

1. Country/Organization:

Please indicate your name, organization and country.

Bohumir Dusek, Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic

2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Water quality and quantity protection

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

Water planning in the Czech Republic is based on the Water Framework Directive, the purpose of which is to prevent any further deterioration of surface waters and groundwater and to improve the condition of the waters and water dependent ecosystems. The target set out by the Water Framework Directive is to achieve a good water status by 2015.

The high increase in the proportion of treated waste water is due to the intensive building of new waste water treatment plants and intensification of the existing ones. By this, the obligations resulting from Council Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment and waste water quality are met.

Important part of the water planning since 2010 is implementation of the Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks. The result of the implementation will be the flood risk management plans incorporated to the river basin management plans. The plans will be approved by the Government in 2015.

The main national legislation in the water protection sector is Act No 254/2001 Coll. on Water and Amendments to Some Acts (The Water Act) as amended, and its implementing regulations, i.e. government orders, decrees and methodical directives. Water Act specifies basic approach for the protection of water environment and also regulates some other activities such as construction of new waterworks, discharges of waste water, permissions for water abstraction etc.

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action? What lessons were learned?*

Water quantity protection lies primarily in the rational water management, ensuring protection of the runoff regime in the landscape, improving of water retention capacity of the landscape and reducing flood risks.

Apart from the point sources of pollution, i.e. municipalities, industrial plants and concentrated agricultural livestock production water quality is also affected by diffuse sources of pollution, including pollution from agricultural activities, atmospheric deposition and erosion runoff.

(c) What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?

The current priority in this area is promotion of water recycling and management of atmospheric precipitation. Due to industrial development there is excessive runoff through the sewerage systems and waste water treatment plants from built-up areas into watercourses and consequently out of the area.

To improve of watercourses hydrological regime there is a lack of sufficiently established ecological and/or minimum residual flow which would allow restoration of natural functions of water ecosystems and ecosystems associated with water. Possibility of natural overflow, maintenance of watercourse channels or building of flood banks is not sufficiently ensured as well.

In addition, it is necessary to solve the reduction of the amount of pollution discharged into surface water and groundwater from pollution sources in the category of up to 2,000 PE and selected pollution sources in the range of 2,000 – 10,000 PE.

4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes / No