

# WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

**Thirteenth session  
Geneva, 1-2 November 2012**

## **Items 6 (b), (d), (e) and (f) of the provisional agenda**

Submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>1</sup>

*Members of the Working Group, experts from national statistical agencies and other central and subnational authorities, as well as representatives of major groups, are invited to briefly report on major recently accomplished, ongoing and planned actions initiated in their countries, agencies and organizations, regarding the following:*

### **I. Latest developments in environmental monitoring at the national and subnational levels**

*(Major actions initiated since October 2011 in the areas listed below (a-c))*

#### **A. Modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks and information systems**

At the state level there is no standardized system of data transfer and reporting of data and statistics on the environment in accordance with the relevant EU legislation (there is no national environment information system). There are individual systems of collecting and reporting data in the environmental field. Statistical institutions in BiH collect data on the state of the environment through the implementation of the annual program of statistical surveys, including the framework detailed relating to coordination, coordination, planning, collection, production and dissemination of statistical data of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Detailed indicators of environmental statistics are available to professionals and the general public according to the date as specified in the Publishing Program and Calendar of publishing statistical data and the publications of the Agency for Statistics (BHAS). This is done in both electronic and printed form following the European Statistics Code of Practice which requires timely dissemination of data. According to the Law on Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina performs international representation and fulfils the international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina in terms of statistics. Accordingly, the Agency for Statistics of BiH performs international reporting and reporting to Eurostat statistics with data available water, waste statistics and other information available. Also, the jurisdiction of the Agency for Statistics of BiH is to establish statistical standards for the implementation of the Programme of statistical research, which includes measures necessary to comply statistics at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to achieve best quality and comparability of the results. This includes those related to statistical techniques, classification, nomenclature, definitions and other implementing standards and practices. Besides BHAS, FSA BiH has established a system for collecting, processing and analysing data in the field of food safety on the basis of competence as defined by Article 53 of Food Law under which the Agency is authorized to request, collect, compare, analyse and summarize scientific and technical data in the fields within its mission, in cooperation with the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These data refer to the results of the laboratories on food

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control in BiH, diseases transmitted by food, the registry operators in the food business, information from the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF, INFOSAN WHO / FAO), risk assessment, which are regularly collected, processed, analysed and submitted to the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina on a semi-annual basis, and then to be delivered in the form of information to the Council of Ministers for consideration and adoption.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country that is not a member but cooperates with the European Environment Agency (EEA) / European Environmental Information and Observation Network of the (EIONET). BiH has improved data reporting to the EEA, and currently supply about 65% of the required data. BiH participates in the UNECE Working Group for Monitoring and Environmental Assessment, which helps countries in transition to strengthen their capacity for monitoring and evaluation. For the purposes of the regional project "Building Shared Environmental Information System elements in the West Balkan countries based on the EEA Core Set of Indicators", Agency for Statistics coordinated activities between relevant institutions in the country to collect data for calculating the EEA core set of 37 indicators, also performing update on already developed indicators. Active participation of BHAS also reflected in the development of the EEA regional publications for the Western Balkans (West Balkan Environmental Core Set of Indicators, 2012).

## **B. Strengthening monitoring of specific environmental media**

### **Air Quality:**

The Federation adopted Regulation on the monitoring of air quality performance and defining the kinds of polluting materials, limits and other air quality standards, and the Regulation on the content, method and deadlines for establishing and maintaining the register of taxpayers paying fees for air pollution.

Brcko District of BiH adopted the Regulation on limit and target values, information and alert thresholds. Regulation are almost fully transposed the provisions of Directive no. 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality. Also, Brcko District of BiH adopted Regulation amending the Regulation on limit values for emissions of pollutants into the air.

### **Waste Management:**

The Federation of BiH adopted a waste management plan for period of 2012 - 2017.

In 2012 activities related to the construction of a geographic information system (GIS) of the FBiH areas where there are illegal or semi-legal solid waste landfills was initiated. Republika Srpska adopted Regulation on the classification and labelling of packaging, Regulations on the management of waste tires and Report of importers, manufacturers, packers, fillers, suppliers and operators.

In Brcko District of BiH the Law on Amendments to the Law on Waste Management is in the process of completing, after which Regulations on the management of packaging and packaging waste would be issued.

### **Water quality:**

A draft document "Water policies in BiH" ("Support water policy in BiH" IPA 2007) is created.

The Federation has adopted a Regulation on the conditions of discharge of wastewater into the natural recipients and public sewer systems and Regulation amending the Regulation on the conditions and criteria that must be met by a legal person for the preparation of documentation pursuant to which the water acts are adopted. Republika Srpska prepared a draft Integrated Water Management Strategy of the RS.

