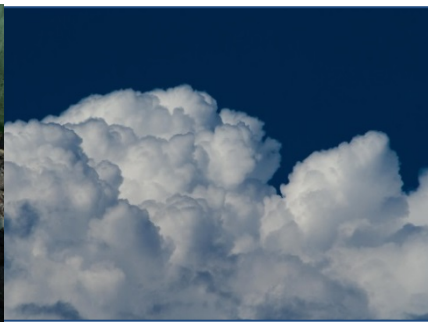



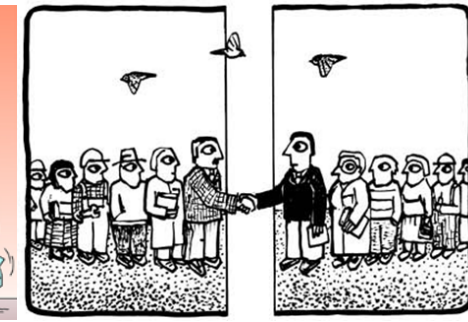
UN ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements

by MEAs Chairs



UNECE TEIA Convention Basics

- Identification of hazardous activities
- Consultation
- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Information to the public
- Accident notification system
 - Response
- Mutual assistance
- Exchange of information and technology
- Competent authorities and Points of contact

20th session of CEP
Geneva, 28-31 October 2014





focus of presentation

focus 1. Promoting/opening UN ECE MEAs beyond the region

focus 2. National implement. reporting: value, status & challenges

focus 3. MEAs key developments & plans Oct 2013 - Oct 2015





Air Convention promoting/opening beyond UN ECE

Origins



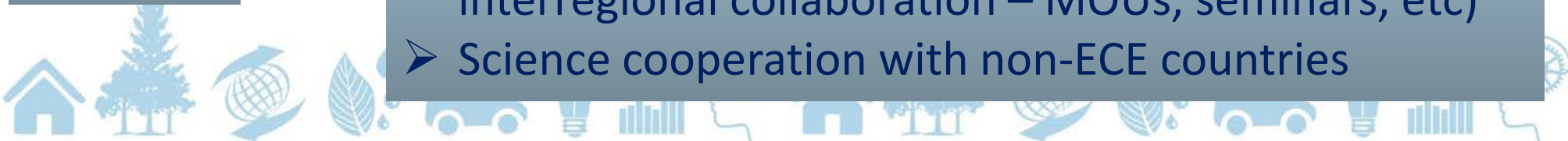
- ❖ 51 Parties from ECE region
- ❖ adopted without provision for accession of non-ECE States

- Opening considered in 2006 and in 2013 by the Bureau, but no decision
- Meeting participation by non-ECE delegations welcome

Focus of Long-term Strategy and Workplan on:

- Extension of outreach activities to regions developing own air pollution agreements (possible interregional collaboration – MOUs, seminars, etc)
- Science cooperation with non-ECE countries

Plans





Air Convention

NIRs: value, status & challenges

value

- ❖ Emission data reporting essential to verify emission reductions, Parties' commitments and success of Protocol objectives
- ❖ Interactive reporting during sessions of the Working Group motivated non-Parties to report on their activities and challenges

status

- ❖ Most Parties report on policies, strategies and measures
 - ❖ In 2014, 45 Parties submitted emission data inventories in required format
- ➔ 2 Parties have not reported emission data within the past 5 years

challenges

- ❖ Lack of capacity in some countries leads to non-reporting of national emissions rather than missing political will
- ❖ Incompleteness of information = persisting problem in EECCA countries, but also some gaps in Western European countries





Air Convention-key developments & plans

key dev.



