



19th session of the Committee on Environmental Policy

Multilateral environmental agreements segment

Agenda items 5 and 6a

Geneva

22 October 2013





Content of the presentation

Part 1: MEAs overview since ECE 2005 reform

Part 2: MEAs specific sections

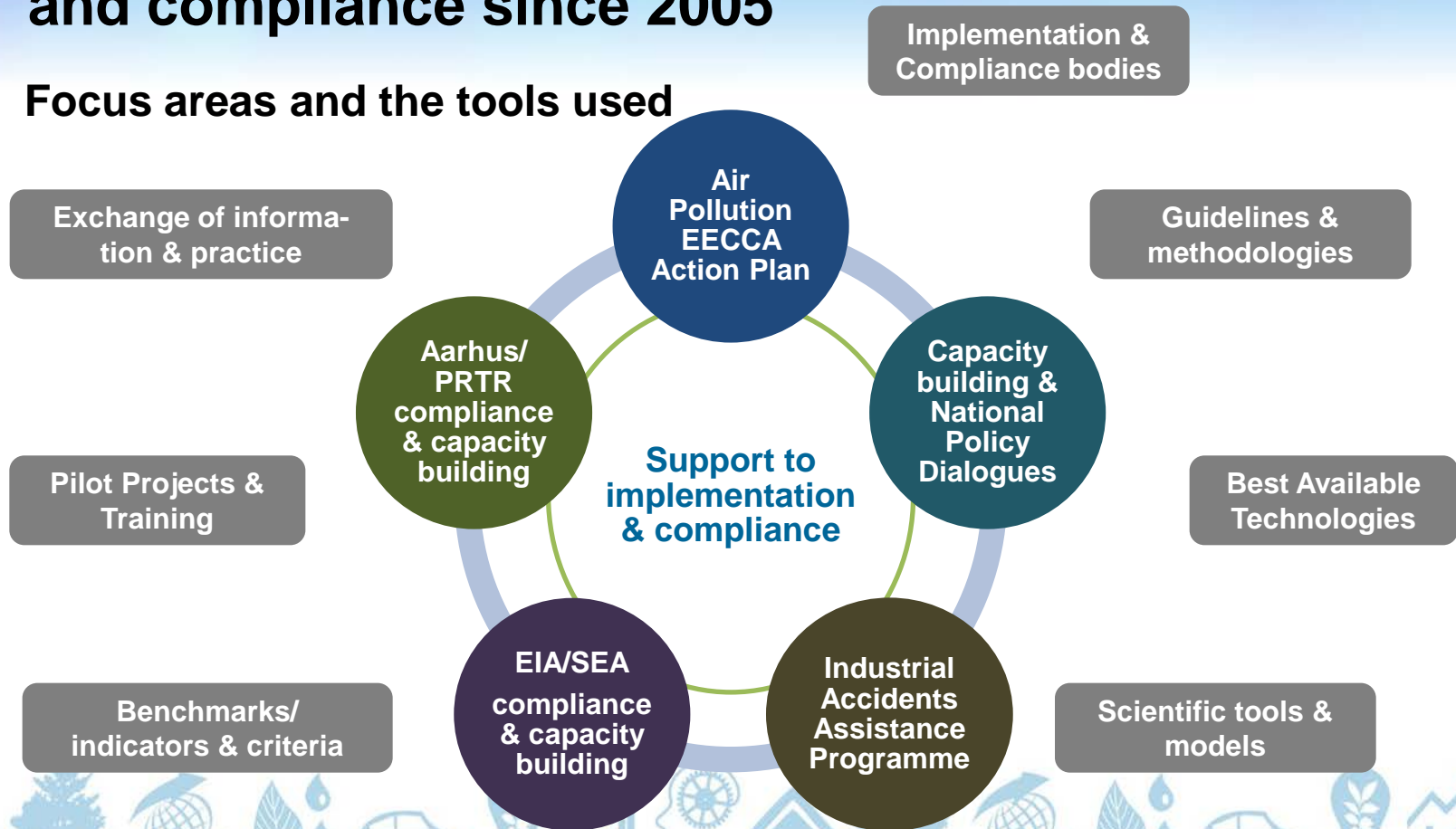
Part 3: Conclusion – key challenges and a way forward





