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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

REPORT ON THE SIXTH SESSION

Summary

The Committee on Environmental Policy reviewed and updated its programme of work. It discussed the initial preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in 2002 in Kiev (Ukraine) based on a presentation by the host country. An ad hoc preparatory working group of senior officials was established. Furthermore, the Committee elected members to its Bureau and to the European Environment and Health Committee. The Committee on Environmental Policy also reviewed the environmental performance of Croatia and Ukraine and adopted the recommendations for strengthening environmental policy and management in these countries. It also gave the EPR Ad Hoc Expert Group a new mandate. An open-ended informal consultation on the experience gained in countries in transition in integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies was held on 20 September 1999. A round table on environmental policy and management in Ukraine also took place on the same day. The consultation and the discussion are summarized in annexes II and III to this report.

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Introduction

1. The sixth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy took place in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 1999. Mr. U. SVIDÉN (Sweden) chaired the meeting.

2. It was attended by delegates from 44 ECE member countries: Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Canada; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Monaco; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russian Federation; San Marino; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America; and Uzbekistan.

3. The session was attended by representatives of the European Community.

4. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO), the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) attended.

5. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were represented: European Eco Forum; and European Environmental Bureau. The Regional Environmental Center (REC) was also represented.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Committee adopted the agenda as contained in document ECE/CEP/68.

II. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (EPR) OF UKRAINE

7. The Committee approved the EPR recommendations made to Ukraine as set out in annex VII.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE FIFTH SESSION

8. The Committee adopted the report on its fifth session, which had taken place in Geneva from 28 September to 2 October 1998, as contained in document ECE/CEP/63.

IV. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE

9. The Executive Secretary of ECE, Mr. Y. Berthelot, informed the Committee about the outcome of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission. He drew the Committee's attention to the involvement of representatives of the Commission in evaluating the situation in south-eastern Europe. He mentioned the participation of ECE in the UNEP/Habitat Balkans Task Force to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Kosovo conflict, a report of which would be made available by mid-October. However, the involvement of ECE should be seen in a

long-term perspective and respond to the needs of the subregion. He also stressed the importance that the Commission attached to the role of the Committee in strengthening sustainable development also in other ECE activities. Referring to the next Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev in 2002, he stressed that the Committee should play an important role in its substantive preparations.

10. In accordance with the Commission's recommendation, the Committee accepted to take a leading role in issues related to sustainable development. In that respect, closer links between the Committee and other Principal Subsidiary Bodies and relevant secretariats were encouraged to ensure the integration of environmental concerns to the maximum extent possible. In the context of cross-sectoral activities, the Committee was informed about the relevant activities of the ECE Sustainable Energy and Trade Divisions, by their Directors, Mr. G. Kowalski and Ms. C. Cosgrove-Sacks, respectively. It agreed to further integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions in developing future cross-sectoral activities, and to strengthen the links between programmes with an environment dimension. The Committee looked at the Environmental Performance Review programme, and in particular the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations, as a good example of operational activities. It noted with interest the initiatives taken so far to associate the private sector with the EPR programme and encouraged a closer examination of how its relations with the business community could be further developed to their mutual benefit. These issues will be on the agenda of the next Bureau meeting.

V. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION AND COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECE TRUST FUNDS

11. The Committee took note of the current balance of the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) and urged countries to make further contributions to allow the continuation of the activities undertaken and the participation of delegations from countries in transition, which would otherwise be jeopardized.

12. The Committee accepted new guiding principles for financial assistance to representatives of countries in transition to attend ECE meetings, as contained in a proposal put forward by its Bureau and contained in annex IV. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed a reservation on this point.

VI. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS

A. Support of ECE multilateral environmental agreements

13. Based on a proposal by the secretariat, the Committee endorsed a two-step approach to the project on cooperation between the ECE multilateral agreements so as to improve their effectiveness and the cooperation between them. A background paper (first step) would be prepared to facilitate the discussion at a round table (second step) to be held at the seventh session. Delegations agreed to provide their comments on an outline of the background paper by 30 October 1999. The Committee considered the involvement of the governing bodies of the conventions in the drawing-up of the paper and the preparations for the round table as well as their participation in it to be crucial. To this end, it requested its Chairman and the secretariat to invite the governing bodies to actively participate in this project.

B. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in
Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

14. The Meeting approved the report of the Meeting of Signatories to the Aarhus Convention as amended by the corrigendum to the report. It accepted a clarification from the Netherlands to the effect that, with respect to paragraph 72 (f) of the report, the Netherlands had indicated that it would consider providing support for the activities under the work-plan. The Committee endorsed a proposal to hold the second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention in spring 2000 and noted with appreciation the offer of Croatia to host the meeting. It was agreed that the question of whether or not to set up a fourth task force on access to justice should be referred to the second meeting of the Signatories. The Committee also noted that the links between the Aarhus Convention and other ECE conventions should be looked at in the framework of the Committee's round table on cooperation between ECE multilateral agreements.

C. Other ECE multilateral environmental agreements

15. Under this agenda item, the Committee was informed about the status of ratification and key developments and activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its recently negotiated draft protocol to abate acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone to be adopted later this year; the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Furthermore, delegates were informed about the work of the Regional Adviser.

16. In view of the expected entry into force, early in 2000, of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, the Committee decided to schedule the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties for mid-2000. The venue would be decided upon by the open-ended group, established to prepare the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the basis of replies to a letter from the Chairman of the Meeting of the Signatories and the Executive Secretary of ECE. Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and the European Commission offered to host the meeting.

17. The Committee requested the secretariat to provide short updating notes at its annual sessions on the activities within the frameworks of the conventions and on the work of the Regional Adviser.