- ❖ Since 2014 sessions of Working Group on Strategies and Review constitute format for reporting on strategies, policies and measures (instead of the previous questionnaire)
→ *cross-sectoral cooperation: special session organized with ECE Transport Division*
- ❖ Implementation Committee: reduce the number of EB decisions; more dialogue with respective Parties
- ❖ Change of sequence of meetings to improve science-policy flow of information
- ❖ Capacity building activities in Azerbaijan, Rep. of Moldova, Georgia, Uzbekistan

plans



- ❖ Continued implementation of Action Plan for EECCA: Assistance to prepare for accession to recently amended Protocols through capacity building at the technical, policy and political levels
- ❖ Convention assessment report (to be published in 2016)
- ❖ Increased outreach as Air issues become more global





Water Convention promoting/opening beyond UNECE

High interest



- ✓ Great interest from non-UNECE countries: over 60 participated in meetings under Convention
- ✓ Larger exchange of experience much appreciated by current Parties
- ✓ Significant additional funding for opening, e.g. MFA
- ✓ Workshops organized for Latin America, Arab States, African countries, being followed up
- ✓ Strategic partnerships with GEF, UNESCO, other regional commissions, GWP, IUCN, UNEP
- 3 ratifications are still missing, expected soon

Amendments
in force but ...





Water Convention

NIRs: value, status & challenges

value

❖ Currently no reporting under Water Convention

❖ But discussions are starting (questionnaire, core group, possible MOP decision...)

status

✓ Regular assessments of transboundary waters in ECE region are carried out, last in 2011, but no NIR

challenges

EU countries have high reporting burden to EC

Simple, useful, easy-to-analyze mechanism to be found = opportunity





Water Convention

key developments & plans



developments



- ✓ Entry into force of UN Watercourses Convention
- ✓ High level of political support: EU Council conclusions, ASEM
- ✓ Cooperation with the GEF
- ✓ Nexus is crucial and addressed by the Convention



plans



- Global Meeting of Parties in November 2015 in Budapest will adopt new work programme
- Contribution to global processes like SDG on water, UNFCCC COP21, WCDRR
- More attention to water allocation, groundwater...





Protocol on Water and Health: regional platform for addressing water and health related issues

Regional
instrument



- ✓ Adopted in 1999 and entered into force in 2005, currently has 26 Parties (not the EU itself)
- ✓ Open for accession by all UNECE Member States
- ✓ Several countries, particularly in Central Asia and the Caucasus, in process of accession



Interest
beyond UNECE
region



- ✓ Framework to implement human right to water & sanitation and future water & health-related SDGs
- ✓ Interest from countries beyond UNECE region
- ✓ But more experience in implementation is needed before considering opening





Protocol on Water and Health

NIRs: value, status & challenges

value

❖ assess progress by Party, exchange experience, reveal implementation challenges

❖ inform development of next programme of work

status

- ✓ 24 of 26 Parties + 3 non-Parties reported in 2013
- ✓ All reports available online, summary by Compliance Committee and secretariat

challenges

- ❑ Integration of reporting under Protocol in global monitoring framework within post-2015 development agenda





Protocol on Water and Health

key developments & plans

developments



- ✓ Increasing focus on equitable access, sanitation & wastewater (joining forces with WHO), safe & efficient water management, health promotion
- ✓ Contribution to post-2015 development agenda



plans



- Revision of the *Guidelines for setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting* to adjust current targets & indicators to future global ones
- Integration of reporting under the Protocol with global monitoring framework: revision of *guidelines and template for reporting*
- Meeting of Parties in Oct/Nov 2016 – new programme of work to address new challenges





Industrial Accidents Convention promoting/opening beyond UN ECE

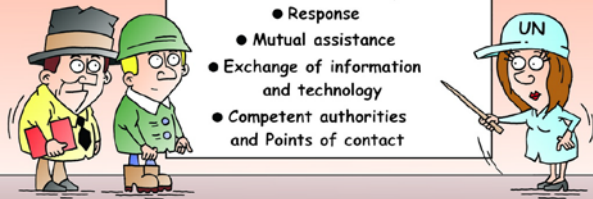
opening



- ✓ Discussion on a possible amendment of the Convention to open it for accession to UN member States beyond ECE
- Initial exchange of views at COP-8 (3-5 Dec 2014), following presentation of experience by other ECE MEAs at Working Group on Development

