Implementation of the Air Convention and the BACA initiative

Faig Mutallimov
faig.mutallimov@eco.gov.az

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Air Convention

- Azerbaijan has acceded the Convention in 2002
- Azerbaijan has not yet ratified its protocols but is determined to ratify the protocols and consequently meet their requirements
- Regular submission of emission inventory reports according to the EMEP guidelines since 2015

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Air quality management

The improvement of air quality is one of the main priorities of state policy in Azerbaijan

The main tasks of today are:

- restructuration of enterprises with new green technologies (BATs)
- reductions of obsolete vehicles' imports
- accelerating the transition to higher Euro standards
- promotion of use of environmental friendly fuel
- Improving air quality monitoring

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Mobile sources

- road transport is a key sector with regard to air pollution in Azerbaijan
- increasing number of vehicles
- mostly imported old vehicles with age more than 10 years
- the State Program on Traffic Safety for 2019-2023
- Creating bicycle lanes

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Mobile sources

- Promoting the use of environmentally sound transport, such as electric motor vehicles through establishing a relevant legal framework
- imported electric motor vehicles is exempted from VAT, since 2019
- Compressed natural gas (CNG) in public transport

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Stationary sources

- decreasing the volume of emissions to atmosphere from industrial facilities
- decommissioning of the old production facilities
- new technologies are applied in new production facilities
- climate pollutants - a number of mitigation measures were carried out in Azerbaijan such as increased use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies

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Stationary sources

- policy of gasification, pursued in the country, plays important role in terms of improvement of air quality. As such, thanks to the large-scale gasification activities carried out more than 95% of country population has been supplied with natural gas
- switch from black oil/mazout to natural gas
- Natural gas is used not only in the energy sector, but also in industry and public utilities

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Diffuse sources

- management of hazardous substances and associated gases produced during oil and gas extraction
- ecological rehabilitation of historically contaminated areas
- particularly of oil-contaminated areas, lakes and ponds
- Environmentally friendly agriculture
- Sustainable management of waste

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Heavy Metal Protocol

- Plan to ratification of Minamata convention
- Current legislation includes definition of “green technologies”, “low waste technologies” etc., yet there are no guidelines or additional information on respective requirements
- Standard "Motor fuel. Unleaded petrol. Technical specifications", refers to unleaded petrol used as motor fuel for motor vehicles. This standard applies to brands of gasoline of Euro-92, Premium Euro-95, Euro Super-98
- UNEP’s initiative support the development and implementation of legislation for limitation of lead in paint in Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan is submitting IIRs and NFRs under CLRTAP

POPs Protocol

- Party to the Stockholm Convention
- National Action plan on the implementation of Stockholm Convention is currently being updated
- Current legislation includes definition of “green technologies”, “low waste technologies” etc., yet there are no guidelines or additional information on respective requirements
- Azerbaijan is submitting IIRs and NFRs under CLRTAP

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Gothenburg Protocol

- Current legislation includes definition of “green technologies”, “low waste technologies” etc., yet there are no guidelines or additional information on respective requirements
- The Euro-4 standard is applied to the vehicles imported to and manufactured in Azerbaijan
- standards "Diesel fuel. Technical specifications" and "Euro Diesel. Technical specifications and also standard "Motor fuel for medium-and low-speed diesel engines were approved
- Work on improving the quality of diesel fuel and gasoline produced by refineries
- the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on environmentally friendly agriculture (2008)
- Azerbaijan is submitting IIRs and NFRs under CLRTAP
- Currently Soviet time air quality standards are applied
- National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2018-2022. One of the objectives of the Strategy is management of potentially hazardous wastes to minimize damage to public health and the environment

Challenges and needs

- Azerbaijan has still an obsolete air protection legal framework
- Introduction of BAT concept and implementation of a wide range of best available techniques for stationary sources as well as mobile sources in terms of exhaust emissions and fuel quality
- policy instruments ensuring the robust air quality assessment are still to be developed and gradually introduced
- Cooperation and effort from various national stakeholders

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Challenges and needs

- Alignment of national inventories with guidelines of EMEP/EEA
- Introduction of new tools as AQI to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecast to become (Currently the daily bulletins are used instead)
- modern modeling for assessment the air quality and projecting emissions
- Building climate change and air pollution synergies, application of GAINS methodology
- lack of experts

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Opportunities

- **EU4Environment.** The development of road map for the reform of the national regulations related to emission limit setting and permitting and technical support to their implementation
- continuous support of the UNECE Air Convention Secretariat in reporting of air emissions
- We are willing to use all the instruments of Air Convention to reach the goal to reduce air pollution.

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BACA commitments

Improve Air Quality Monitoring and Management in Azerbaijan

(BACA Actions 1, 5, 6, 15)

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Air Quality Standards Harmonized with EU and WHO air quality guidelines and standards for major pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, NO2)

- Monitoring and observation of pollution of ambient air is regularly conducted at 26 observation stations located in 8 big industrial
- in 2016, the first automated station was established in Baku
- New air quality monitoring stations
- Azerbaijan is also in process to implement the air quality monitoring technical standards (EN) for air quality monitoring into national standardization system
- The quality management system of air quality monitoring has been improved by developing the quality manuals for laboratory (according to ISO 17 025 requirements) and Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for various monitoring and laboratory activities

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Strengthened the capacity and upgrade technical capability of Department of Environmental Monitoring of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan

- EU funded Twinning project "Upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System (NEMS) of Azerbaijan on the base of EU best practices" has supported the development of the air quality management and monitoring systems
- institutional capacity of the Ministry was upgraded in air quality monitoring through trainings (workshops, hands-on trainings, study-visits, internships)
- new methodologies (such as dispersion modelling tools) have been taken into use
- Institutional reforms are still being implemented

Improved Public Access to Monitoring Data on Air Quality

- The data produced in the automated monitoring station is published online on the Ministry's web page, through graphics and numbers
- Online access to the data of new automated monitoring stations will be ensured
- Within the Twinning project, the detailed plan to modernize the air quality monitoring system of Azerbaijan has been done
- Azerbaijan has been making significant progress in making UNECE environmental indicators available and accessible. So far, 44 out of 49 UNECE environmental indicators are available

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