**VII. PEER REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (EPR)
OF CROATIA**

18. The Committee approved the EPR recommendations made to Croatia as set out in annex VIII.

VIII. REPORT OF THE EPR EXPERT GROUP

19. Considering the report of the EPR Expert Group (CEP/1999/6), which gave rise to an exchange of views on the orientation of the EPR programme (purposes of the review and results, follow-up), and on its implementation (selection of subjects for review, team composition), as well as suggestions for future

reviews, the Committee noted that the EPR Expert Group had succeeded in providing a complete picture of the characteristics of the EPR programme as well as a vision of its future potential. It was now important to disseminate information on the characteristics of the EPR programme widely.

20. The Committee decided:

- (a) To give the Ad Hoc ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR Expert Group) a new mandate for a period of two years, with the terms of reference included in annex I to CEP/1998/6;
- (b) To refer the issues raised by the Committee during its discussion of the EPR to the EPR Expert Group for consideration at its first session;
- (c) To include Uzbekistan in the list of countries for environmental Performance review by ECE;
- (d) To include "assessment meetings" as a useful option in future reviews;
- (e) To request the secretariat to prepare a report on how the EPR process could benefit from contacts with small and medium-sized enterprises, for consideration by the Committee at its seventh session;
- (f) To explore the possibilities for organizing systematic discussions in the work programme of the Committee, for the ECE region as a whole or for groups of neighbouring countries, of the general problems facing environmental administrations in countries in transition;
- (g) To continue the association of other international organizations such as international financial institutions (IFIs+) with the organization of such meetings and, more generally, with the EPR process as a whole;
- (h) To authorize the implementation of reduced reviews in accordance with the conditions spelled out in document CEP/1999/6, paragraphs 20-22; and
- (i) To thank the EPR Expert Group for having fulfilled its mandate in an excellent manner.

21. In the course of the discussion, Albania requested the resumption of its EPR project. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia announced its wish to apply for inclusion in the list of future EPR projects. Bulgaria suggested that a reduced EPR should be undertaken in that country during the second quarter of the year 2000. A report on the implementation of the recommendation to the Republic of Moldova was distributed.

22. Following its decision to give the EPR Expert Group a new mandate, the Committee re-elected Mr. H. Liiv (Estonia) as its Chairman and elected representatives of the following countries as its members: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

23. It was concluded that EPR reports must be systematized, that there should be a common approach to all EPR reports, including individual characteristics. The reporting on progress was supported. Each EPR report should contain a comprehensive introduction on the reviewed country.

IX. "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" PROCESS:

A. Energy and the environment

24. The Committee recommended that the progress reporting to the next "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in 2002 in Kiev (Ukraine) should

be based on the periodical progress reporting of the Energy Charter Treaty Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA). The Energy Charter Secretariat would be invited to submit the PEEREA progress reports to the Committees on Environmental Policy and on Sustainable Energy. This progress reporting to the "Environment for Europe" process should be in full accordance with the energy-related decisions taken at the Aarhus Conference and made in close cooperation with ECE and other relevant international organizations and institutions. To ensure coherence with the preparations for the Kiev Conference, the future executive committee would be invited to follow the work of the working group on the implementation of the PEEREA.

25. The delegation of Norway reserved its position on these decisions and would reconsider it in the light of the outcome of the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

26. The Committee on Environmental Policy welcomed a proposal for an ECE/OECD Workshop on enhancing the environment by reforming energy prices and invited the secretariat to re-issue the Workshop's programme as contained in document CEP/1999/5 with its proposed amendments. The Committee invited the International Energy Agency (IEA) to contribute actively to the Workshop and would consider its outcome at its seventh session.

B. Follow-up to the Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol

27. The Committee decided to set up a small working group of interested countries, organizations and IFIs to review progress on the basis of an ECE questionnaire, and to assist those countries that faced problems in meeting their obligations under the Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol. The group would meet in conjunction with the seventh session of the Committee.

C. Local initiatives towards sustainable consumption

28. The Committee adopted the proposal on further action on sustainable consumption patterns (CEP/1999/2) and welcomed the interest of the Committee on Human Settlements, expressed at its sixtieth session, in developing jointly a project on urban transport patterns and land-use planning. To this end, a joint steering group for the project would be established. The Committee, taking note of the interest of Denmark, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and some NGOs expressed at the sixtieth session of the Committee on Human Settlements, invited delegations to designate environmental experts for participation in this steering group by 30 October 1999. The Regional Environmental Center (REC) also expressed its interest in participating in this work. The Committee invited the steering group to draft a well focused work programme and to report back to it at its seventh session.

29. The delegation of Germany, while not opposing these decisions, considered it premature to establish a steering group at this stage.

D. Integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies

30. The Committee stressed that integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies would play a major role in the Kiev Conference in 2002. The issue must, however, be further clarified and substantiated during the preparations in order to give Ministers a solid basis for discussion. The ECE

secretariat was invited, in close cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular the EAP Task Force, to further elaborate document CEP/1999/3 in view of the work already carried out and the outcome of a brainstorming meeting in spring 2000, which would be reported on at the seventh session of the Committee.

E. Establishment of the ad hoc Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the fifth Ministerial Conference

31. In accordance with the decisions taken by Ministers at Aarhus (Denmark), preparatory work for the next Ministerial Conference would start in 2000. To facilitate this task, the Committee established an ad hoc preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials, chaired by the host country, and adopted its mandate including two amendments, as contained in annex V.

32. The Committee endorsed a draft decision on the "Environment for Europe" process as contained in annex VI, to be taken by the Economic Commission for Europe at its next session.

33. Mr. V. Shevchuk, Minister for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine, voiced appreciation for the confidence expressed in his country by selecting it as the host of the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe". He stressed that the Conference should contribute to making the next century better, safer and more sustainable. He also presented his country's preliminary views on some issues to be included in its agenda:

(a) Transport, environment and health - possible adoption of a new legal instrument;

(b) Economic activities and environment - possible charter on sustainable economic activities;

(c) Education and environment - possible charter addressed to future generations;

(d) Military activities and environment - possible charter aimed at the reducing the environmental impact of military activities.

34. The Committee took note of these initial proposals and invited member countries to reflect on them to facilitate discussions at the first meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials scheduled to take place in conjunction with the seventh session of the Committee.

