pollution abatement. Parties may wish to recall that under article 4 of the Convention they have committed to exchanging information on their policies aimed at abating air pollution.

4. **Q.64 Besides ongoing cooperation under the Convention, several Parties participate in other multilateral or bilateral programmes within the UN/ECE region to abate air pollution, such as joint implementation and burden sharing. Please briefly describe your involvement in these programmes, including their objectives, time frames and, where possible, results.**

5. **Austria.** Austria has concluded a series of bilateral treaties on cooperation in environment matters with its neighbouring countries in the Eastern part of Europe since 1985. The framework of bilateral agreements includes programmes to provide specialised technical and organizational assistance through the implementation of working plans developed under agreements on cooperation in the field of environment; enhance energy efficiency and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources; collect and exchange environmental data and information; and develop indigenous environmental counselling as well as educational capacities and structures. Austria

plays an active role in multilateral and regional cooperations such as the Central European Initiative (C.E.I.), the Regional Environmental Center in Budapest and the Central European Environmental Data Request Facility (CEDAR).

6. **Belgium.** Wallon region. In the Wallon region, such programmes are currently being prepared as part of the future air quality plan but they will deal primarily with the reduction of CO₂.
7. **Bulgaria.** Bulgaria participates in the International Joint Programme on the assessment and monitoring of air pollution effect on the forests. A program on the approximation of Bulgarian Environmental Legislation with EU requirements for industrial pollution abatement was implemented with the Danish co-operation. Bilateral programme with France B PHARE 98 (ADEME) and with Germany in 1999 are being implemented. Bulgaria is to sign an agreement with the Netherlands on the joint implementation of a programme on greenhouse gasses reduction.
8. **Canada.** Under the Air Quality Agreement, Canada and the United States launched negotiations on February 16, 2000 in Ottawa of a new annex to the Agreement to address ground-level ozone through reductions of NO_x and VOC emissions. The negotiations are expected to be complete in 2000 and are expected to establish for the two countries the bases for their ratification of the LRTAP Convention Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. Joint work to describe the transboundary inhalable particles issue is underway now and an annex to the Air Quality Agreement to address this issue is expected in 2-4 years.
9. **Croatia.** Since 1998 Croatia has been included in Netherlands' programme for cooperation with countries in central and eastern Europe (PSO) and in 1998 Croatia signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Netherlands on energy efficiency issues and the use of renewable energy on the Island of Hvar.
10. **Cyprus.** Two activities are mentioned herebelow that are relevant to this report:
 - (a) Project on Industrial Pollution Control. Financed through the 3rd Cyprus – EU Financial Protocol. Objective : To enhance the capabilities of the Government of Cyprus for combating industrial pollution, to harmonise existing legislation with EU legislation and to provide technical guidance to selected industrial units to enable them to solve environmental problems. Duration: July 1996 – Dec. 1998;
 - (b) Project on Industrial Pollution Control and on the Control of Chemical Substances. Financed through the E.U. LIFE Programme. Objective: Establishment of an integrated management system for industrial emissions and for the control of chemical substances and development of tasks related to Best Available Techniques for the implementation of the EU Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC). Duration: January 1999 – December 2000.
11. **Czech Republic.** The Czech Republic is a party to the following multilateral or bilateral programmes related to protection of the air within the UN/ECE region:
 - (a) The Memorandum on exchange of imission data in the Black Triangle - cooperation amongst CR, Poland and Germany. Cooperation was commenced by signing the agreement on June 17, 1996. The target is monitoring of air quality and exchange of data amongst these three countries;

(b) The Agreement between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the People's Republic of Poland on protection of the air against pollution. This Agreement was signed on September 24, 1974 in Warsaw. Its target is an attempt to decrease air pollution, monitor discharged substances and monitor and evaluate the state of air pollution. In addition, bilateral environmental agreements have been concluded between CR and the surrounding countries in which the area of air pollution is included. They once again deal with cooperation in monitoring, exchange of information and mutual assistance in this area.