A draft management plan for the Sava River Basin and the Adriatic River Basin ("Support to water policy in BiH" IPA 2007) is prepared. A plan for the Neretva River Basin is in progress ("Management of Neretva and Trebisnjica"; GEF / WB).

BiH is fully involved in the field of development and adoption of management plans at the international level. Activities are related to the river basin of the river Danube, the Sava river, and the river Neretva and Trebisnjica (actions commenced by GEF / WB), Cetina and Krka (activities began 2011.).

**Industrial pollution and risk management:**

The activities for the ratification of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (UNECE TEIA) are in progress.

The Plan for the implementation of the IPPC Directive (the "Implementation of the IPPC Directive in BiH" IPA 2007) is produced.

PRTR register is placed on a Web site MVTEOBiH and is scheduled that 136 representatives of companies that fall into the IPPC category fill the data and send it to MVTEOBiH through Entity ministries and BD.

**Climate change:**

Second National Communication on Climate Change is in preparation phase. The report will cover greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990 - 2001, and it is financially supported by the GEF.

By early 2012, DNA (Designated National Authority, established on 26.9.2011.) made an evaluation and submitted a letter of approval (LoA) for two CDM projects in BiH (with estimated emissions reductions for both projects in an amount of about 3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**C. Improvement of data collection, transfer, treatment and exchange**

Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) is a project whose implementation is managed by Directorate General of the European Commission for Environment. The period of implementation of the project is 2010. - 2013. BH participates in this project as a user.

In the context of the implementation of the project in BiH is designated focal point (MVTEOBiH) and coordinators of the working groups are appointed who work for RENA (relevant entity ministries).

The Process Monitoring Report of BiH (PMR) for 2011 is made during the reporting period which includes a default directives and regulations in the field of environmental protection, as well as relevant international agreements (as defined by the EC Directorate General for the Environment). PMR for 2012 is in drafting phase. This is the seventh report, and making PMR is organized by MVTEOBiH in cooperation with the institutions of FBiH, RS and BDBiH.

Also, in the reporting period a number of activities within the RENA-e relating to participation in regional workshops and themed annual meetings was completed, as well as realization of workshops in the country and organizing regional workshops.

**II. Preparation of Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports**

*(Progress made since 2007 in implementing the Guidelines for the Preparation of Indicator-based Environment Assessment Reports)*

**III. Practicalities of using the methodology of the Europe's Environment — An Assessment of Assessments report at the national level**

*(Experiences on initiating assessment of environmental assessments using the EE-AoA methodology at the national level)*

In BiH, there is no document called Strategy, which regulates protection of environment at the state

level or its sustainable development. However there are several documents which attempt to regulate the protection of the environment and sustainable development. Bosnia and Herzegovina is dedicated to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Human Development Report / Millennium Development Goals of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NHDR / MDG) is produced in 2003. for the period of 2003. - 2015. The document contains a series of policy proposals aimed at achieving progress towards the full achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals at the local level and 18 specific objectives for Bosnia and Herzegovina. It defined 48 indicators to accurately monitor progress and periodically prepare progress reports.

Several documents relating to sustainable development were produced in BH:

- Sustainable Development Assessment in BiH prepared for the Summit in Johannesburg in 2002,
- The document entitled, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of Rio +20, 2012.
- Medium-term Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2004-2007), which treats the following priority environmental areas, including: water resources (waste water), sustainable development and the rural areas, environmental management (through an information system, integrated planning and training), protection of biological and landscape diversity, waste management, sustainable economic development, public health, and demining).

MoFTER is responsible for tasks and activities of BIH relating to the definition of policies, basic principles, coordinating activities and harmonizing plans of entity authorities and institutions at the international level in the areas of agriculture, energy, environmental protection, development and use of natural resources.

At the level of BiH Directorate for Economic Planning (DEP BiH) is responsible for all activities related to the planning, development and implementation of strategic documents, and in that sense it made Development Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in which the fourth chapter relates to sustainable development. Tasks defined in strategic documents are carried out in a way that is proposed for the implementation of the action plans and programs at the state and entity level in accordance with the current situation and capacities in the state.

#### **IV. Use of modern technologies for better dissemination of environmental information**

The Federation under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism launched its activities related to the construction of a geographic information system (GIS) of the FBiH. This is done for areas where there are illegal or semi-legal solid waste landfills. Result of the planned project is to comprehensively and systematically address the issue of rehabilitation and semi-legal illegal dumps of solid waste that will be implemented in collaboration with the cantons and municipalities in the Federation. This will be accompanied with providing financial support through international and domestic funds and incentives.

*Submissions in English and, if possible, Russian in Times New Roman, font 12, line-spacing Single should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat ([nona.iliukhina@unece.org](mailto:nona.iliukhina@unece.org)) by 15 October 2012 at the latest.*

