

## ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Twelfth session,  
(Geneva, 10-12 October 2005)  
Item 3(h) of the provisional agenda

CRP. 5  
4 October 2005

#### **The Regional Adviser on Environment: Main components of the work programme 2005-2007**

In 2005-2007, the Regional Adviser will focus on developing technical assistance activities in the EECCA region. Several of the planned and on-going activities are UNECE contributions to the implementation of the EECCA Environmental Strategy and the EU Water Initiative endorsed by the Kiev Ministerial Conference in 2003. Implementation of UNECE Conventions is a key concern in all activities. Most of the projects and activities are developed and implemented in collaboration with other international organizations and donor countries.

The collaboration with the OSCE can be highlighted: Several projects in the water sector are planned and implemented in close collaboration between OSCE and UNECE. From September 2005, UNECE will join the UNEP-UNDP-OSCE Environment and Security Initiative, which will influence the activities of the Regional Adviser.

The two main directions of activities are:

2. **1. Projects in Central Asia.** Over the past years contacts have been developed with authorities in the region (water as well as environmental authorities), NGOs, sub-regional organisations and also donors. Several of the projects are contributions towards the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia, developed under SPECA, as well as the Environment, Security and Water Initiative endorsed in Kiev. Examples of on-going and planned projects are:
  - “Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia” (CAPACT), funded by the UN Development and implemented in collaboration with ESCAP and UNEP Bangkok (see [www.unece.org/ie/capact/](http://www.unece.org/ie/capact/)).
  - Central Asian Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB), funded by SDC, Switzerland and implemented in collaboration with UNEP and Interstate Commission for Water Coordination for Central Asia (see [www.cawater-info.net/index\\_e.htm](http://www.cawater-info.net/index_e.htm))
  - “Establishment of a Bilateral Kazakh-Kyrgyz Water Commission on Rivers Chu and Talas” funded by the UK, Sweden and the US will be finalized in 2005. A continuation of the project on the rivers Chu and

Talas (see [www.talaschu.org/](http://www.talaschu.org/)) on the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Convention is planned to start 2005 in collaboration with OSCE.

- A regional project on dam safety in Central Asia will be implemented in collaboration with the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea (IFAS) and ESCAP. Funding is presently sought.
2. Projects involving **the whole EECCA region**. Discussions are ongoing with the European Commission on a broader collaboration in the field of transboundary water cooperation as well as national implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management within the framework of the EU Water Initiative. The Regional Advisor is a member of the Working Group established by the Commission to advise on the implementation of the EU Water Initiative. Examples of on-going projects are:
- (a) Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC), a three years training and networking project for all EECCA countries focusing on capacity building for transboundary water cooperation. Two Workshops have been held in 2004 and 2005. A third Workshop will be held in Tblisi in November 2005 (see [www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm)).
  - (b) “Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Management of the Dnestr River”, funded by Sweden, Switzerland and the US is a project aiming to develop water cooperation between Moldova, Ukraine and the Transdnestr region on the Dniester river. This is another project implemented in collaboration with OSCE (see [www.dniester.org/](http://www.dniester.org/)).

The network established by the Regional Advisor is used not only for technical assistance projects, but also for policy discussions and work on broadening the ratification and application of the UNECE Conventions. The Regional Adviser also participates in Environmental Performance Reviews.

To expand work further more resources would be needed. There are frequent requests from the countries of South-East Europe, as well as from countries in South Caucasus for support from the UNECE in the environmental sector. There are significant opportunities to expand the UNECE outreach work, also from the perspective of building "environmental bridges" to build security and confidence between countries such as Armenia and Azerbaijan.