

**Ms. Rut Bízková**  
**Deputy Minister of the Environment**  
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Distinguished Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am extremely pleased that the Belgrade Conference as a “Conference of Delivery” is focusing on assessing the progress in implementing environmental policies since Kiev.

**The process evaluating the state of the environment** is highly important for whole pan-European region and **should form an integral part of the “Environment for Europe process” in the future**. Following the results of the report we welcome positive steps made in the pan- European region towards strengthening environmental protection and promotion of sustainable development.

**We also underline the importance of the first assessment on transboundary waters** in the UNECE region. We see it as an essential tool for further strengthening multilateral and bilateral cooperation within the UNECE Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes. Therefore **we support the proposal to introduce it into the agenda of future EfE ministerial conferences**.

However, we are fully aware of **necessity of further improvements**.

- 1) We support **more concentrated and better co-ordinated efforts to enhance implementation of existing legally binding as well as soft instruments adopted within the UNECE**.
- 2) **The strong focus** should be on implementation of these instruments **at the national level**.
- 3) Creation of **appropriate legal and institutional frameworks** is a precondition for it.
- 4) The effective capacity building, development of **adequate mechanisms addressing cases of non-compliance** should be promoted.

5) Seeking **synergies among multilateral environmental agreements at regional as well as at global level** would allow more intensive exchange of experience gained and best lessons learnt.

6) To better implement these valuable instruments **renewed political support** will be necessary.

**The Czech Republic, country that successfully already completed transition to fully operating market economy, is ready to share experience and provide know-how** concerning the implementation not only of the UN ECE conventions but also global ones through bilateral as well as multilateral channels.

In 2005 we supported financially **the project “Capacity for Water Cooperation” under the UN ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.**

Currently, the Czech experts help to experts from Moldova **in preparing new national legislation allowing the ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol** to the UN ECE Convention on Transboundary Air Pollution.

We also assist **to identify and specify hazardous activities and installations** in Moldova in line with the provisions of **the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.**

We further promote **strengthening efforts in environmental monitoring and reporting**, with the highest priority given to the EECCA countries. We see it **as a prerequisite for all levels of decision-making**, because only high quality assessments could ensure immediate and cost effective actions in environmental policy implementation. It will also help to set priorities and targets **tailored to the real needs and find out possibilities for more intensive partnerships with other sectors, including with private businesses.**

**We fully support the adoption of the UNECE recommendations on environmental indicators and indicator-based assessments and of the guidelines on enterprise monitoring for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.** In our opinion the guidelines for the application of the core set of environmental indicators would improve the national assessments reports that will be a qualitative base for the fifth environmental assessment and thus comparable with those of other UN ECE member states.

**We call all UN ECE countries to provide political support for the adoption and fully implementation of these instruments.** To support their efforts, we would consider all possible ways of how to make better of our experience gained in the process of the OECD and the EU Accession.

As regards the future, we fully **promote further linkages between the Europe's Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Performance Reviews** used as one of the most efficient environmental policy tool providing valuable information on state of environment of the UN ECE countries.

Thank you for your attention.