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**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND
REPORTING BY ENTERPRISES**

Note by the secretariat¹

This note presents the results of Workshop convened by the Working Group in Debe (Poland) on 4-6 September 2006 pursuant to a decision taken at its sixth session (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006, para. 35). Workshop documentation and the list of participants are available at web page <http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/workshops/wksp%204-6.2006.Warsaw.e.htm>. The Working Group is expected to take note of this report and to agree on the text of revised Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises prepared by the Workshop ((ECE/CEP/AC.10/4/Rev.1).

¹ This document is being submitted on the above date because of processing delays.

Introduction

1. The Workshop on Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises was held on 4-6 October 2006. At the invitation of the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of Poland it was held in Debe (Poland).
2. The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Secretariat of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP TF) for Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia cooperated in the organization and holding of the workshop.
3. The Workshop was attended by experts from national and subnational governmental bodies responsible for environmental monitoring and/or compliance, statistical agencies and other State institutions from: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
4. Representatives of UNECE and EAP TF/OECD attended the meeting.
5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: the Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption (Kazakhstan), Czech Coalition of Consumers' Activities - KOSA (Czech Republic), the Independent Environment Rating Agency- NERA (Russian Federation), the Kazakhstan Business Council for Sustainable Development - KBCSD (Kazakhstan), the Volgograd-Ecopress Information Centre (Russian Federation) and ZNIT Kaliningrad (Russian Federation).
6. Senior environmental affairs officers from Almaty Power Consolidated (Kazakhstan), Belarus Steel Making Plant (Belarus), BOT Górnictwo i Energetyka (Poland), JSC "Caustic" (Russian Federation), Karachaganak Petroleum Operating (Kazakhstan), Kazkchrom (Kazakhstan), Kombinat Koksochemiczny "Zabrze" SA (Poland), NOVOGOR-Prikamye (Russian Federation) and the Ust Kamenogorsk Thermal Power Station (Kazakhstan) attended.
7. Mr. Wojciech Stawiany, Chief Inspector, Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection of Poland, made an opening statement. He welcomed the participation of various stakeholders in the workshop, highlighted the importance of the Guidelines for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises that the workshop was expected to prepare, and indicated the preparedness of Poland to provide further support, especially through bilateral cooperation, to countries of Eastern Europe on environmental monitoring and assessment.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE DISCUSSION

8. The workshop exchanged the experience gained in subregions of the UNECE, primarily in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in taking legal, normative, institutional, financial and technical measures to improve environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. This was done at four subsequent plenary sessions through presentations followed by

a question-and answer period and a general discussion each. The work of these four plenary sessions was alternated by the discussion, in three parallel expert groups, of individual sections of draft Guidelines for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises, with presentation of results to the plenary. The workshop concluded with two more plenary sessions, on practical steps to reform environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises, and general conclusions.

9. Mr. Andrzej Jagusiewicz (Poland) chaired the plenary sessions. A representative of the EAP TF secretariat and two UNECE consultants led the discussions in three parallel expert groups.

10. Plenary session 1: Issues of overall organization of environmental monitoring at enterprises, discussed legal requirements for environmental monitoring by enterprises and their practical implementation in Poland; legal, regulatory and methodological issues of the organization and carrying out of air monitoring by enterprises in the Russian Federation; and activities of Kazakhstan NGOs on environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. The draft Guidelines for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises were also introduced at this session.

11. Plenary session 2: Interrelationships between self-monitoring and monitoring of environmental quality, discussed problems and perspectives with monitoring of air quality and emissions in Belarus; the system of emission inventories and monitoring in the Russian Federation; and ratings of social and environmental performance of Russian business. A general discussion was also held on types of monitoring that EECCA enterprises should be required to conduct.

12. Plenary session 3: Trends in changing environmental reporting requirements for enterprises, discussed approaches to the implementation of requirements of the PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention in EECCA; statistical observations on environmental protection by enterprises and modernization of these observations in Ukraine; corporate sustainability and environmental reporting in the Russian Federation; the experience of NOVOGOR-Prikamye company, Russian Federation with corporate sustainability reporting; environmental protection activities by Kazkchrom enterprises in Kazakhstan; and a review of practical experiences of Kazakhstan's enterprises with environmental monitoring.