MAJOR CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

A. Transport and the environment

35. The Committee underlined that the primary concern of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment should be the follow-up to the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment and the implementation of its Programme of Joint Action. The Committee took note of the report of the second session of the Joint Meeting, held on 6 July, and of the planned meeting between the Chairpersons of its Bureau and of that of the Inland Transport Committee to

discuss the implications of the decisions taken in London for the future work of the Joint Meeting (see section B below).

B. Environment and health

36. The Committee was informed about the outcome and decisions taken at the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, and in particular on the adoption of the London Declaration and the Charter on Transport, Environment and Health. The former document invited WHO and ECE to jointly prepare a report containing: an overview of existing agreements and legal instruments on the three sectors (in order to improve and harmonize their implementation and further develop them as needed); recommendations on the feasibility, need for and content of a possible new legally binding instrument.

37. The Committee requested the ECE and WHO/EURO secretariats to fulfil their obligations arising from the London Conference and to prepare an overview of existing legal instruments in transport, health and environment by 1 January 2000. It also recommended that member countries and NGOs should be fully involved in further elaborating recommendations. Furthermore, the Committee stressed that all three sectors, transport, health and environment, should participate on an equal footing in future work.

38. It was agreed that the relevant outcome of the Third European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health should be considered by the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and the Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention at its second meeting, as should the possibility of drawing up a protocol on strategic environmental impact assessment. The secretariat should prepare a paper to facilitate the discussions.

39. The Committee elected Mr. H. Schreiber (Austria), Mr. V. Dontchev (Bulgaria), Mr. C. Clini (Italy), and Mr. A. Isac (Republic of Moldova) as its representatives to the European Environment and Health Committee.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

40. The Committee expressed its appreciation to its outgoing Chairman, Mr. U. Svidén (Sweden) as well as to Mr. R. Fort (Norway), Mr. W. Kakebeeke (Netherlands), Mr. J. Reynolds (United Kingdom), and Mr. M. Slokar (Slovenia), who would no longer participate in the work of the Committee, for their substantive contributions and the support that they had given it.

41. According to the suggestion made by delegations, the secretariat would do its utmost to make available advance copies of all documents related to future sessions through the Internet: www.unece.org.

XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION

42. The Committee elected Mr. L. Bjørnskov (Denmark) as its new Chairman. It also elected: Ms. H. Cizková (Czech Republic), Ms. S. Côté (Canada), Mr. M. Dimovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. S. Kuraev (Russian Federation), Mr. H. Schreiber (Austria), Ms. S. Vermont-Velisek (Switzerland), and Mr. B. K. Yessekin (Kazakhstan) to its Bureau.

CLOSING OF THE SIXTH SESSION

43. The seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy is scheduled to take place on 25-29 September 2000.

44. The draft decisions taken by the Committee at its sixth session and prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman were distributed before the closing of the meeting. The secretariat was requested to finalize the report in consultation with the outgoing Bureau.

Annex I

LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK
(1999-2001)

SUBPROGRAMME 01 - ENVIRONMENT

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS

Since the 1970s five regional environmental conventions have been negotiated and adopted within the framework of ECE: (i) the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; (ii) the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; (iii) the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; (iv) the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; and (v) the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The first three have entered into force and their governing bodies carry responsibility for further work. Furthermore, seven protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and a Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention have been adopted. The Committee will be informed about the progress in the work under the conventions and protocols, as appropriate.

1.1 FOLLOW-UP AND SUPPORT TO THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

With a view to improving environmental quality in the ECE region, and relying in part on the programme of environmental performance reviews, the Committee will consider and, as appropriate, take measures to make the implementation of the regional environmental conventions and protocols more effective. The Committee will offer a catalysing forum in which all government representatives, including the governing bodies of regional conventions, can share their experience in promoting and assessing the implementation of regional environmental instruments, and then identify means of improving compliance with them. If needed, the Committee will negotiate new legal instruments.

Work accomplished:

The secretariat prepared an outline of a background paper and presented it to the Committee at its sixth session.

Work to be undertaken:

Taking into account the importance that the Committee accords to this programme activity, its Chairman together with the secretariat will invite the Bureaux of the governing bodies of the ECE environmental conventions to take an active part in a round-table discussion within the framework of the Committee's seventh session and in its preparations. The secretariat, in

close cooperation with the Bureaux, will prepare a background paper to facilitate the round-table discussions.

1.2 CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was signed by 39 member States and the European Community. The member States that signed the Convention in Aarhus resolved to strive for its early entry into force and in the meantime to seek to apply the Convention to the maximum extent possible. Two countries have since ratified the Convention and two have acceded to it. The Committee on Environmental Policy, at its fifth session, set the year 2000 as its target for the Convention's entry into force.

Work accomplished:

The first meeting of the Signatories to the Convention took place in the Republic of Moldova in April 1999. It was attended by 33 ECE member States and the European Community as well as by international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Meeting heard an exchange of information on the efforts of countries and others to promote the Convention, and more than 20 countries announced their intention to ratify or accede to the Convention before the end of 2000. The Meeting adopted a draft work plan to promote the application of the Convention pending its entry into force and to prepare for the first meeting of the Parties. According to the work plan, three task forces will deal with compliance arrangements under the Convention, pollution inventories or registers, and the application of the Convention to genetically modified organisms. The work plan also sets out a number of measures aimed at providing support and assistance in the ratification and implementation of the Convention pending its entry into force and at raising political and public awareness of the Convention.

The Committee, at its sixth session, agreed to hold the second meeting of the Signatories in spring 2000.

Work to be undertaken:

The UN/ECE will publish an implementation guide on the Convention, in cooperation with REC and with financial support from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, to assist countries in ratifying and implementing the Convention.