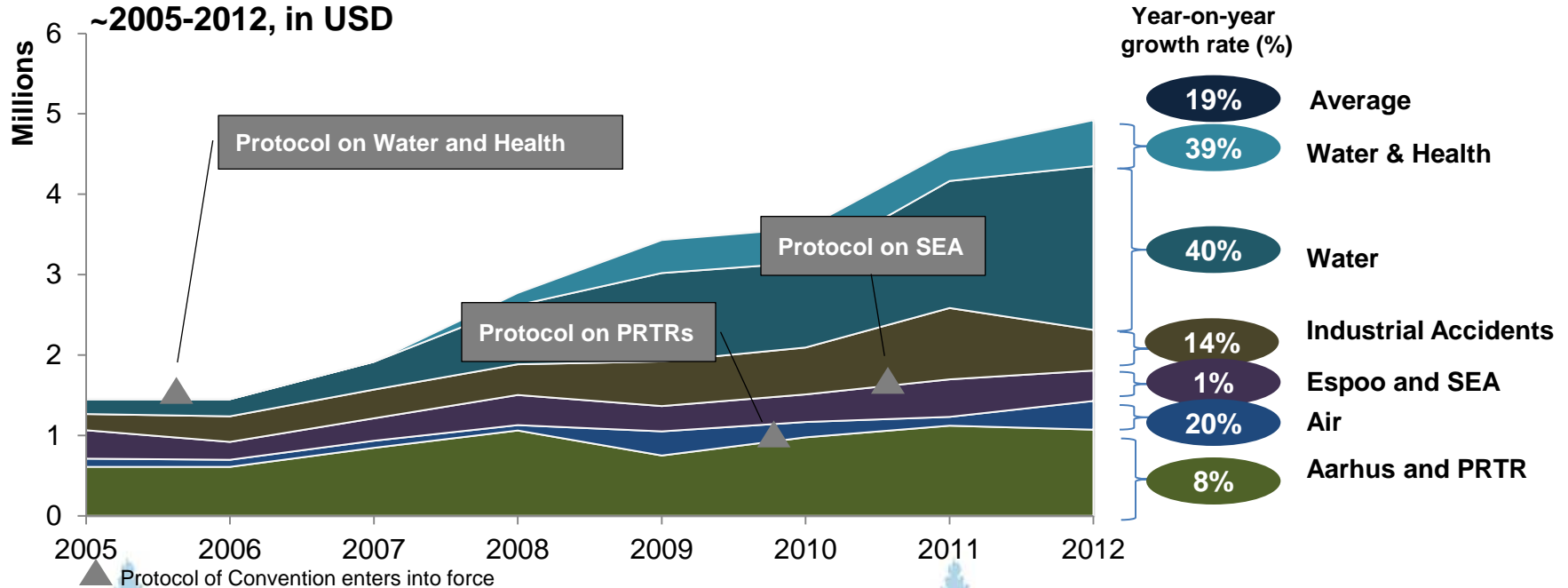
The ECE MEAs have been focused on implementation and compliance since 2005

Focus areas and the tools used



Financial contributions to MEAs have increased since 2005, but at very different levels per MEA

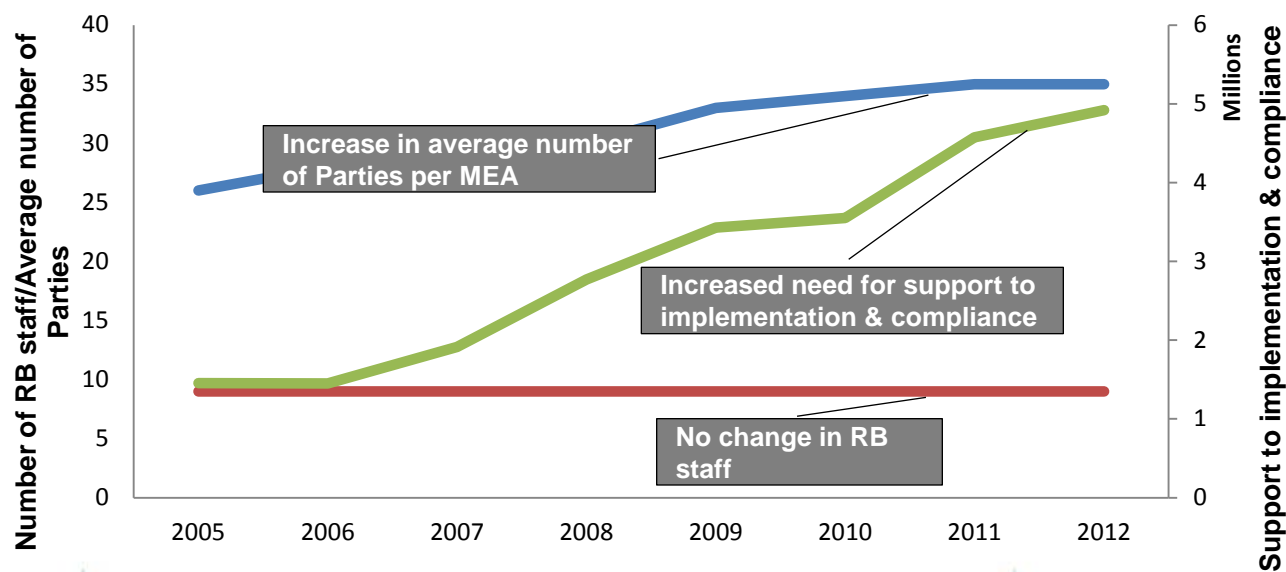
Trends in financial extra-budgetary (XB) contributions to MEAs ~2005-2012, in USD