UNECE TEIA Convention Basics

- Identification of hazardous activities
- Consultation
- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Information to the public
- Accident notification system
 - Response
- Mutual assistance
- Exchange of information and technology
- Competent authorities and Points of contact



promoting



- ✓ Considerations with regard to cooperation with other regions
- Investigation of activities by other UN regional commissions
- Exploration of activities on transboundary cooperation for industrial safety in other regions





Industrial Accidents Convention

NIRs: value, status & challenges

value

- ❖ Review of NIRs for **report on the implementation of the Convention**
- ❖ Highlight areas for improvement
- ❖ Basis for next workplan and assistance activities
- ❖ Exchange info / good practices

status

- ❖ Reporting cycle 2012-13
- ❖ Submission on time for review by Working Group on Implementation:
 - ❖ 34 out of 41 Parties
 - ❖ 2/5 committed countries (GE, UA)
- ❖ Late submissions (after April 2014)
 - ❖ 3 Parties (AL, DK, KZ)
- ❖ NIRs not yet received by 3 countries that are a Party (BiH, GR, ES) and by 3 committed countries (KY, TJ, UZ)

challenges

- Late submissions
- Consecutive non-reporting or frequent late reporting by some Parties
- Differing views regarding the regularity of reporting and the information to be provided in NIRs



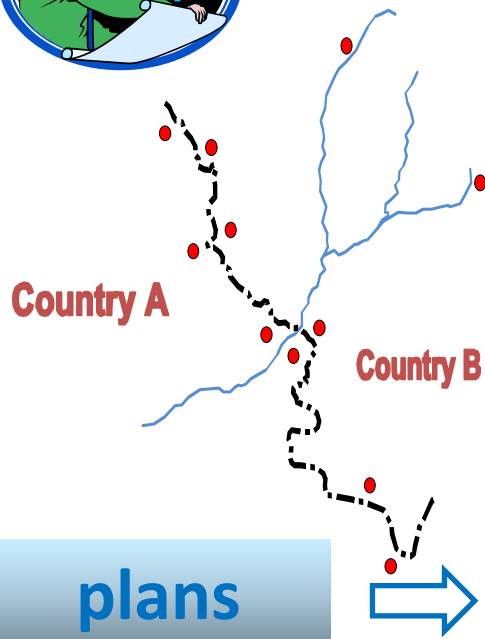
Industrial Accidents Convention

key developments & plans

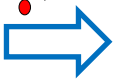
key dev.



- ✓ CoP-8 to adopt amended annex I aligned with GHS
- ✓ Enhanced implementation of the Convention since the introduction of the Assistance Programme in 2004



plans



- Amendments and COP guidance
- Implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism: partnership with other MEAs
- Cooperation/synergies with other MEAs/Programmes:
 - Water: Joint Expert Group on Water and Ind. Accidents, National Policy Dialogues
 - Aarhus: Public information and Participation
 - Espoo/SEA Protocol: Land-use planning/siting
 - Education for Sustainable Development: Raising knowledge on industrial safety at universities





Aarhus Convention promoting/opening beyond UN ECE

Opening



- Open for accession to non-ECE states
- Subject to approval by MOP
- Procedural steps for approval of accession
- Two states expressed interest formally (Mongolia and Morocco)

Protecting your environment:
The power is in your hands



Promotion



- Interested States require advisory support prior to deciding on accession
- Regional instrument on application of Principle 10 in LAC region
- Working closely with UNEP and other partners on promoting P10 to non-ECE countries
- Secretariat's capacity is fundamental for effective promotion





Aarhus Convention

NIRs: value, status & challenges

status

- ❖ Reporting obligatory for Parties, others – invited –
- ❖ **4th reporting cycle**
- ❖ 46 Parties: 29 timely, 15 late, 2 failed (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan)

Challenges/value

- Timely submission
- Quality of information and level of details vary greatly**
- Availability of reports in only one of the ECE languages
- NIRs and synthesis report are useful background material**





Aarhus Convention key developments & plans

key dev.



