



National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Ukraine

Third meeting of the Steering Committee
29 October 2009
Kiev
Conference Room of the Hotel Bratislava
Malyshka street, 1

OUTCOME OF THE THIRD MEETING

Introduction

The third meeting of the Steering Committee took place on 29 October 2009, followed by a core group meeting on 30 October 2009.

The Steering Committee meeting was attended by 40 participants from various Ukrainian ministries, agencies and institutions as well as representatives of national and international NGOs. Representatives of UNECE, the European Commission, OSCE and the EU/TACIS water governance project for the western fringe of the EECCA region also participated.

The Steering Committee meeting was jointly chaired by representatives of the State Committee for Water Management and the Ministry of Environment.

Decisions and recommendations

Leadership and new partners

1. The meeting participants, referring to the recent exchange of letters between the Ministry of Environment and UNECE as well as the achievements under the dialogue process in 2008, invited the representatives of the State Water Committee and the Ministry of Environment to come up with a joint proposal on the leadership of the dialogue process in Ukraine, which will continue in 2010.
2. The Steering Committee invited the newly established Association "Drinking Water of Ukraine", led by Mr. Semchuk, former Deputy Minister for housing and communal services, to become a member of the Steering Committee. Through UNECE, it invited OECD to consider similar action under the NDP-WSS process.
3. The Steering Committee noted with concern that a representative of the Ministry of Health was unable to attend and requested the Chairman to undertake consultations with this ministry with the aim to involve its senior officials in future stakeholder meetings.

Policy issues



4. The Steering Committee took note with appreciation of the measures on sustainable flood management introduced under the leadership of the State Water Committee in the Ukrainian parts of the Prut and Dniester basins. It noted that such measures as the operation of dams and reservoirs in the Ukrainian parts of the basins would require further public consultations, including public consultations with Moldova. It recommended that the newly established Basin Council for the Ukrainian part of the Dniester basin and the Basin Council for the Moldovan part of the Dniester basin (under formation in Moldova) should be involved in these consultations, as appropriate.
5. The Steering Committee noted the progress made in drafting the new Agreement on cooperation and sustainable development of the Dniester River basin. It also noted that this agreement would be an important asset for future work on adaptation of water management to climate change in the Dniester basin (see paragraph 13) and will work for the final approval and signing of this draft Agreement.
6. The meeting participants, in following up on paragraph 4 above, recommended to the Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries to examine the opportunities for establishing a transboundary River Basin Council covering both the Ukrainian and Moldovan parts of the Dniester basin.
7. The Steering Committee took note with appreciation of the work of the NGO MAMA-86 on the Protocol on Water and Health and its continued efforts to make the public aware of its provisions. It noted that concerted action is needed by the Ukrainian Government and non-governmental stakeholders to establish a fair and transparent framework for the Protocol's implementation, in general, and the implementation of the Norwegian assistance programme on setting targets and target dates, in particular.
8. The Steering Committee requested MAMA-86 to finalize the meeting document on "experience, shortfalls and challenges of applying the Protocol in Ukraine" and circulate it to all relevant stakeholders involved in the dialogue process. It also requested UNECE to forward this compilation to the representatives of Norway and Switzerland that are providing funds for the setting of targets and target dates on sustainable water management, drinking water and adequate sanitation to Ukraine and Moldova, respectively.
9. The Steering Committee noted the close link between the national policy dialogues activities and the EC/TACIS water governance in Western EECCA, which facilitates the implementation of policy packages. Being an example of cross-fertilization between various EC-supported programmes, it invited – through UNECE - the European Commission to maintain in future assistance programmes such a close link between the NPD process and field projects.
10. The Steering Committee encouraged the EC/TACIS team to inform the 13th meeting of the Working Group of the EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative (Bucharest, 24-25 November 2009) about "New approaches to water management based on the EU WFD and other instruments: experience from the EU/TACIS project on water governance in the western fringe of the EECCA region"

Policy packages



11. The Steering Committee took note of the preliminary results of work on the policy package “adaptation to climate change in water management” and decided to focus its activities on the Dniester basin, if possible, in cooperation with Moldova.
12. The Steering Committee encouraged its members to contribute to the drawing up and finalization of the policy package.
13. The Steering Committee recommended to the Head of the Ukrainian delegation, attending the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention (Geneva 10-12 November 2009), to propose to the Parties the initiation of a pilot project on the subject matter, covering if possible the entire Dniester basin area.
14. The meeting participants encouraged the Chairman of the Steering Committee to inform the participants of the 13th meeting of the Working Group of the EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative (Bucharest, 24-25 November 2009) about the theme “Climate change - a big challenge for achieving the water-related MDGs in Ukraine”.

Forthcoming meetings

15. The Steering Committee suggested holding its next meetings preferably in April and November 2010.¹

Postscript:

The Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, at their fifth session (Geneva, 10-12 November 2009), welcomed the joint proposal by Ukraine and Moldova on initiating the said pilot project and requested both delegations to draft the relevant project documents. The delegation of Finland pledged financial support for this activity to commence in 2010.

¹ On the assumption that the pilot project would start in the course of 2010, the Steering Committee would oversee the implementation of the pilot activities and hold only one regular meeting, preferably in spring 2010.