

UNECE/CAPACT

Air Quality Management and the Legal Framework

Almaty 12 to 14 October 2005

Participants at the meeting:

Acknowledging the significant importance of information exchange and collaboration between countries in the region to advance knowledge as a basis for further action;

Recognising the ultimately deleterious effects of air pollution to human health, the environment, materials and economic development;

Taking into account that the trend towards increasing coal use will exacerbate air pollution problems unless action is taken to manage emissions from combustion;

Aware that the Stockholm Convention and the POPs Protocol are complementary and that there is significant potential for synergy between them.

Agree:

To carry out research on the impacts of air pollutants;

To explore further the relationship between emission sources and deposition and concentration of pollutants and, to that effect, to further develop monitoring and modelling programmes;

To review the full potential for reducing emissions from combustion of fuels, including the application of coal upgrading, improved combustion technology and end-of-pipe technology;

To consider measures to reduce emissions of air pollutants from the transport and agricultural sectors;

To assess the environmental costs and benefits and economic consequences of revised energy and transport policies

To continue to develop, on the basis of sound science, strategies and policies for air pollution abatement, taking into account both technical and structural measures,

To carry out preparatory work to facilitate adherence to CLRTAP and its relevant protocols, starting with EMEP, POPs, Heavy Metals and Gothenburg protocols, and to accede as soon as possible;

To report on progress regularly at sub-regional meetings of EECCA countries and with representatives of CLRTAP and UNECE;

To cooperate actively in relevant international programmes and networks;

To encourage accession to the Stockholm Convention and the POPs protocol and to cooperate with the Secretariats of the Stockholm Convention and the CLRTAP to promote synergy and effective implementation of both treaties;

To request the Executive Bodies of the CLRTAP and the Stockholm Convention to make all relevant documents, including guidance documents and handbooks, available in the Russian language, if possible by the end of 2006;

To welcome a proposal by Belarus and Poland

- To prepare in 2006 a project proposal on the implementation in 2007 of a project in the air quality management area based on the experience of the Republic of Belarus and with the use of efficiency oriented approaches including integrated assessment modelling.
- To hold a training on monitoring for EECCA countries following a workshop on monitoring in enterprises under the Belgrade process in Autumn 2006, subject to the availability of funding.

To welcome the possibility of project co-financing by Belarus for the project proposal and workshop.