12. In the years 1991 - 1997, the Silesia project was carried out in cooperation with the USA. This program dealt with risk assessment and management acting on the health of the population of Silesia, including the impact of air pollution on human health. The Teplice project has been functioning since 1993. This is a program of scientific research dealing with air control and monitoring in the Teplice area. The original program supported by the USA has been replaced by a new program (Teplice II) with only CR participating.

13. **Germany.** Germany is engaged in bilateral programmes with all countries of Central and Eastern Europe with the aim of improving environmental conditions. The measures include financial assistance for the installation of emission control technology, efficient energy use and pollution measurement equipment.

14. **Greece.** Greece and Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding on environmental protection on 20 January 2000. The topics covered by the text include the exchange of scientific and technical information on the environmental impacts of the main sectors of activity. The memorandum will be valid for three years and is open to automatic renewal for further periods of three years each. Similar texts concerning Greece and other Balkan countries are in preparation.

15. **Hungary.** There has been technical and financial cooperation between the Netherlands and Hungarian Governments aimed at improving the exchange of VOC-abatement technologies.

16. **Latvia.** In the years 1997-1999, activities were carried out aimed on improving the operation of the monitoring system and quality of the observation, and preventing environmental pollution to meet the requirements of the EC Directives:

(a) Modernization of the air monitoring network through the installation of automated DOAS systems in major towns and industrial centres of Latvia;

(b) Modernization of 2 EMEP stations and the laboratory equipment for air and precipitation monitoring by financial assistance of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Institute of Applied Environmental Research, Stockholm University);

(c) State Hydrometeorological Agency (SHMA) initiated project => Development of Systems for Environmental, Air, Inland Water and Marine Transboundary Pollution, Latvia= in order to upgrade quality of work of the laboratory to comply with the EMEP requirements. The objective of the project is modernization of the laboratory by additional financial support of PHARE programme. Experts of PHARE approved the project on 1998;

(d) SHMA laboratory, participated in 6 intercomparison exercises by assistance of NILU (Norwegian Institute for Air Research), NIVA (Norwegian Institute for Water Research), GAW/WMO-Acid Rain (Albany University), and ISPRA (European Commission Environment Institute, Italy);

(e) The expert of the Environmental Quality Observation Department of SHMA participated, by financial support from NILU, WMO and the Stockholm University, in training

courses and workshops: dedicated to extended heavy metal and POP's observations (Lillehammer and Moscow), QA/QC issues at the EMEP stations (Czech, Bergen), first joint EMEP/WMO/GAW training workshop for System and Performance Auditors (Czech), field, laboratory and data handling training in the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute;

(f) The air monitoring network of Latvia is involved in the EUROAIRNET system to provide the exchange of information at the regional and international levels.

17. **Lithuania.** Since independence, Lithuania has established close links for environmental cooperation with its neighbours as well as with other countries around the Baltic Sea and elsewhere in Europe. Lithuania has established very close links and environmental cooperation with the northern Baltic countries. Technical assistance and financial support (JI) from these countries has led to a gradual improvement in their common environment.

18. In 1995, the Governments of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia signed the Trilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Environmental Protection. It stipulates that the coordination and supervision of the relevant activities are responsibility of the Baltic Council of Ministries. The Environmental Policy Committee of the Baltic Council of Ministers discusses and prepares all environmental issues giving rise to trilateral cooperation. It also proposes activities to the Baltic Environmental Forum. The Forum is a joint project between the EU and the three Baltic States.

19. In 1992, Nordic and Baltic countries set up an integrated monitoring system. In Lithuania there are transboundary pollution measuring station that meet the EMEP standards to monitor air quality (both long-range transboundary air pollution and precipitation). Lithuania participates in warning systems developed to comply with the Helsinki Commissions recommendations on the prevention of air pollution.

20. **Monaco.** The principality carries out a bilateral co-operation policy with several UN/ECE countries, such as Bulgaria and France, to protect and regenerate forests (unofficial translation).

21. **Netherlands.** This situation is unchanged from what was reported in the latest review.