The second meeting of the Signatories will be held in Croatia in May 2000 to review and stimulate progress towards entry into force of the Convention and to promote its application pending its entry into force. The three above-mentioned task forces will meet sufficiently in advance of the meeting of the Signatories to provide input to it. The Signatories will also give consideration to the outcome of the Third European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, including the possible drawing-up of a protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Convention. Draft rules of procedure will be discussed with a view to their eventual adoption at the

first meeting of the Parties. In accordance with the work plan, the NGO coalition will prepare a paper on public participation in policies, programmes, plans and legislation for discussion at the meeting. The Meeting will consider whether a further task force on access to justice is required, and will give further consideration to the issue of electronic access to information. A workshop on public participation at local level will take place in Newcastle (United Kingdom) on 6-7 December 1999.

1.3 CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents was signed in 1992. The Convention aims to strengthen international cooperation on the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents in order to improve overall industrial safety in the ECE region. At present 15 countries and the European Community have ratified or acceded to the Convention. One more ratification is needed for the Convention to enter into force. This is expected to happen at the beginning of 2000.

Work accomplished:

To speed up the entry into force of the Convention, an open-ended group, established to prepare the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, met for the first time in Moscow in June 1999. A consultation among the Signatories on the venue of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties was initiated by the Chairman of the Meeting of the Signatories and the Executive Secretary of ECE. Further work aimed at the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, at building capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to industrial accidents has been carried out through the activities of the two Regional Coordinating Centres, as has further work on improving the UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System. To this end a training course for points of contact took place in June 1999. A manual for points of contact is also being drawn up.

Work to be undertaken:

A seminar on the prevention of accidental transboundary water pollution will take place in October 1999. Further work on developing a procedure for identifying hazardous activities and facilitating the transfer of safety technology will be undertaken. The UN/ECE Industrial Accident Notification System will be further tested. The open-ended group will continue preparations for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will probably take place in 2000.

1.4 CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was signed in 1979 and entered into force in March 1983. The Parties to the Convention and its protocols will work as agreed in their work-plan for the implementation of the Convention. Its new Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone will be adopted and signed in Gothenburg (Sweden) in December 1999. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the activities under the Convention.

1.5 CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was signed in 1992 and entered into force in October 1996. The Parties to the Convention will work as agreed in their work-plan for the implementation of the Convention. The second meeting of the Parties will take place in The Hague (Netherlands) in March 2000. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the activities under the Convention.

1.6 CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context was signed in 1991 and entered into force in October 1997. The Parties to the Convention will work as agreed in their work-plan for the implementation of the Convention. The second meeting of the Parties to the Convention is scheduled to take place in October 2000 in Sofia (Bulgaria). The secretariat will inform the Committee of the activities under the Convention.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2 **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS**

The Committee on Environmental Policy included environmental performance reviews of selected ECE countries in its work programme starting in 1996. A comprehensive programme description was developed by the EPR Expert Group during its first mandate from 1997 to 1999. The programme makes it possible to carry out comprehensive as well as reduced environmental performance reviews, and to organize discussions of general problems and experiences facing national environmental administrations in transition. Continued methodological and organizational guidance will be provided by the EPR Expert Group.

Comprehensive environmental performance reviews have been undertaken in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Ukraine and Croatia. Such reviews were also carried out, in cooperation with OECD, in Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland and the Russian Federation. Those for Albania and Kazakhstan are pending. It is expected that, in addition to Kazakhstan, the comprehensive reviews of Romania and Uzbekistan can take place in the year 2000. In addition, a reduced review is envisaged for Bulgaria. Finally, the first general discussion of transition problems is scheduled to take place in spring 2000.

2.1 THE ECE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROGRAMME

Work accomplished:

The peer reviews of the EPRs of Croatia and Ukraine took place in September 1999. Their final EPR report will be published before the end of 1999.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) The review mission to Armenia took place in September 1999. An assessment mission is scheduled for March 2000. The review will be finalized for a peer review at the Committee's annual session in 2000.

(b) The review mission to Kyrgyzstan took place in October 1999. The report will be finalized for a traditional peer review at the Committee's seventh session in 2000;

(c) The review of Kazakhstan will resume with a review mission in May 2000 and a peer review by the Committee at the earliest possible time;

(d) The review of Uzbekistan will start with a preparatory mission in spring 2000, the review mission being tentatively scheduled for September, 2000;

(e) The review of Romania will start with a preparatory mission in spring 2000, the review mission being tentatively scheduled for October, 2000;

(f) The reduced review of Bulgaria will take place in early 2000 and be concluded before the Committee's seventh session. It will also make it possible to develop detailed methods for reduced reviews. The peer review of this project will be organized at the earliest possible date, based on a method to be approved by the Committee's Bureau;

(g) The review of Albania will be resumed at the earliest possible date.

2.2 EPR METHODS AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS. HOW TO FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

Work accomplished:

At its sixth session, the Committee approved the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Expert Group on its two-year work. The Ad Hoc Expert Group for Environmental Performance Reviews (EPR Expert Group) was given a new mandate for the period 1999-2001.

Work to be undertaken:

The EPR Expert Group, taking into account the guidance by the Committee at its sixth session, will:

(a) Identify opportunities and requirements for improving the EPRs, including an effective mechanism for coordinating them with the OECD EPR programme;

(b) Assess the environmental trends relevant to the EPR process;

(c) Review and improve environmental database development in ECE as well as related services;

(d) Draw up proposals for follow-up to EPRs, such as interim reports or follow-up reviews, to be submitted to the Committee, taking into account relevant international activities and the specific needs of countries in transition; and

(e) Draw up proposals on the format and structure of the peer review, taking into account the experience with the Ukrainian review and its peer review.

In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the first joint workshop will be organized for selected countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine). A note will be prepared on experience gained in holding such workshops and on how general discussions on transition issues for environment ministries can be improved, for consideration by the Committee at its seventh session.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3

AENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE® PROCESS/ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR EUROPE

At the Aarhus Conference, the Environment Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to improving cooperation on environmental protection in the ECE region. They also recognized the political importance of the AEnvironment for Europe® process as the major long-term pan-European political framework for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development.