Protecting your environment:
The power is in your hands



plans



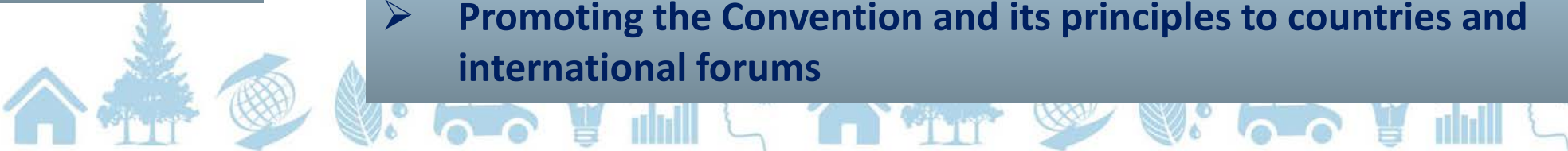
MOP-5

- ✓ Welcoming Switzerland – new Party
- ✓ Strategic Plan and work programme for 2015–2017 with financial arrangements
- ✓ Guide implementation of three pillars of the Convention
- ✓ Decisions on compliance matter

JHLS

- ✓ Maastricht Declaration

- Three thematic TFs facilitating capacity-building and exchange of information – decided on priority themes per pillar
- Further strengthening compliance mechanism
- Promoting ratification of GMO amendment
- Cooperation with partner organizations to ensure synergies
- Promoting the Convention and its principles to countries and international forums





PRTR Protocol promoting/opening beyond UN ECE

Open



- Initially adopted as open to non-ECE States
- No conditions on accession by non-ECE States
- Currently no Party from beyond ECE region
- Interest expressed by Morocco through EPR recommendations

Your **Right**
to a
Healthy Community



- Sharing experiences in establishing PRTRs: International Coordinating Group, Global Round Table
- Parties stay committed to encourage replication of the achievements of the Protocol and encourage accessions by interested non-ECE States

Promotion



- Secretariat's capacity is fundamental for effective promotion





PRTR Protocol

NIRs: value, status & challenges

Status

- ❖ 2014 first reporting cycle
- ❖ 24 out of 32 Parties reported in time
- ❖ 7 reported late
- ❖ Only one Party (Slovenia) did not report

Challenges/Values

- ❑ Late submissions of NIRs hinder the preparation of the synthesis report
- ❑ Varying levels of detail
- ❑ Insufficient quality of the information provided
- ❑ NIRs often only available in one ECE language
- ❑ NIRs and synthesis report will be used for capacity-building, exchange of information and for identifying systemic issues





PRTR Protocol key developments & plans

key dev.



- ✓ 2nd session of MOPP (July 2014): adopted a number of decisions to guide the future work; emphasis on capacity building and promotion
- ✓ Welcoming Republic of Moldova - new Party

Your **Right**
to a
Healthy Community



plans



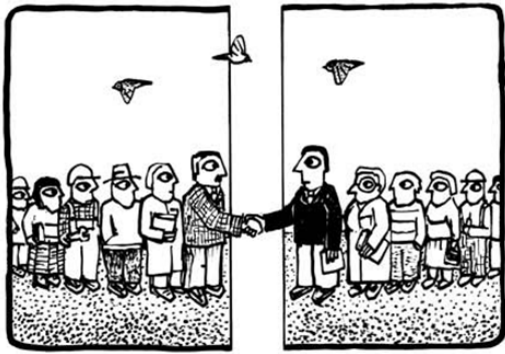
- Second Global Round Table on PRTRs
- Promoting Protocol to countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
- Identifying systemic issues in implementation and making recommendations on how to address them





Espoo Convention promoting/opening beyond UN ECE

global



Increased
interest



- ✓ **Since 26 August 2014: A global treaty**
- The first amendment entered into force
- 15 ratifications needed for the instrument to become truly global
- In the meantime, non-ECE countries invited to accept provisional application of the Conv
- Blanket MOP approval for any future accession

- ✓ **Increased interest beyond the ECE**
- North Africa
- Seminar at MOP on Globalization
- IFIs