22. **Poland.** Poland has established an advanced bilateral partnership in the field of environmental protection with the neighbouring countries. The majority of agreements has been signed before 1994 and more detailed information on them was provided in previous reviews (e.g. Polish-Lithuanian, Polish-German, Polish-Slovak, Polish-Ukrainian agreements) Below are some events related to them:

(a) Establishment of a Permanent Working Group on co-operation in environmental protection between Poland and Belarus;

(b) Implementation of the work programme of the Polish-Lithuanian environmental co-operation;

(c) Signing of the trilateral Protocol on Air Quality Data Exchange (1996) between Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany in the "Black Triangle" region (covering Northern Bohemia, part of Lower Silesia and Saxony) within a joint agreement signed in 1991. The Joint Air Monitoring System (JAMS) consists of more than 40 monitoring stations. The European Commission was invited to be the fourth partner and to assist the region financially. Since then

the PHARE Black Triangle project contributed to the improvement of air and water quality in the region above;

(d) Publication of the first joint trilateral report on air quality in the Black Triangle region (1999). It focuses on measured values of air pollutants in 1998. For each air pollutant, the emissions and ambient air concentrations are presented in comparison to the EU limit values and the national standards.

23. **Republic of Macedonia.** The Republic of Macedonia indicates that in the frames of the institutional strengthening process of the Ministry of Environment, Sector Operational Programme for 1999 is being realized and financed by PHARE. It envisages improvement of the existing legal regulations, based on recommendations of the European Union aiming at approximation and harmonization of the home legislation with the one of the European Union. In the future legal projects there would be chapters on permitted level, control and measures of decrease in sulphur emissions, nitric oxides, volatile organic pollutants, heavy metals and decomposable organic pollutants. In addition, the Republic of Macedonia, through several projects, such as establishment of Cleaner Production Center and Energy Efficiency Project financed by the Holland Agency SENTER, is joining the world trends for decreased consumption of fuels having negative effect on environment and energy savings.

24. **Republic of Moldova.** We would like to inform you, that the Republic of Moldova is party of the international conventions:

- (a) on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979);
- (b) on Climate Change (New York, 1992);
- (c) for the Protection of the Ozone (Vienna, 1985) and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987);
- (d) on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Helsinki, 1992);
- (e) on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991);
- (f) on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel), - and other conventions.

25. Cooperation in the CIS framework: The Republic of Moldova has ratified its accession to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), except for all political or military agreements. Only the economic union agreements were accepted in April 1994, when Moldova became a member of the Interstate Economic Commission. The Republic of Moldova is also a member of the Interstate Ecological Council (IEC) of CIS. This organization was created in 1992. Its main functions are:

- (a) Coordinating environmental policies;
- (b) Harmonizing environmental legislation and standards;
- (c) Drawing up and implementing joint environmental programmes and projects;
- (d) Establishing a common information system, gathering and exchanging information and experiences, and capacity building in information;
- (e) Coordinating research in different fields;
- (f) Coordinating international activities;
- (g) Drafting agreed and common recommendations for the establishment of ecological funds, and other functions.

26. Cooperation with Ukraine: The Republic of Moldova was signed cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Territorial Development of the Republic of Moldova

and the Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine in the different fields of environmental protection: air, soil, water, flora and fauna, chemical contamination in soil, processing and utilization of industrial and household waste and other fields.

27. Cooperation with Romania: In March 1997 a cooperation agreement on environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources was signed between Moldova's Ministry of Environment and Territorial Development and Romania's Ministry of Water, Forests and Environmental Protection. The main areas of cooperation are:

- (a) Harmonization of environmental legislation and technical standards;
- (b) Implementation of joint monitoring to provide decision makers with necessary information;
- (c) Promotion of cleaner technologies;
- (d) Cooperation in the implementation of international agreement and conventions;
- (e) Public participation and facilitation of access environmental information;
- (f) Environmental education and training, as well as the exchange of experiences and specialists, other areas.