In particular, the Committee on Environmental Policy was requested to continue to screen the Environmental Programme for Europe, taking into account the report AEurope's Environment: The Second Assessment®, in order to implement priority actions on a pan-European level and report on progress.

3.1 ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

At the Aarhus Conference, the Ministers acknowledged the complex, cross-sectoral nature of energy efficiency policies and the need for integrating those policies into other sectors, for instance housing, transport and industry. The Ministers agreed to promote action to strengthen international cooperation on monitoring the implementation of energy efficiency policies. The Chairman of the working group on the implementation of the Energy Charter Treaty Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA) reported to the Committee on progress made in its implementation.

Work accomplished

A programme was prepared for a joint ECE/OECD Workshop on Enhancing the Environment by Reforming Energy Prices.

Work to be undertaken:

The Committee on Environmental Policy, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations (such as the Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the UN/ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy, will monitor the implementation of the energy-related decisions taken at the Aarhus Conference. In particular, it will:

(a) Consider, at its annual sessions, PEEREA progress reports prepared by the Energy Charter Secretariat in close cooperation with ECE and other relevant international organizations and institutions. These reports will also be submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(b) Assess the role of economic instruments, particularly energy taxation and subsidies, in integrating environmental policy with energy and other sectoral policies and share its experience in the framework of the ECE/OECD cooperation on environment and economics and organize, jointly with OECD and with the involvement of IEA and other actors, a workshop, to be hosted by the Czech Ministry of the Environment in Průhonice near Prague on 14-16 June 2000. This Workshop will (i) review existing implementation strategies for energy-related economic instruments in both OECD and non-OECD members of ECE, and (ii) prepare policy recommendations and/or policy options for Governments in countries in transition as well as proposals for follow-up, for consideration by the Committee at its seventh session.

3.2 FOLLOW-UP TO THE STRATEGY TO PHASE OUT LEADED PETROL

The Aarhus Conference endorsed the Strategy to Phase Out Leaded Petrol for general use by road vehicles as early as possible and no later than 1 January 2005. The Ministers committed themselves to working towards the intermediate targets of the Strategy and to evaluating their fulfilment at the next conference. The Committee will promote the implementation of the Strategy.

Work accomplished:

The Committee set up a small working group of interested countries, organizations and IFIs to review progress in the implementation of the Strategy.

Work to be undertaken:

The small working group will review progress on the basis of an ECE questionnaire and possibly facilitate assistance to countries that face problems in meeting their obligations under the Strategy. The group will meet in conjunction with the seventh session of the Committee.

3.3 LOCAL INITIATIVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

The Environmental Programme for Europe encourages the necessary changes in consumption patterns and individual lifestyles through awareness raising, technical regulations and economic incentives. It furthermore promotes partnerships between governments at various levels, non-governmental organizations and other major groups. The Aarhus Conference recognized that changes in consumption and production patterns must lie at the heart of the transition towards a sustainable UN/ECE region.

Work accomplished:

The Committee on Environmental Policy, in cooperation with the Committee on Human Settlements, organized the Workshop on Encouraging Local Initiatives Towards Sustainable Consumption Patterns in 1998. The Workshop's recommendations and proceedings were submitted to the Aarhus Conference. The Committees on Environmental Policy and on Human Settlements, at their sessions in 1999, considered secretariat papers on further action on sustainable consumption patterns.

Work to be undertaken:

The Committee on Environmental Policy, jointly with the Committee on Human Settlements, will develop a project on urban transport patterns and land-use planning. A joint steering group, composed of experts from central and local governments, the private sector, the academic community and NGOs, will implement the project. The steering group will prepare a work programme to be submitted to both Committees, at their sessions in 2000, on the basis of document CEP/1999/2. The project will (a) facilitate the exchange of information and experience on planning, regulatory, economic, financial, organizational and other measures to achieve environmentally sound urban transport and sustainable land use; (b) promote networking among environmental and municipal policy and decision makers, urban and regional planners, researchers, and representatives of the private sector and citizens groups dealing with transport management and land use; (c) generate policy recommendations and practical guidance to public authorities at various levels.

3.4 INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO SECTORAL POLICIES

One of the topics of recent debate on environmental policy has been that environmental concerns should be integrated in the activities of sectors in society with relevance to the environment. From an environmental point of view, efficient integration would lead to a more effective implementation of environmental policies. For different reasons integration has proven to be difficult in many countries: (i) there is a lack of high-level political support; (ii) the sectoral administrations have little environmental expertise; (iii) there may be disagreement on the environmental priorities and environmental impacts; (iv) there are no effective mechanisms in place to oversee the integration and its implementation at different levels; (v) the sectoral authorities are primarily interested in the outcome of their prime responsibilities, not in the environment; and (vi) there is often a lack of

sectoral expertise in the environmental administrations. The Committee will support the integration of environmental policy into sectoral policies. Particular attention will be given to the countries in transition, many of which are still in the process of building their environmental administrations, including at the local level.

Work accomplished:

An open-ended informal consultation on experience gained in countries in transition in integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies was held on 20 September 1999. At its sixth session, the Committee considered the proposals for a programme on integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies presented by the secretariat in document CEP/1999/3.

Work to be undertaken:

Taking fully into account the relevant activities of other bodies (such as the European Union, OECD, EAP Task Force, UNEP, Council of Europe, Baltic Agenda 21), the Committee will initiate a programme to improve the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies. The ECE secretariat, in close cooperation with interested country experts and relevant organizations, in particular the EAP Task Force, will further elaborate document CEP/1999/3 for submission to a brainstorming meeting in spring 2000. The results will be considered by the Committee at its seventh session.

3.5 PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The Committee will participate in the substantive and practical preparation of the fifth ministerial conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) in September 2002.

Work accomplished:

The Committee established an ad hoc preparatory working group of senior officials "Environment for Europe", to be chaired by a representative of the host country, and adopted its mandate. The Committee also considered provisionally its substantive input for the fifth ministerial conference.