What is common to all MEAs is that contributions are unstable and unpredictable

Despite increasing number of Parties and growing amount of work, RB staff in MEAs remains unchanged

Increase in amount of work and regular-budget (RB) staff change
~2005-2012, in USD



- Average number of Parties per MEA and support for implementation and compliance increased for ~30% since 2005
- RB staff number remains constant at 9 for all MEAs, in spite of 3 Protocols entering into force during this period

— Average number of Parties to ECE MEAs

— Number of RB staff

— Management of implementation & compliance work





Part 2: MEAs specific sections

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Protocol on Water and Health

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention





MEAs specific sections

Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution



Since 2011 there were 7 new ratifications of Air Convention Protocols

Parties to the Air Convention as of September 2013

| Convention and its Protocols | Number of Parties | Out of which, ratifications in 2011 or later |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution | 51 | |
| 1 The 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) | 25 | |
| 2 The 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) | 33 | 2 |
| 3 The 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals | 33 | 3 |
| 4 The 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions | 28 | |
| 5 The 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes | 24 | |
| 6 The 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes | 35 | 1 |
| 7 The 1985 Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent | 25 | |
| 8 The 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) | 45 | 1 |

- Serbia
- Spain
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Spain
- Poland
- Georgia

Total new ratifications since 2011

7





Successful conclusion of negotiations of amendments to recent Protocols

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

• Amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol

- Adopted in 2012
- To address remaining challenges and emerging issues, translated into new emission reduction commitments:
 - **Health effects:** particulate matter emissions and black carbon as a short-lived climate forcer
 - **Remaining environmental challenges:** ozone, vegetation, biodiversity

• Amendments to the Protocol on Heavy Metals

- Adopted in 2012
- To introduce *more stringent emission limit values and enlarge the list of emission source categories*

• **Flexibility provisions** included in amended Protocols to facilitate accession and bring about emission reductions by countries of Eastern and Southeast Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia





Enhanced focus on implementation throughout the region

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

- **Assisting countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and Southeast Europe to prepare for accession to the recently amended Protocols**

- Through capacity building at the technical, policy and political levels
 - Continued implementation of Action Plan for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
 - Missions to 5 Central Asian countries (2012-2013)
 - Preparations for workshop on emission inventories of PM in Uzbekistan (November 2013)

- **Implementation and compliance**

- A priority in the long-term strategy for the Convention (2010)

- **Information sharing by Parties to strengthen the implementation of the Convention:**

- Exchange of experiences and good practices on air pollution related policies, strategies and measures
- Enhanced cross-sectoral cooperation and information exchange
- Outreach to other communities, organizations and regions





MEAs specific sections

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context



For entry into force of 1st amendment need 3; and of 2nd amendment 10 further ratifications

Status of ratification (Sept. 2013): Espoo Convention and its amendments

| Party | As of | Amendment 1 | Amendment 2 |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Albania | 4.10.1991 | X | X |
| Armenia | 21.2.1997 | | |
| Austria | 27.7.1994 | X | X |
| Azerbaijan | 25.3.1999 | | |
| Belarus | 10.11.2005 | X | |
| Belgium | 2.7.1999 | | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 14.12.2009 | | |
| Bulgaria | 12.5.1995 | X | X |
| Canada | 13.5.1998 | | |
| Croatia | 8.7.1996 | X | X |
| Cyprus | 20.7.2000 | | |
| Czech Republic | 26.2.2001 | X | X |
| Denmark | 14.3.1997 | | |
| Estonia | 25.4.2001 | X | X |
| European Union | 24.6.1997 | X | X |
| Finland | 10.8.1995 | | |
| France | 15.6.2001 | | X |

| Party | As of | Amendment 1 | Amendment 2 |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Germany | 8.8.2002 | X | X |
| Greece | 24.2.1998 | | |
| Hungary | 11.7.1997 | X | X |
| Ireland | 25.7.2002 | | |
| Italy | 19.1.1995 | | |
| Kazakhstan | 11.1.2001 | | |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1.5.2001 | | |
| Latvia | 31.8.1998 | | |
| Liechtenstein | 9.7.1998 | | |
| Lithuania | 11.1.2001 | X | X |
| Luxembourg | 29.8.1995 | X | X |
| Malta | 20.10.2010 | | |
| Montenegro | 9.7.2009 | X | X |
| Netherlands | 28.2.1995 | X | X |
| Norway | 23.6.1993 | X | X |
| Poland | 12.6.1997 | X | X |
| Portugal | 6.4.2000 | | X |

| Party | As of | Amendment 1 | Amendment 2 |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Republic of Moldova | 4.1.1994 | | |
| Romania | 29.3.2001 | X | |
| Serbia | 18.12.2007 | | |
| Slovakia | 19.11.1999 | X | X |
| Slovenia | 5.8.1998 | | |
| Spain | 10.9.1992 | X | X |
| Sweden | 24.1.1992 | X | X |
| Switzerland | 16.9.1996 | X | X |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 31.8.1999 | | |