28. Cooperation with Belarussia: In December 1994, an agreement was signed with the Belarussian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The two partners committed themselves to coordinating the drafting of legislation, methodologies, energy- and resource-saving technologies, to protecting soils and fertility, to using mineral and forest resources rationally, to protecting the genetic fund of rare animal and plant species, as well as to sharing information and experiences.

29. The Ministry of Environment and Territorial Development of our country developed a draft of the New Concept of Environmental Policy of the Republic of Moldova and one of the points of this concept is international cooperation.

30. **Sweden.** Q.7, Q.16, Q.25, Q.26 and Q.64. Exchange of technology, SO_x, NO_x och VOC: Sweden are active in assisting in the St Petersburg area of Russia, in the Baltic countries and Polen. Important areas have been energy saving, district heating, boiler technology and conversion from fossil to biomass fuels. In the joint projects both technology improvements and training programmes are included. Sweden amongst other countries is helping to maintain and improve EMEP-stations and city air monitoring equipment in Russia and the Baltic countries.

31. **Switzerland.** Only few projects in cooperation with Bulgaria, CIS countries and alpine countries (A, F, D, FL). Most activities in the field of the environmental protection are in favour of countries with economies in transition or developing countries outside of the UN/ECE area.

32. **Turkey.** See answer to question 62. (given as an answer to question 64 but appears to be an answer to question 66): turkey has ratified 1984 EMEP Protocol in 20.12.1985. Also Turkey is making her financial contribution regularly under the Convention.

33. **Ukraine.** (given as an answer to question 64 but appears to be an answer to question 66): The EMEP Protocol was ratified on 30 August 1985.

34. **United Kingdom.** The UK provides bilateral technical assistance for environmental projects to countries in transition through the Environmental Know How Fund (EKHF). Current

projects include: the development of an Air Quality Monitoring and Management System for Budapest, which will serve as a model for other towns and cities in Hungary; in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; and best practice guidance for environmental management and energy efficiency in the iron and steel sector in Romania.

35. Recent projects include: support for the World Bank's air pollution abatement programme in Bulgaria; and support for the World Bank's National Commitment Building Program to Phase Out Lead from Gasoline in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the introduction of clean-coal technologies in the Romanian and Ukrainian power sectors; and advice on the approximation of EU air legislation in the Baltic States. Air quality management proposals for Ukraine are under consideration.

36. **United States.** Under the 1991 United States-Canada Air Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada have committed to cooperate in addressing transboundary air pollution. The original Agreement focussed on acid rain issues in addition to visibility, prevention of deterioration of the air quality in areas meeting NAAQS, and cooperation on research issues. The two governments have made significant reductions in emissions of the two major acid rain pollutants B sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides consistent with the Agreement. The United States' close cooperation with the Canadian national and Provincial governments and other interested parties has demonstrated that , in addition to the importance of continuing joint work on common concerns to reduce acid deposition, the two countries have substantial common interests in the problems of ground-level ozone and particulate matter pollution.

37. In April 1997, the United States and Canada agreed to develop a Joint Plan of Action for Addressing Transboundary Air Pollution focusing on ozone and particulate matter. The plan called for the two countries to develop a work plan and deliver to the EPA Administrator and the Canadian Minister of the Environment a recommendation on negotiation of an ozone annex pursuant to the Air Quality Agreement and on a joint work plan for fine inhalable particles. Negotiations on an annex to the Air Quality Agreement began in February 2000. The elements of such an annex will be designed to address ground-level ozone in the United States-Canada border region.

38. The United States has other bilateral initiatives as well. For example, the goal of EPA's Russia Air Management Project (RAMP) was to test the full range of U. S. air quality management techniques in Russia. The Russian-American team evaluated the success of these measures and the Russians selected several for further application Russia-wide. These included low cost technology control measures, particularly the pre-cast delta technology for electric arc furnaces; visible emissions evaluation (opacity) as an enforcement tool; monitoring and measurement techniques, including the transfer of over \$2,000,000 worth of U.S. laboratory equipment; and a training center which is sustaining itself beyond the life of the project. RAMP began in 1992 with final completion of last portion in 1999.