Regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol

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5th session
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

19-21 November | Belgrade | Serbia
Background

• According to Article 6 of the Protocol, Parties have to **set targets** within 2 years of acceding to/ratifying the Protocol

• In accordance with Article 7, every 3 years Parties have to **report on their progress** to the MOP. Other States are also invited to report

• Reports shall be in accordance with the **guidelines and template for reporting** adopted by the MOP (MOP4 adopted revised guidelines and template for summary reports)

• **Four reporting cycles conducted so far** – 2010, 2013, 2016, **2019**
Objectives of reporting

• Assess progress – self-assessment by Parties and assessment by the MOP

• Exchange experience, share lessons learned

• Identify the main challenges/obstacles in implementing the Protocol → inform the Protocol’s programme of work

• Gather harmonized information on water, sanitation and health in the pan-European region

Reporting is an important moment to reinforce commitment to the Protocol at national level!
Procedural aspects of the 4th reporting cycle

• All 26 Parties submitted summary reports!

• 6 other States submitted summary reports on a voluntary basis

  Andorra  Israel
  Armenia  Malta
  Georgia  Uzbekistan

• All reports are available online and translated into ENG where needed and possible
3. Timeline of the 4th reporting exercise

- **November 2018**: reporting exercise launch, invitation to report and official template sent to countries
- **23 April 2019**: deadline for submission of national summary reports
- **August-October 2019**: Secretariat, with the support of the German Environment Agency (UBA) analysed reports, summarized in regional implementation report
- **19-21 November 2019**: review of results at fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties
Key highlights of the country reports – setting and implementing targets

- Most of the targets set by reporting countries relate to the work on safe and efficient management of sanitation and equitable access.
- Targets address the increasing effects of climate change as an emerging issue.
- Improvements in the legal framework are often considered as a first step to implement targets.
- Luck of funding is a challenge for implementing targets, especially those on infrastructure development.
Key highlights – Common indicators

- **Drinking water quality has improved** compared to the third reporting cycle, but most countries **do not provide segregated data for urban/rural areas**

- Access to water and sanitation has generally increased, but **far fewer people have access to sanitation than to drinking water**

- Freshwater resources in the pan-European region:
  - Groundwater resources are generally reported to be in good status
  - Quality of surface water bodies is uneven – need to protect the ecological status!

- **Several countries have reduced water exploitation** since previous reporting cycle
Key highlights – Article 8 of the Protocol

• Almost all countries have water-related disease surveillance in place as part of their overall surveillance system
• Also contingency plans to respond to outbreaks
• Public authorities have the necessary response capacity
• A few countries established mandatory reporting of water-related diseases
Key highlights – International cooperation

- **International cooperation** on water, sanitation and health is **reported as good practice by some countries of the region** (e.g. through international river basin commissions)

- This may cover:
  - Surface and groundwater quality
  - Water ecology
  - Flood protection
  - **Warning and alarm systems** in case of accidents
Key highlights – Thematic areas of work

- Most countries are taking steps to assess and improve WASH in schools and healthcare facilities
- Many also report the uptake of risk-based management approaches in drinking water supply
- Equitable access to water and sanitation has also been assessed in many countries
- Equity policies mainly focused on reducing geographical disparities and ensuring affordability of water and sanitation services
Key highlights – contribution to international commitments

• Application of principles of universality, safety and prevention demonstrate strong alignment of the Protocol with international commitments such as the 2030 Agenda

• Countries specifically stated that Protocol targets contribute to achievement of the 2030 Agenda (SDG6, SDG3, SDG9 and SDG11 but also many others)

• Targets also contribute to implementing Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health – equity, social inclusion and gender equality in environmental and health policies
Thank you for your attention