

UNECE WGSO meeting
Geneva, 13 October 2006

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Kazakhstan's Proposals for the Future of the Programme "Environment for Europe"

Pan-European Programme, as known, was initially launched with focus on CEE than in 1998 its focus was shifted to the EECCA region. In 2003 Regional Environmental Strategy of the EECCA region was adopted in Kiev, and in a year in Tbilisi it became clear that subregional approach based on shared ecosystems was needed also.

As the question on the Program's future has been arisen repeatedly it would be rational to review the factors with regard to changes taken place in Eurasian continent.

First, European Union's enlargement has significantly changed the picture of the whole region. The EU has become a generating center for regional policy setting up standards and being a model for European and EECCA countries in such sectors as energy, water recourses, climate change etc.

Second, the EECCA region itself is getting more complex with successfully operating sub-regional programmes that have been established and it is important to note united by common ecosystems (Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Caucasus, Carpathians).

Third, growing economic ties and dependence between Europe and Asia including trade issues with China, India and other Asian countries should be taken into consideration. In these ties Central Asia region plays the role of a bridge and transport corridor. It is necessary to remind that Central Asia countries are a part of both European region of UNECE and Asian region of ESCAP.

All this presents new possibilities for future Programme which could:

1) Continue activity in such spheres as **transboundary issues**, energy efficiency and climate change, biodiversity, public participation and others. In development of the current level of coordination in terms of regular meetings and information exchange an integrated programme of certain actions with joint efforts of the EC, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, RECs and other organizations is needed. It means that common Programme of well coordinated actions instead of thematic programs divided between different secretariats and fragmentary actions, is needed in the Region.

2) Forthcoming Programme shall be based on and include to more extend **sub-regional** programs. For this it is possible to use RECs network to support ties between sectors and main stakeholders for implementation goals. RECs network has been specially established by Pan-European Programme for these purposes.

3) Noting that many countries of the EECCA region (Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia) participate in Environmental and Development Program for the Asia and Pacific, there is a need for **integration for European and Asian** programs. For unification of standards,

approaches and regulations of the current economic programs and trade issues it looks possible to invite new partners to the Program and define their status: China and other countries that share ecosystems with the countries of the EECCA region.

4) We propose to consider possible **role of Central Asia** as a connecting link between Europe and Asia for harmonization of regional approaches, legislation and standard, using for these purposes cooperation frameworks established by decisions on Central Asia Initiative for Sustainable Development made in Johannesburg and Kiev. Conduction of the next Summit on SD in the capital of Kazakhstan Astana, the center of the Eurasian continent, could assist in integration of Europe and Asian program which are crucial both for Europe and Asia. New frames of the Programme shall respond to existing challenges and reflect to more extend today realities, and increase efficiency of the current programs on national level as well as on sub-regional and regional levels.

We propose to consider above suggestions while preparing for Belgrade Ministerial Conference.

Thank you for attention!