Total Parties as of September 2013

45

Ratifications amendment 1

21

Ratifications amendment 2

21



Focus on further enhancing application, monitoring, consistency and compliance across ECE region

- Assistance oriented compliance procedure increasingly used
 - Many concerns brought before Implementation Committee are nuclear energy-related
- Technical assistance for improving legislation
 - Completed in Azerbaijan; On-going in Georgia; planned in Uzbekistan
- Guidance on enhancing consistency between the Convention and State ecological expertise
- First pilot project on post-project analysis
 - Between Belarus and Ukraine (2013-14)
- Seminars for exchange of good practice (biodiversity; nuclear energy)
- Sub-regional workshops to strengthen contacts between Parties
 - *Baltic Sea region (2011,2012)*
- Training
 - Russian Federation (Vladivostok; (2011)





MEAs specific sections

Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment





Since 2011, 6 countries have ratified the Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention

Parties to the Protocol on SEA as of September 2013

| Party | As of |
|----------------|------------|
| Albania | 2.12.2005 |
| Armenia | 24.1.2011 |
| Austria | 23.3.2010 |
| Bulgaria | 25.1.2007 |
| Croatia | 6.10.2009 |
| Czech Republic | 19.7.2005 |
| Denmark | 4.6.2012 |
| Estonia | 12.4.2010 |
| European Union | 12.11.2008 |
| Finland | 18.4.2005 |
| Germany | 22.2.2007 |
| Hungary | 26.11.2010 |
| Lithuania | 22.3.2011 |
| Luxembourg | 2.7.2008 |
| Montenegro | 02.11.2009 |
| Netherlands | 8.12.2009 |
| Norway | 11.10.2007 |

| Party | As of |
|---|------------|
| Poland | 21.6.2011 |
| Portugal | 4.9.2013 |
| Romania | 8.3.2010 |
| Serbia | 8.7.2010 |
| Slovakia | 29.5.2008 |
| Slovenia | 23.4.2010 |
| Spain | 24.9.2009 |
| Sweden | 30.3.2006 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 13.09.2013 |

Total Parties as of September 2013

26

Parties that have ratified the MEA in 2011 or later





Extensive support for increasing ratifications and promoting implementation of the SEA Protocol

- 1st reporting showed still limited experience in implementation
- 2013-16: 2 Mio € (from EaP-GREEN) for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
 - Legislative reviews; training, pilots; guidance; regional workshops
- But little funds for Central Asia
- National and local level training
 - Uzbekistan (2011), Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine (2013)
- Technical assistance for improving legislation
 - Belarus, the Republic of Moldova (2013)
- Good practice guidance on public participation in SEA
 - Aligned with recommendations under Aarhus Convention (Joint workshop in 2012)
- Simplified *Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol*
 - Including in Armenian and Azerbaijani





MEAs specific sections

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes





32 Parties have ratified the amendment to the Water Convention; Turkmenistan ratified the Convention in 2012

Status of ratification: Water Convention and its amendment

| Party | As of | Amendment |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Albania | 5.1.1994 | |
| Austria | 25.7.1996 | X |
| Azerbaijan | 3.8.2000 | |
| Belarus | 29.5.2003 | X |
| Belgium | 8.11.2000 | |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3.12.2009 | X |
| Bulgaria | 28.10.2003 | X |
| Croatia | 8.7.1996 | X |
| Czech Republic | 12.6.2000 | X |
| Denmark | 28.5.1997 | X |
| Estonia | 16.6.1995 | X |
| European Union | 14.9.1995 | |
| Finland | 21.2.1996 | X |
| France | 30.6.1998 | X |
| Germany | 30.1.1995 | X |
| Greece | 6.9.1996 | X |
| Hungary | 2.9.1994 | X |