Work to be undertaken:

The ad hoc preparatory working group of senior officials "Environment for Europe" will hold its first meeting in September 2000, in conjunction with the Committee's annual session.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 4

CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

The Ministers at the Aarhus Conference noted the work under other ongoing or proposed ministerial processes concerned with the environment in Europe, such as transport and the environment, health and the environment, forest and the environment, and agriculture and the environment. The Committee

will follow carefully the preparations for a high-level conference on agriculture and multifunctionality possibly in 2001, which is under consideration in the follow-up to the Integration of Biological and Landscape Diversity Objectives into Sectoral Policies as announced at the Aarhus Conference. The Committee, through its Bureau, will also cooperate, as appropriate, with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes concerning the integration of water management into agricultural policies.

4.1 TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As a follow-up to the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment held in Vienna in 1997, the second session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment took place in July 1999. It reviewed, in particular, the status of implementation of the Programme of Joint Action, including the activities of the lead countries/bodies and national focal points, and the future work on transport and the environment. The Programme of Joint Action is to be implemented during the next ten years, with a mid-term review conference scheduled for 2002. The Committee will follow closely the general progress of the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action. It will consider further if the elements of the Programme fully respond to the environmental concerns of the transport sector expressed in the report *Europe's Environment: The Second Assessment* and act accordingly. The Committee will also consider possible further synergies between its work programme and the Programme of Joint Action and support close integration of work on the environment, transport and health (see item 4.2 below).

Work accomplished:

The Committee's Bureau participated in the second session of the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment in July 1999.

Work to be undertaken:

The secretariat will organize a meeting of national focal points, lead actors and other experts held in the week of 7 February 2000 to further the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action as decided by the Joint Meeting (JMTE/1999/6, para. 33). The secretariat, in cooperation with the Committee's Bureau and taking into account the outcome of the London Conference, will prepare an assessment of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Joint Action which would relate to the "Dobris + 3" report on the impact of transport on the environment, for further consideration by the Committee at its seventh session in 2000.

4.2 ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) was established as a result of the 1994 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Helsinki.

The third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health took place in London from 16 to 18 June 1999. This Conference aimed to set an agenda for

environment and health in Europe for the start of the 21st century and to agree on concrete commitments to specific actions to implement the National Environment and Health Action Plans (NEHAPs). EEHC has supervised and supported the drafting of NEHAPs. EEHC, which was also the Steering Committee for the preparation of the London Conference, prepared the substantive proposals for the Conference. One major item was the adoption of the Protocol on Water and Health to the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The London Conference also produced a charter on transport, environment and health and a ministerial declaration.

Work accomplished:

The Committee, through its representatives on the European Environment and Health Committee, cooperated actively in the preparation of the 1999 Environment and Health Conference. The ECE secretariat serviced the negotiations on the Protocol on Water and Health, and participated in EEHC and various preparatory meetings.

Work to be undertaken:

The Committee will improve cooperation between the "Environment for Europe" process and the "Environment and Health" process, as called for in the Aarhus Ministerial Declaration, so as to develop and implement measures to better protect human health and the environment. The Committee will continue to contribute to the European Environment and Health Committee through its representatives.

A report containing an overview of relevant existing agreements and legal instruments on transport, environment and health, and recommendations on the need for the feasibility and content of a possible new legally binding instrument, will be prepared jointly by the ECE and WHO/EURO secretariats, if additional funds are available. The possibility of undertaking negotiations on a new protocol on strategic environmental impact assessment is to be discussed by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention.

Annex II

**SUMMARY OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSIDERATIONS INTO SECTORAL POLICIES**

1. An open-ended consultation took place on Monday, 20 September 1999, on the eve of the sixth session of the Committee. It provided a forum to countries in transition to share their experience on integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies. It focused on specific policy problems and administrative bottlenecks that transition economies were facing in the integration process as well as on tools and mechanisms that had either proved or had a strong potential to be effective for integration purposes. The consultation was intended to contribute to agenda item 9 (d) of the Committee's sixth session.
2. Mr. Ulf Svidén, the Committee Chairman, moderated the deliberations. Ms. Helena Cízková, Czech Ministry of the Environment, and Mr. Marko Slokar, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Slovenia, made introductory statements on the experience in their countries.
3. All the participants stressed that the integration of environmental policy with other policies was a key strategic tool to promote sustainable development. The objective of policy integration was to make every economic sector responsible for environmental protection. Countries in transition had considerable difficulties in achieving effective policy integration. These included a lack of high-level political support, conflicts between economic and environmental interests, a lack of environmental awareness and expertise in sectoral administrations, and a lack of mechanisms to promote the integration at different levels. Various factors supporting policy integration were mentioned, such as increasing accountability of companies for the environmental effects of their activities, the transfer of environmental management expertise through direct investments, EU accession process, and international environmental assistance and cooperation.
4. The participants presented examples of effective tools and mechanisms ensuring policy integration that had been tested in their countries. These included: the organization of periodic parliamentary hearings on the environment; the preparation of action plans and programmes on the environment (e.g. NEAPs and NEHAPs) and sustainable development at the national and local levels; the creation of interministerial bodies on sustainable development and on European integration; the introduction of the polluter-pays principle into national legislation and the development of specific legal instruments such as strategic environmental assessment of sectoral policies, programmes and plans; partnership arrangements between environmental ministries and individual sectoral ministries; the organization of environmental training for sectoral administrations; the identification of those enterprises that damaged the environment the most and the promotion of environmental actions in these enterprises through legal and economic measures or voluntary agreements; and the active involvement of environmental NGOs and the general public in decision-making regarding the environmental effects of sectoral policies.

5. The participants voiced the need to re-orient the functions of the environment ministries towards better coordination and enforcement of environmental policies and the encouragement of strong social pressure on economic sectors to integrate environmental considerations into their activities.