13. Plenary session 4: Use of environmental reporting by enterprises in decision-making and public information, discussed compliance monitoring and problems of environmental self-monitoring in Georgia; an enterprise experience with environmental reporting and environmental decision-making in chemical industry in the Russian Federation; activities of Ust Kamenogorsk Thermal Power Station on environmental self-monitoring, reporting and interaction with public authorities on the environment; and the use of enterprise reporting as basis for the dialogue with the public.

14. Plenary session 5: Practical steps to reform environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises, considered the results of a pilot EAP TF project in Kazakhstan with reforming environmental self-monitoring and lessons learnt that could be replicated in other EECCA countries.

II. RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS

15. The presentations from EECCA and their discussion revealed both the achievement and shortcomings and weaknesses in current systems for environmental monitoring and reporting in the subregion. The latter included, among other things, shortcomings or contradictions in setting basic requirements for enterprise environmental monitoring in legislation; lack of coordination and communication between various environmental, health and statistics authorities at different levels in handling environmental data that are collected and reported by enterprises; lack of trust between public authorities and industry; frequent lack of a commitment by the general management of industries to environmental issues.

16. The Workshop stressed that strengthened effort to resolve effectively existing shortcomings and weaknesses would improve the monitoring of enterprise compliance with environmental regulations and data collection to produce national state-of-the-environment reports and reports to the international community. It also highlighted that increasing the quantity of environmental information produced by enterprises, improving the quality of this information and enhancing access to it by the general public would help to exert significant pressure on polluters to reduce their adverse environmental impacts.

17. The Workshop welcomed the draft Guidelines for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises prepared by the UNECE secretariat, with the assistance of its consultant, and in cooperation with the EAP TF (ECE/CEP/AC.10/2006/4). It supported the approach selected by the drafters that the Guidelines should be based on good practices developed in various parts of the UNECE region and take into account the requirements of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, such as the PRTR Protocol, and supranational instruments such as EU Directive 96/61/EC on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control.

18. The Workshop proposed that the Guidelines should cover salient issues of establishing an effective modern system for environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises including: the legal basis, monitoring approaches and types, and cost issues; the composition of an enterprise monitoring programme; quality assurance and control; record keeping and reporting; data management by the public authorities; and measures to promote enterprise monitoring and reporting.

19. Expressing support for both the structure and the content of the draft Guidelines, the Workshop stressed the need, nevertheless, to clarify better specific elements of the Guidelines such as the definition of Operator, the Guidelines' applicability, first, to enterprises of certain threshold capacity in the main polluting sectors of economic activity, responsibilities of individual public authorities, the inclusion of sets of basic measurement parameters into legislation, the coverage of discharges in addition to emissions as well as environmental-quality (rather than impact) parameters in enterprise monitoring programmes, differences between certification and accreditation, and differences between mandatory and voluntary types of reporting by enterprises.

20. The parallel discussion groups came up with a number of proposals to modify or supplement specific provisions of the Guidelines. The Workshop invited the secretariat to introduce non-contentious amendments in the draft Guidelines and submit the resulting revised

Guidelines, on behalf of the Workshop, to the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for final agreement.

21. The Workshop underscored that the endorsement of the Guidelines and their subsequent implementation would require strong commitments and close cooperation of all stakeholders including governmental bodies at the national and subnational levels responsible for environmental policy and protection, public health, environmental monitoring, monitoring compliance with environmental legislation and regulations, as well as statistical agencies, business and industry and their associations, and civil society organizations. In this regard, the Workshop stressed the need for all participants and the Working Group itself to raise the profile of the Guidelines in EECCA countries on the way to the Belgrade (2007) Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”.

22. The Workshop supported the proposal by the Enterprise Consultative Board at the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment that the latter should consider the development, as a follow-up to the general Guidelines, in cooperation with business and industry, of industry-tailored specific manuals such as manuals on environmental monitoring of the exploration, drilling, transportation and refining of oil and gas, and on environmental monitoring programmes in the chemical industry.

23. The Workshop expressed its gratitude to both the Netherlands and Poland for the financial and in-kind support provided to the Workshop, respectively. The participants thanked the host authorities for the excellent arrangements made for the Workshop and the hospitality offered to all participants.