SEA Protocol promoting/opening beyond UN ECE

Global



- ✓ **The Protocol is open to accession by any UN Member State**
 - ✓ **Blanket MOP approval for any future accession**

- ✓ **Environmental assessment procedures (EIA and SEA) often promoted together**
- ✓ **Intergovernmental meetings open to representatives of non-ECE States**





Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA

NIRs: value, status & challenges

Is there an obligation for Parties to report?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| ❖ Espoo Convention | ❖ Protocol on SEA |
| ❖ <i>Not</i> a treaty obligation | ❖ A treaty obligation |
| ❖ 2 nd amendment not in force | ❖ One reporting cycle |
| ❖ An established practice on reporting (4 reporting cycles) | |

Value

- ❖ Valuable **information** on implementation and practice
- ❖ General and specific **issues of compliance** (IC)
- ❖ **Workplan**: targeted capacity building activities, including events for exchange of information at the governmental meetings





Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA

NIRs: value, status & challenges

status

- ✓ **CONVENTION (4 cycles)**
 - ✓ High rate of response
 - ✓ B&H, Ire, Lux, Port and UK did not. Greece: late
- ✓ **PROTOCOL (1 cycle)**
 - ✓ High rate of response
 - ✓ Lux and Port did not report
- ✓ **The position of the EU**

challenges

- Administrative burden for Parties?
- Capacity constrains for the secretariat
- Regular revision of questionnaires
- Quality of the reports





Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA key developments & plans

key dev.



- ✓ **Greening the economies in the Eastern Partnership 2013-1016**
 - ✓ **Technical assistance to six countries**
 - ✓ **Preparation of legislation**



plans



- **TA: implementation, ratification/accession; subregional cooperation (RF and Central Asia)**
- **Nuclear energy-related activities (good practices and challenges)**
- **Outreach: Mediterranean, Caspian**
- **Cont'd synergies with other MEAs (Water, TEIA, Aarhus)**