| Party | As of | Amendment |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Italy | 23.5.1996 | X |
| Kazakhstan | 11.1.2001 | |
| Latvia | 10.12.1996 | X |
| Liechtenstein | 19.11.1997 | X |
| Lithuania | 28.4.2000 | X |
| Luxembourg | 7.6.1994 | X |
| Netherlands | 14.3.1995 | X |
| Norway | 1.4.1993 | X |
| Poland | 15.3.2000 | X |
| Portugal | 9.12.1994 | X |
| Republic of Moldova | 4.1.1994 | X |
| Romania | 31.5.1995 | X |
| Russian Federation | 2.11.1993 | X |
| Serbia | 27.8.2010 | X |
| Slovakia | 7.7.1999 | X |
| Slovenia | 13.4.1999 | X |
| Spain | 16.2.2000 | X |

| Party | As of | Amendment |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sweden | 5.8.1993 | X |
| Switzerland | 23.5.1995 | X |
| Turkmenistan | 29.8.2012 | |
| Ukraine | 8.10.1999 | |
| Uzbekistan | 4.9.2007 | X |

Total Parties as of September 2013

39

Ratifications of the amendment

32

Further ratifications of amendment needed

6

Parties that have ratified the MEA in 2011 or later

Note: Amendment refers to Amendments to Articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Madrid, 28 November 2003



Promoting implementation through the Convention's legal regime and activities on the ground

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

- Implementation Committee established and members elected at MOP6 in 2012
- Implementation Guide published
- Discussion on possible introduction of a reporting mechanism started
- Dniester treaty signed by Moldova and Ukraine at MOP6
- Supporting implementation on the ground:
 - EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on IWRM implemented in 9 countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus & Central Asia
 - 4 pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
 - Numerous projects supporting cooperation in transboundary basins (Kura, Dniester, Drin, Afghanistan-Tajikistan, etc.)





Opening of the Convention to non-ECE countries

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

- Amendments opening Convention to all UN Member States entered into force on 6 February 2013, but 6 Parties still need to ratify
- MOP6 gave blanket approval for all future accessions by non-ECE countries
- High interest in the Convention: several non-ECE countries expressed interest in joining Convention, more than 40 participated in activities
- Capacity-building events for non-ECE countries:
 - Central Asia and neighbouring non-ECE countries (Dec. 2011), African countries (Nov. 2012), Mediterranean region (Nov. 2012), Latin America & Caribbean (June 2013)
- Opening is a priority in programme of work and vision adopted at MOP6





MEAs specific sections

Protocol on Water and Health





Since 2011, 2 countries have ratified the Protocol on Water and Health

Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health as of September 2013

| Party | As of |
|------------------------|------------|
| Albania | 8.3.2002 |
| Azerbaijan | 9.1.2003 |
| Belarus | 22.4.2009 |
| Belgium | 29.6.2004 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 13.10.2011 |
| Croatia | 28.7.2006 |
| Czech Republic | 15.11.2001 |
| Estonia | 9.9.2003 |
| Finland | 3.3.2005 |
| France | 6.5.2005 |
| Germany | 15.1.2007 |
| Hungary | 7.12.2001 |
| Latvia | 24.11.2004 |
| Lithuania | 17.3.2004 |
| Luxembourg | 4.10.2001 |
| Netherlands | 25.6.2009 |
| Norway | 6.1.2004 |

| Party | As of |
|---------------------|------------|
| Portugal | 6.9.2006 |
| Republic of Moldova | 16.9.2005 |
| Romania | 5.1.2001 |
| Russian Federation | 31.12.1999 |
| Serbia | 16.4.2013 |
| Slovakia | 2.10.2001 |
| Spain | 24.9.2009 |
| Switzerland | 27.10.2006 |
| Ukraine | 26.9.2003 |

Total Parties as of September 2013

26

Parties that have ratified the MEA in 2011 or later





Mixture of actions at national & subregional levels support practical implementation

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

- Practical projects supported setting & implementing of targets on water & sanitation
 - Armenia – ongoing project
 - Kyrgyzstan – targets adopted by Government
 - Republic of Moldova – ongoing project
 - Tajikistan – targets pending adoption

...with target setting ongoing in many more countries, without project support
- Subregional workshops to share experience in implementation
 - Central Europe (May 2012), Bratislava
 - Nordic & Baltic (November 2012), Oslo
 - Caucasus (May 2013), Tbilisi
 - Central Asia (October 2013), Almaty





Focus is now on more substantive implementation

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

- *No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region*
- *Scorecard on equitable access to water and sanitation*
- *Guide to public participation under the Protocol on Water & Health*
- 23 out of 26 Parties reported in the current reporting cycle
- Compliance Committee launched “consultation process” to assist Parties, but ...
- Better coordination with EBRD Water Fund for technical cooperation
- MOP3 in Oslo in November, with Special session on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation, and new areas of work proposed, e.g.
 - Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases
 - Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems





MEAs specific sections

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents



Since 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the Industrial Accidents Convention

Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention as of September 2013

| Party | As of | Party | As of | Party | As of |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| Albania | 5.1.1994 | Greece | 24.2.1998 | Slovakia | 9.9.2003 |
| Armenia | 21.2.1997 | Hungary | 2.6.1994 | Slovenia | 13.5.2002 |
| Austria | 4.8.1999 | Italy | 2.7.2002 | Spain | 16.5.1997 |
| Azerbaijan | 16.6.2004 | Kazakhstan | 11.1.2001 | Sweden | 22.9.1999 |
| Belarus | 25.6.2003 | Latvia | 29.6.2004 | Switzerland | 21.5.1999 |
| Belgium | 6.4.2006 | Lithuania | 2.11.2000 | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 2.3.2010 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 20.2.2013 | Luxembourg | 8.8.1994 | United Kingdom of Great Britain | 5.5.2002 |
| Bulgaria | 12.5.1995 | Monaco | 28.8.2001 | | |
| Croatia | 20.1.2000 | Montenegro | 19.5.2009 | | |
| Cyprus | 31.8.2005 | Netherlands | 6.11.2006 | | |
| Czech Republic | 12.6.2000 | Norway | 1.4.1993 | | |
| Denmark | 28.3.2001 | Poland | 8.9.2003 | | |
| Estonia | 17.5.2000 | Portugal | 2.11.2006 | | |
| European Union | 24.4.1998 | Republic of Moldova | 4.1.1994 | | |
| Finland | 13.9.1999 | Romania | 22.5.2003 | | |
| France | 03.10.2003 | Russian Federation | 1.2.1994 | | |
| Germany | 9.9.1998 | Serbia | 31.7.2009 | | |

Total Parties as of September 2013

41

Parties that have ratified the MEA in 2011 or later



Promoting accession and implementation through the Convention's Assistance Programme and other activities

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

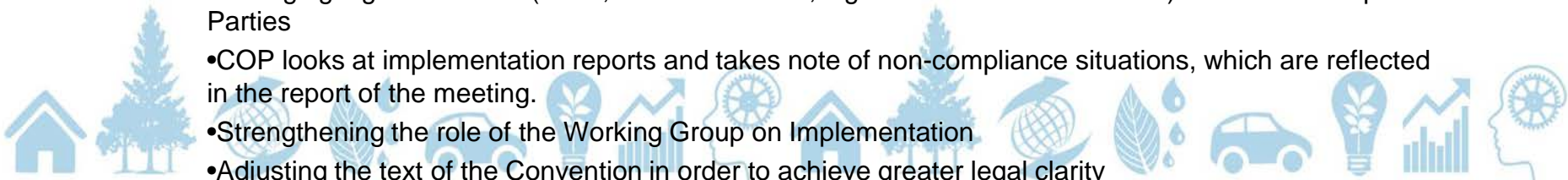
- Joint visit to oil terminals, project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta - 27-29 September 2011
- Workshop on cost-effectiveness for major accident prevention - 12 October 2011
- Regional training session on identification of hazardous activities for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - 22-23 November 2011
- National training on identification of hazardous activities for Uzbekistan - 06-07 December 2011
- Workshop on crisis management, project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta - 13-14 December 2011
- Training session on the evaluation of safety reports – on-site inspection for Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - 22 - 24 October 2012
- International workshop on the project Assistance to Raising Knowledge on Industrial Safety at Universities - 26 March 2013
- Inter-agency meeting on industrial accidents - 29 April 2013
- Project of Risk Assessment of Industrial Accidents and Enforcement of Cross-Border Obligations (RIECO) Workshop - 18 - 19 September 2013
- Workshop on safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals - 23 - 25 September 2013





Focus is now on more sustainable implementation and ensuring compliance

- 38 out of 39 reporting Parties reported in the current reporting cycle
- Analysis of the requirements of the Convention – non-compliance issues
 - Art. 6 Prevention – not requiring from operators to „demonstrate the safe performance|”
 - Art. 8 Emergency preparedness – lack of contingency plan, not informing affected Parties of the contingency plan, inadequate contingency plan
 - Art. 9 Information to, and participation of the public - not providing the public any information, providing inadequate information, not providing possibilities to appeal „equivalent to those available to persons within their own jurisdiction”
 - Art. 10 Notification – not notifying or notifying inaccurately in case of accident,
 - Art. 11 Response – measures not taken or taken too late
 - Art 23. Reporting – no periodic reporting
- Possible actions which could be taken to strengthen implementation and compliance
 - Better understanding of the reasons for non-compliance and deliver targeted assistance in order to address lack of capacity
 - Sending high-level letters (Chair, UNECE officials, UNECE Executive secretary) to the non-compliant Parties
 - Arranging high-level visits (Chair, UNECE officials, high level Convention bodies) to the non-compliant Parties
 - COP looks at implementation reports and takes note of non-compliance situations, which are reflected in the report of the meeting.
 - Strengthening the role of the Working Group on Implementation
 - Adjusting the text of the Convention in order to achieve greater legal clarity