Annex III

**MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE
"WILL THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF KIEV 2002 INAUGURATE THE END
OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION IN EUROPE?"**

1. The ministerial round table took place on the occasion of the Committee's peer review of the environmental performance review of Ukraine. Among the speakers were Messrs. Y. Berthelot (UN/ECE), V. Shevchuk (Ukraine), H. Kranich (Estonia), M. Slokar (Slovenia), K. Clini (Italy) and L. Bjornskov (Denmark). The round table was chaired by Mr. U. Svidén (Sweden).
2. Mr. V. Shevchuk, Ukraine's Minister for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety, first focused on Ukraine's experience in independent environmental protection policy and the most important lessons it had drawn from it.
3. Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine had, most notably, created environmental legislation, joined the process of international environmental cooperation, developed and started to implement economic mechanisms for environmental protection, as well as systems for environmental safety. Ukraine had also taken up new opportunities for saving and preserving its environment. Its Environment Ministry had been gradually strengthened and had become the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety. It now also included the Committees on Water Management and Geology.
4. He stated that, as ecological problems did not (and should not) have borders, they should be approached and solved on an international level (or in a transboundary context). To date, Ukraine had concluded agreements with some 30 countries and ratified 26 international environmental conventions. It had benefited from the experience and technical assistance of European countries and was working actively in such areas as climate change and ozone layer and expanding cooperation on transboundary watercourses (Dnieper, Black Sea and Sea of Azov).
5. Sustained economic development was achievable only in a clean environment and, vice versa, a clean environment was achievable only if sustained economic development took place. Ukraine had dealt with inherited ecological problems resulting from the irrational use of natural resources for the sake of economic development (e.g. in Donbass) and clearly understood that economic development should support a clean environment and not destroy it. Moreover, solving economic and environmental problems would strengthen civil society and help it develop successfully.
6. In view of the fifth Ministerial Conference in Kiev in 2002, Mr. Shevchuk noted three pan-European trends. He pointed to changes in Europe's geopolitical situation and stressed that the expansion of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) should not create new barriers between Ukraine and Europe. In terms of economic growth, he warned that dynamic development would not be immediate nor equal throughout central Europe, eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent

States (CIS). Western Europe should facilitate such development and refrain from setting up deliberate trade barriers. Much also remained to be done to improve the ecological situation, as the problems were vast and complex.

7. Mr. Shevchuk also looked to the future and the possibilities for shortening the transition, particularly in environmental policy, economic and social development. In three years Ukraine would have its new ecological policy. Some difficulties remained with the implementation of the European environmental conventions, but this should be resolved through intra-European cooperation and smart strategy development. Sustained economic growth might take longer to achieve. Foreign assistance would have to shift from the provision of technical aid to direct investment (FDI). Mr. Shevchuk pledged that Ukraine would do its best to encourage such a shift. He also pointed out that social changes were occurring within the country. However, the subregion - CIS - as a whole would need time to reach its full potential for development.

8. Mr. H. Kranich (Estonia) set out the steps that according to him would be instrumental in moving the environmental transition forward, namely: integrating the environmental aspects into economic decision-making; further attracting and involving the private sector; and drawing up legislation on clean technologies and providing the necessary training and financial resources to apply these technologies.

9. He recalled the benefits from the privatization process. For instance, the application of clean technologies could be included into privatization contracts and companies could be held accountable if they failed to fulfil their contract obligations. He, nevertheless, insisted that the State should retain the right to intervene and take control of a company that was in crisis or that failed. He also added that, with the creation of environmental funds, money was being raised to invest in ecological programmes. This was a temporary measure until the "polluter pays" principle became fully operational throughout CIS. Finally, he highlighted the importance of raising public awareness and improving public involvement. The public had a right to be informed about the use and allocation of government resources for environmental purposes. There was also a need for greater transparency in governmental decision-making and for learning from successes in implementation.

10. Mr. M. Slokar (Slovenia) shared Slovenia's experience and the lessons it had learned since independence. Slovenia had improved its organizational structure for environmental protection. For instance, it had drawn up and applied environmental protection legislation, created an 'eco-fund' and allocated financial resources to environmental issues. It had also drawn up a programme document that set environmental priorities and goals and identified ways of achieving them. With independence came a new legal system that allowed for the enforcement of the newly developed environmental legislation, the restructuring of the economic sector and the application of cleaner technologies. Slovenia had also introduced shared responsibility for a clean environment within various sectors of the national economy and had made related provisions within the national development programmes and strategies. It had increased environmental expenditure. Among the problems that still

needed to be overcome, he mentioned the lack of knowledge and experience, the shortage of trained experts and employees, and financial constraints.

11. According to him, the Ministerial Conference in 2002 would mark the end of the transition in terms of raising environmental awareness and achieving a similar, if not common, environmental language. However, he sounded a word of caution, warning that economic balance in eastern Europe would not be struck by that time although it was a necessary "ingredient" for successful environmental development.

12. Mr. K. Clini (Italy) referred to the EPR programme and recommended that Ukraine should implement the steps and recommendations identified by the EPR team and set priorities, in particular monitoring, surveillance and reporting schemes. It should also develop and apply incorporated environmental and economic policies, and promote harmonized development and sustainability at all levels. He pointed out that external financial help could not be effective without accompanying changes in national policy. Ukraine would also have to harmonize its environmental legislation with accepted environmental standards.

13. He said that Ukraine should establish a nationwide task force to carry out the above-mentioned tasks and develop international projects that were attractive to investors. He also referred to the application of the Kyoto mechanisms.

14. Mr. L. Bjørnskov (Denmark) identified two necessary steps to achieve integrated economic and environmental development on the national level: mobilize civil society and strengthen institutions. He particularly recommended: mobilizing civil society; setting priorities in accordance with the prime needs of the general public; implementing low-cost measures immediately; increasing institutional capacity-building; and signing, ratifying and implementing relevant international conventions.

15. He recalled that the previous Ministerial Conference in Aarhus had shown the need for close integration between the environmental sector and other sectors of the economy; for moving environment-related issues to the top of the governmental agenda; and for using every occasion to raise public awareness.