ECE MEAs open to non-ECE

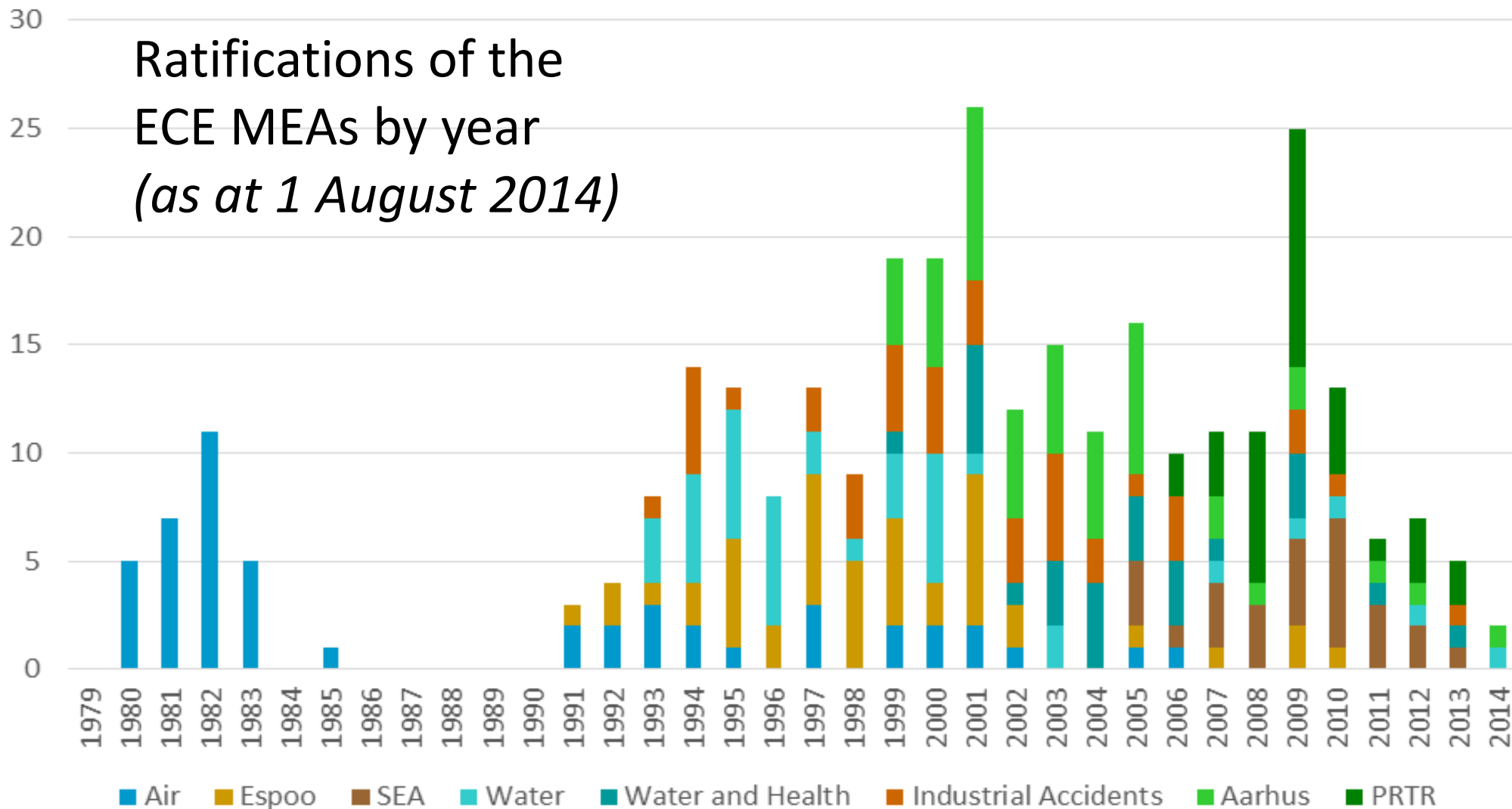
MEA	Parties (non-ECE)	Adopted as open	Amended to open	Conditions on accession
Air	51 (0)	No	No	N/A
Espoo	45 (0)	No	Yes	Blanket approval (+15)*
SEA	26 (0)	Yes	N/A	No conditions
Water	40 (0)	No	Yes	Blanket approval (+3)*
Water & Health	26 (0)	No	No	N/A
Industrial Accid	41 (0)	No	No	N/A
Aarhus	47 (0)	Yes	N/A	Approval by MOP
PRTR	33 (0)	Yes	N/A	No conditions

* Number of ratifications of the amendment needed for opening to become operational



After the storm?