Future developments to ensure effective and sustainable implementation

- Further reinforcement of the Conventions' Assistance Programme
 - *Planned projects for 2013 – Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia*
 - *Expanding activities in 2014 – Montenegro, Turkmenistan, ...*
- Streamlining of the Strategic approach for the Assistance Programme
- Activities to raise awareness of the risk of complacency, to ensure implementation and compliance and to maintain a high level of safety as priority for strategic partnerships in the work plan
- Transition to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) – 3rd meeting of the Working Group on development
- Identifying, promoting and reinforcing strategic partnerships and potential synergies
 - ECE MEAs
 - International organisations





MEAs specific sections

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters



Since 2011, 2 countries have ratified the Aarhus Convention

Status of ratification: Aarhus Convention and its amendment

| Party | As of | Amendment |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Albania | 27.6.2001 | |
| Armenia | 1.8.2001 | |
| Austria | 17.1.2005 | X |
| Azerbaijan | 23.3.2000 | |
| Belarus | 9.3.2000 | |
| Belgium | 21.1.2003 | X |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1.10.2008 | |
| Bulgaria | 17.12.2003 | X |
| Croatia | 27.3.2007 | |
| Cyprus | 19.9.2003 | X |
| Czech Republic | 6.7.2004 | X |
| Denmark | 29.9.2000 | X |
| Estonia | 2.8.2001 | X |
| European Union | 17.2.2005 | X |
| Finland | 1.9.2004 | X |
| France | 8.7.2002 | |
| Georgia | 11.4.2000 | |

| Party | As of | Amendment |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Germany | 15.1.2007 | X |
| Greece | 27.1.2006 | |
| Hungary | 3.7.2001 | X |
| Iceland | 20.10.2011 | |
| Ireland | 20.6.2012 | X |
| Italy | 13.6.2001 | X |
| Kazakhstan | 11.1.2001 | |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1.5.2001 | |
| Latvia | 14.6.2002 | X |
| Lithuania | 28.1.2002 | X |
| Luxembourg | 25.10.2005 | X |
| Malta | 23.4.2002 | |
| Montenegro | 2.11.2009 | |
| Netherlands | 29.12.2004 | X |
| Norway | 2.5.2003 | X |
| Poland | 15.2.2002 | X |
| Portugal | 9.6.2003 | X |

| Party | As of | Amendment |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Republic of Moldova | 9.8.1999 | X |
| Romania | 11.7.2000 | X |
| Serbia | 31.7.2009 | |
| Slovakia | 5.12.2005 | X |
| Slovenia | 29.7.2004 | X |
| Spain | 29.12.2004 | X |
| Sweden | 20.5.2005 | X |
| Tajikistan | 17.7.2001 | |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 22.7.1999 | |
| Turkmenistan | 25.6.1999 | |
| Ukraine | 18.11.1999 | |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain | 23.2.2005 | X |

Total Parties as of September 2013

46

Ratifications of the amendment

27

Parties that have ratified the MEA in 2011 or later

Three thematic task forces are at the core of implementation of Convention's provisions

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

• Improving implementation...

- 3 region-wide thematic task forces
 - Multi-stakeholder platform to address
 - Access to information,
 - Public participation in decision-making; and
 - Access to justicerelated to environmental matters
 - Multilateral work fosters partnerships, builds synergies and provides an opportunity for addressing countries' needs through sharing experience & transfer of knowledge
- Implementation is regularly reviewed by Meeting of the Parties

• ... by exploring synergies

- To increase efficiency and streamline capacity building, many events are organized jointly with other MEAs & international organizations, e.g.:
 - With Protocol on Water and Health, Protocol on SEA, European Commission & ANCCLI, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, etc.
 - Country-specific projects and subregional workshops with OSCE, Aarhus Centers and RECs
 - region-wide inter-agency capacity-building coordination mechanism
- **... and through capacity building**
- Subregional meeting on Central Asia (Almaty, 22-23 May 2012)
 - Addressed needs of countries in relation to implementation of the Convention
 - Featured a training on the Convention's three pillars
 - Included special session for high-level judiciary





Convention's unique compliance mechanism is instrumental in assisting countries

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

•Assisting compliance

- Innovative & unique – Compliance Committee
 - Precedent among MEAs
 - Clarifying obligations of Parties
 - Over 90 communications submitted by members of public;
 - Included also in the informal network of accountability mechanisms of the international financial institutions (IFIs)
- Compliance regularly reviewed by the Meeting of Parties
 - 18 decisions on compliance adopted by Meeting of the Parties

