

WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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Latest Developments in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at the National, Subnational and Company Levels

Submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina¹

I. Major actions initiated since September 2010 in the areas of:

A. Modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks, especially those on air, water and soil quality (in terms of number of stations, automated measurements and parameters measured)

The Federation BiH has adopted an Integrated strategy of environmental protection with the Action plan that includes a Strategy for air protection. The Federation BiH adopted the Law on Amendments of Law on Air Protection, which are consistent with regulation of:

- Directive 96/62/EC, on the air quality and framework directive;
- Directive 99/30/EC relating to limit values for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates and lead in the air, and
- Directive 2000/3/EC on tropospheric ozone.

Republika Srpska made a Draft of strategy for air protection with an Action plan.

In the field of air protection in Brcko District was passed Rulebook on limit and target values, which was forwarded to the Government of the Brcko District of BiH to adopt, where the air quality Directive 2008/50 EC almost completely transferred. It was purchased mobile station to monitor air quality, and there is the possibility of monitoring the air in the Brcko District of BiH.

Directive 98/83/EC on the water quality for human use is transposed into the legislation of the RS 69%, while the Federation to 58%. Regulations on the hygiene of drinking water ("Official Gazette BiH" no. 40/10), this Directive is fully transposed in BiH legislation.

Directive 91/271/EEC on urban waste water treatment in RS legislation passed 85%, while in the Federation BiH to 35%. Through the project "Support to water policy in BiH" will be prepared Act of "Limit values for polluting substances in waste waters" and their adoption will provide further transposition of this Directive.

B. Development of inventories of air emissions, wastewater discharges and waste

In the area of waste management, significant progress has been achieved through the implementation of a World Bank project to assist the establishment of the regional sanitary landfill, as a regional waste management centers.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER) is doing activities on the development of a unified system of permits for import of non-hazardous (green) waste from non-

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OECD member countries for further processing in BiH, through the implementation of the Directive of the European Commission(EC) No 1418/2007. In the last 10 months there was an evident progress in the preparation of legislation on the management of packaging and packaging waste.

At the moment, in Bosnia and Herzegovina is implemented a project "Support to water policy in BiH", which is funded by IPA 2007. Under this project it will be prepared as follows:

- a) water policy for BiH,
- b) Sub-implementation of key EU directives,
- c) an overview of the legal framework in the water sector and deficiencies related to the transposition of EU directives with particular emphasis on the legal definition of the role MoFTER BiH

It is also important to note that is doing the activities surrounding the construction of facilities of waste water.

C. Expanding monitoring of biodiversity

Biodiversity protection strategy with BiH action plan was prepared and sent to entities for opinions . Adoption is expected during this year.

Harmonization in the field of nature protection is carried out in accordance with the following two major directives: Directive of the Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), Directive of the Habitats (92/43/EEC).

Transposition of mentioned EU directives: it was intensively work in their transposition when creating a new draft Law on Nature Protection which was adopted in the Federal Government.

In december 2010, a Strategy on nature protection of the Republika Srpska was adopted in draft form to the National Assembly of RS.

Of the major projects is the GEF project, which is implemented with support from the World Bank ("Forest and Mountain Protected Areas"), whose result should be to enhance management of protected areas, expansion of existing and designate new protected areas.

D. Improvement of data handling, including data quality assurance and control, and database management

An environmental management system is a series of interconnected electronic databases and data sources on the state individual components of the environment, physical characteristics and other data and information relevant to environmental monitoring at the national level.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there is no Information system for environmental protection, which should ensure the efficient collection, management, exchange and use data related to the environmental state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also the exchange of data and information at the international level, particularly within the European Monitoring network (EIONET) and other information networks of the EU.

The necessity of establishing modern and efficient system of collecting and processing data and information about the environment at national level is obvious. At the national level, a unified information system on environment will allow a comprehensive understanding the state of the environment and the individual areas, this will provide the possibility of action based actual conditions.

The establishment of systematic, long-term environmental monitoring, processing and analyzing data will provide a realistic basis for making strategic decisions in government, and strategic documents on sustainable development. It is necessary to prepare a document that will provide strategic guidance that are essential for understanding how the establishment and management "BiH Information System for Environmental Protection". The purpose of the document would be to provide necessary information to experts and general public, with the aim of improving cooperation and understanding at all levels of communication.

E. Enhancement of institutional mechanisms for data sharing and data exchange between environment ministries; environmental information institutions; institutes of ecology; hydrometeorological services; statistical offices; and ministries of health, water, agriculture, industry, transport and energy

The Council of Ministers in 2010 adopted „*The first national report on climate change*”, which was developed in cooperation with the UNDP BiH. In the report indicated emissions of greenhouse gases for 1990, and included a series of measures and actions for mitigation and adaptation processes in relation to climate change. Preparations are underway for the development of „*The second National Report on climate change*”, and support will be provided from the GEF.

It was done the first national report on „*Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in BiH*” and forwarded to the Secretariat of the Convention. Within the project "Support to the Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was set up web portal of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, which provided access to relevant information and greater public participation. Discussion document was also posted on the web portal of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

F. Publication of environmental assessments at the subregional, national, subnational and project-based levels and the indicators used therein

In previous activities in the environmental field, the need was recognized to formulate the most important environmental strategy, as through the IPA 2008 project "Strengthening Environmental Institutions of BiH and Preparation for Pre-Accession Funds." Through results it will be determined Environmental Strategy with Implementation Measures for the EU acquis "Aproximation Environmental Strategy with implementation measures for the EU Acquis", which will specify the cost-benefit analysis of this process, but only for certain EUDirectives.

One result will be the preparation of State environmental policy, which will consist of climate change, nature protection, waste management, water resources management as well as chemicals ("Preparation of an environmental State policy consisting of climate changes, nature protection, waste management, water resource management and chemicals"), the organization of the National environmental Information System („The organization of the national environment monitoring and information system ") as well as, the production of list of projects in the environmental field.

Regarding the status of Law of Environmental Protection, the Working Group has prepared a draft Law on Environmental Protection.

Minister of MoFTER should give consent for follow-up procedure, as well as federal minister and minister of RS. Upon obtaining the necessary approval, the draft law will be submitted for further procedure, and its final adoption is expected only after the constitution of BiH government.