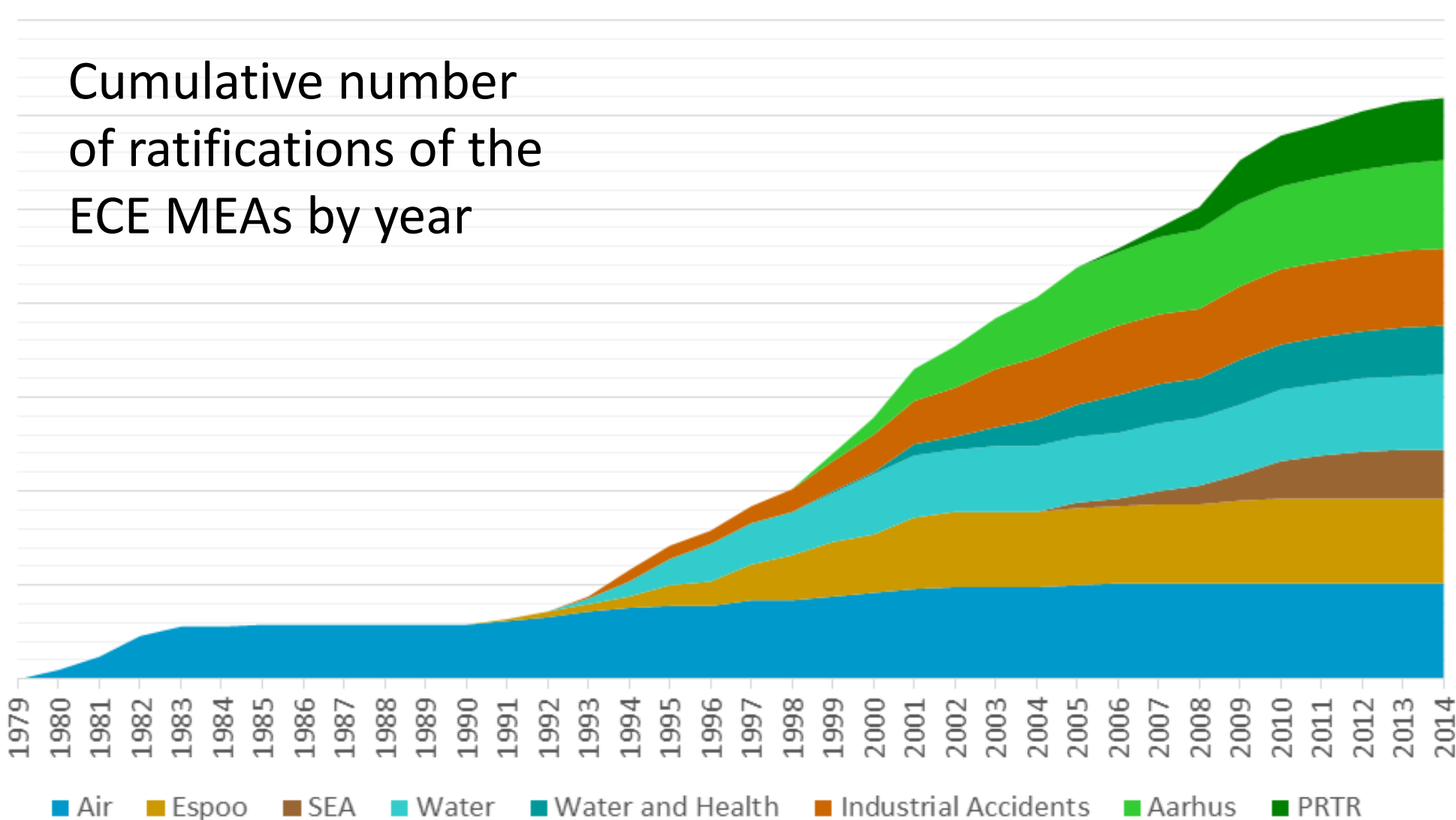
Ratifications of the
ECE MEAs by year
(as at 1 August 2014)