•Promoting & sharing experiences

- Open for global accession
- Promoting the Convention's provisions at international forums
 - Annual thematic sessions on public participation in international forums
 - Discussing public participation at UN Environment Assembly, UNFCCC, IFIs, HLPF
- Promotion to non-ECE countries
 - Possible accession
 - Replication
 - Advisory support to Initiative on a possible regional instrument on environmental rights in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Increased cooperation with the Human Rights Council





MEAs specific sections

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention



Since 2011, 5 countries have ratified the Protocol on PRTRs

Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs as of September 2013

| Party | As of | Party | As of |
|----------------|------------|--|------------|
| Albania | 16.6.2009 | Lithuania | 5.3.2009 |
| Austria | 23.3.2010 | Luxembourg | 7.2.2006 |
| Belgium | 12.3.2009 | Netherlands | 11.2.2008 |
| Bulgaria | 15.1.2010 | Norway | 27.6.2008 |
| Croatia | 14.7.2008 | Poland | 25.9.2012 |
| Cyprus | 5.11.2012 | Portugal | 8.10.2009 |
| Czech Republic | 12.8.2009 | Romania | 26.8.2009 |
| Denmark | 13.10.2008 | Serbia | 23.11.2011 |
| Estonia | 15.8.2007 | Slovakia | 1.4.2008 |
| European Union | 21.2.2006 | Slovenia | 23.4.2010 |
| Finland | 21.4.2009 | Spain | 24.9.2009 |
| France | 10.7.2009 | Sweden | 15.10.2008 |
| Germany | 28.8.2007 | Switzerland | 27.4.2007 |
| Hungary | 13.7.2009 | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 2.11.2010 |
| Israel | 14.1.2013 | United Kingdom of Great Britain | 31.7.2009 |
| Ireland | 20.6.2012 | | |
| Latvia | 24.4.2008 | | |

**Total Parties as
of September
2013**

32

Parties that have ratified the MEA in 2011 or later





Improving implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs with technical assistance ...

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

Improving implementation -with technical assistance activities:

1. Subregional workshops

- for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; Minsk in 2011
- for South-Eastern Europe and Israel; Sarajevo in 2013

2. Matching country needs with available expertise, bilateral session

3. Training on the pollutant release and transfer register cost model

- Tool for developing detailed estimates of the magnitude of costs of monitoring emissions of substances contained in annex II of the Protocol

4. Technical assistance via electronic tools

- to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to PRTR
- PRTR.net; PRTR:Learn (with UNITAR)

5. Technical assistance via guidance materials

6. Thematic surveys

7. Cooperation on country-specific projects implemented by partner organizations





... as well as by cooperating with other partners

Highlights of implementation & compliance since Astana EfE (2011)

Improving implementation

...through coordination and synergies

- Streamlining capacity-building activities and developing synergies with relevant international organizations;
- Examples:
 - Servicing annual meetings of International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) **Coordinating Group**
 - Close cooperation with UNITAR, OECD, EEA
 - Liaising with the **Human Rights Council** on implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
 - Future activities and workshops jointly with other MEAS (a.o. CLRTAP)

Improving implementation

- Information exchange on a technical level
- Reporting and compliance mechanism
 - To monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol and to facilitate reporting, review of compliance and exchange of experience;
 - First reporting cycle launched;
 - Reports expected by early December 2013





Part 3: Conclusion – key challenges and a way forward



MEAs challenges can be summarized along four key dimensions

Addressing key challenges and a way forward

1

Funding

- Short-term financial planning
- Unpredictability of funding



2

Insufficient political support

- Insufficient political support for the work needed to improve implementation and compliance in a number of Parties



3

Coordination and lack of participation in activities

- Lack of cooperation and coordination at the national level...
- ...and international level



4

Insufficient follow-up and reporting

- On capacity-building
- To the decisions of the governing bodies
- Absence of some Parties in activities





Questions for discussion





We propose to focus our discussion on three sets of questions

Questions for discussion (ECE/CEP/2013/8, para 49)

(a) How can CEP support strengthening implementation of and compliance with MEAs?:

- (i) What further measures could ensure stable political support for MEAs?;
- (ii) How can MEAs be further promoted through relevant bi- and multilateral mechanisms in the region and beyond (e.g., EU accession process and neighbourhood programmes, member States' foreign policy assistance programmes)?

(b) How can CEP support the strengthening of synergies between the MEAs: are there further suggestions for strengthening coordination and cooperation among MEAs and among MEAs and other relevant institutions?;

(c) How can CEP support the MEA governing bodies in ensuring predictable funding for MEA activities?:

- (i) How can voluntary financing schemes be made more predictable?;
- (ii) How can longer-term financial commitments be ensured?;
- (iii) How can the shortage in the United Nations regular budget resources vis-à-vis the needs of MEAs be addressed?