A 20-year boom

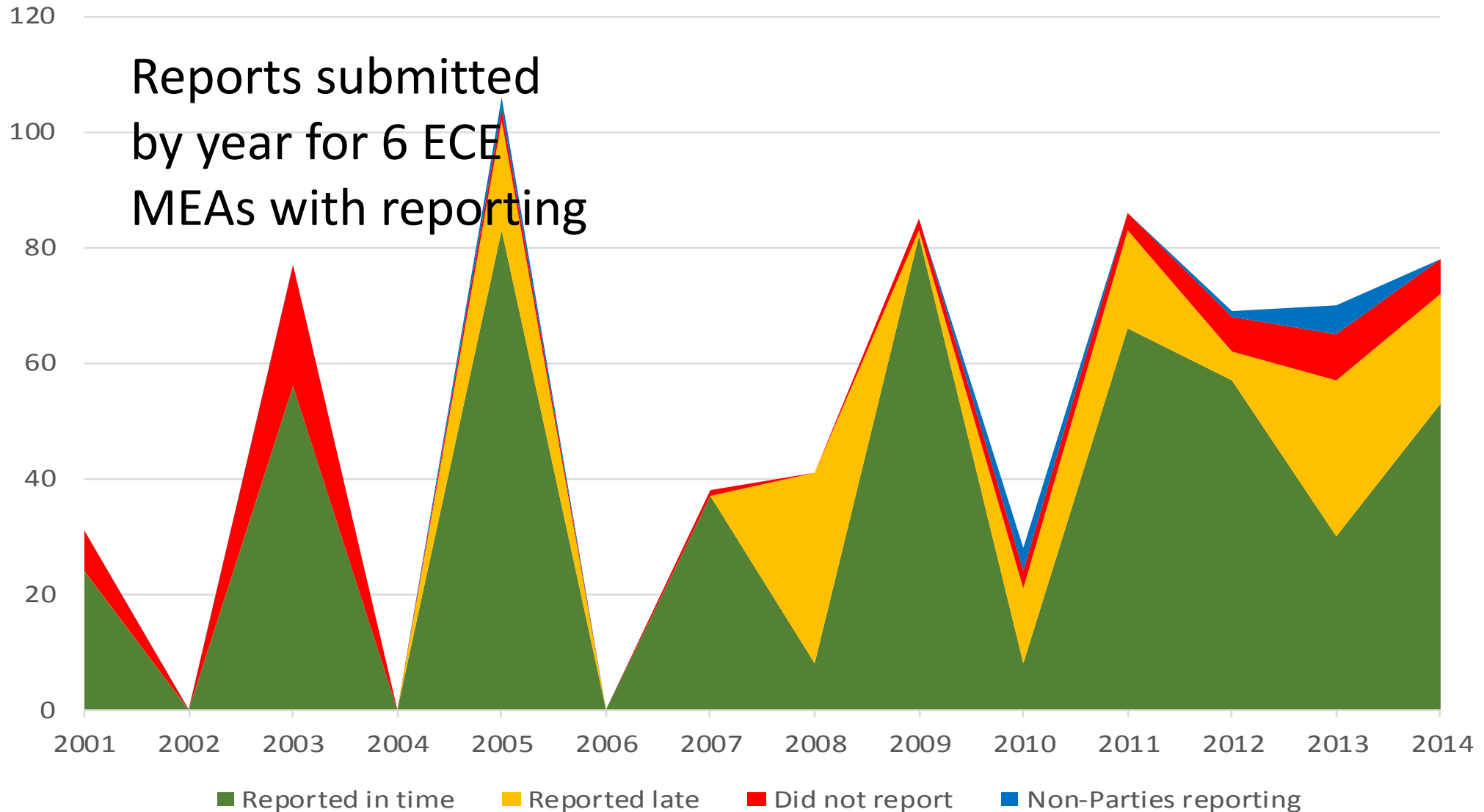
Cumulative number of ratifications of the ECE MEAs by year





Reporting in practice

Reports submitted
by year for 6 ECE
MEAs with reporting





questions for discussion on promotion & opening

- a) How can the challenges of the promotion and opening of ECE environmental instruments, including resource constraints, be addressed and how might the benefits be enhanced?
- b) What role can CEP play in supporting the promotion or opening of ECE environmental instruments?
- c) Would governance structures need to be adapted once ECE MEAs have Parties from outside the region?
- d) How might CEP strengthen cooperation with the corresponding bodies in the other regional commissions, as well as with IFIs and others, with respect to the promotion and opening of ECE environmental instruments?





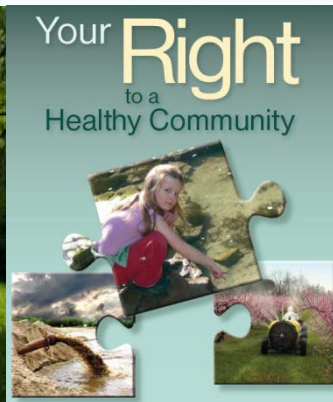
questions for discussion on reporting

- a) Is the situation with the reporting obligations across ECE MEAs satisfactory? Challenging? Critical?
- b) Are some MEAs facing more problems than others? Why?
- c) What are major obstacles to reporting from the perspective of the Parties? On the regional level? At the national level (e.g., is there a “rush hour”)? How can these obstacles be addressed?
- d) What can be done to increase the unsatisfactory quality of some NIRs?
- e) What could be the role of CEP in addressing non-reporting in general and systematic non-reporting in particular?





for better environment & human health



please visit:

www.unece.org/env/



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