16. Following these presentations, the participants at the round table expressed their opinions, made comments and put questions to the panel.

17. It was generally held that environmental problems were still not considered a priority by national governments. It was accepted that the irrational use of natural resources had repercussions on stability.

18. The year 2002 would not be a milestone symbolizing the end of environmental transition in Europe. The process was envisaged to take much longer. However, the following actions should be undertaken before 2002 to speed up the process:

(a) Raising environmental awareness among the public and high-ranking governmental officials;

(b) Paying closer attention to the negative impact on the environment of other sectors of the economy and of national and international conflicts;

(c) Consolidating the funds for environmental activities at the pan-European level; and

(d) Improving the implementation of sound ecological policy.

19. Participants agreed that ecological problems arising from the mismanagement of natural resources were very similar throughout the ECE region. Hence, members of ECE should coordinate their activities and efforts before the Ministerial Conference in 2002, to their mutual benefit.

20. Some participants disputed the view that the improvement in the east European ecological situation in the mid and late 1990s was due entirely to the industrial decline. They gave examples showing that in many parts of eastern Europe the environmental situation had continued to improve despite an industrial upswing.

21. In general, the participants strongly defended the extrabudgetary and non-budgetary funds for environmental purposes, which in some countries accounted for up to 50% of environmental expenditure.

22. Mr. V. Shevchuk then took the floor to respond to the questions. He concluded that the end of environmental transition in Ukraine depended to a large extent on the country itself, but not entirely. With regard to the formulation of the new economic policy, Ukraine would fulfil its task and thus put an end to the transition in this area. However, the practical application of such a policy would require more time and substantial investment: the three years that were left between now and 2002 would not be enough.

23. Finally, Mr. Shevchuk distinguished three periods in Ukraine's environmental movement since independence:

(a) A "romantic" period, when Ukraine was introduced to the "new" Europe and joined it;

(b) A "pragmatic" period of realization that applying the "common European recommendations" would require special State budget commitments and increased environmental expenditure (contrary to the IMF recommendations);

(c) The "Kiev" period (2002 and beyond), when the inspiration of the romantic period would combine with the experience of the pragmatic one and European practices

Annex IV

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

	US\$ per capita, 1998	Note: threshold set for financial support in 1999 = US\$2000; countries with GDP per capita below US\$1000 are eligible for financial support (travel expenses and DSA ^{1/}); countries with GDP per capita between US\$1000 and US\$2000 are eligible for financial support (DSA only); countries exceeding the threshold are not eligible for financial support.				
Country						
Slovenia	9802	Not eligible for financial support				
Czech Republic	5483					
Croatia	4854					
Hungary	4708					
Poland	4074					
Slovakia	3787					
Estonia	3640					
Lithuania	2894					
Latvia	2639					
Yugoslavia	2451					
Russian Federation	1876	Eligible for financial support (DSA only)				
The FYR of Macedonia	1774					
Romania	1698					
Bulgaria	1470					
Kazakhstan	1377					
Belarus	1296					
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1116					
Georgia	973	Eligible for financial support (travel expenses and DSA)				
Albania	932					
Ukraine	813					
Turkmenistan	634					
Uzbekistan	608					
Azerbaijan	537					
Armenia	531					
Republic of Moldova	374					
Kyrgyzstan	342					
Tajikistan	219					
Total countries	27					
Countries eligible for financial support	17					
Countries eligible for DSA only	7					
Countries eligible for travel expenses + DSA	10					

1/ DSA - daily subsistence allowance

Annex V

**DRAFT MANDATE OF THE AD HOC PREPARATORY WORKING GROUP
OF SENIOR OFFICIALS "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE"**

1. Pursuant to the Declaration by the Ministers of the Environment of the ECE region at Aarhus (Denmark) on 25 June 1998, the "Environment for Europe" process remains essential as a political framework for cooperation in environmental protection in Europe. The Ministers at Aarhus stressed that the process should build on the work done so far and, in particular, move from policy commitments to practical implementation. They reiterated the need for an efficient and cost-effective structure for the "Environment for Europe" process. The Ministers also acknowledged the important role of ECE in overseeing the process in close cooperation with relevant agencies and organizations.
2. For the preparation of the next Ministerial Conference, which will take place in Ukraine in September 2002, and as agreed at Aarhus, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy has established the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe", under the chairmanship of the host country.
3. The Executive Committee, which will be established by the Working Group of Senior Officials at its first session, will be composed of two senior officials from central and eastern Europe, two from newly independent States and four from western Europe. The Chairpersons of the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for Central and Eastern Europe, the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), and the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy will also be invited. The Executive Committee will also be chaired by the host country.
4. The Working Group will hold its first meeting in 2000 in conjunction with the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy. Thereafter, the Working Group will meet as often as necessary and keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed of its progress.
5. The Working Group is responsible for the substantive preparations for the 2002 Ministerial Conference and, in the run-up to the Conference, will serve as the central coordinating body for the further development of the "Environment for Europe" process. The Working Group will consider work undertaken to implement the recommendations and the decisions of the Aarhus Conference. Proposals for the work of the Working Group, including time-schedules, will be presented at its first session.
6. Considering the large amount of substantive work to be done, the Working Group will work in close cooperation with the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for Central and Eastern Europe, the Project Preparation Committee (PPC), the Council for the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, and the European Environment Agency. The Working Group will also cooperate with the Council

of Europe, the Commission of the European Communities, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO), and other international organizations and institutions, international non-governmental and private sector organizations which will be involved in the preparation of the 2002 Ministerial Conference.

7. The Working Group will submit the documents prepared under its auspices or in cooperation with other international organizations and institutions, including the draft ministerial declaration, to the 2002 Ministerial Conference in Ukraine for consideration and possible adoption. The Working Group will keep the Committee on Environmental Policy informed of the preparation of the documents for the Conference.

8. The Working Group may set up expert groups to elaborate specific issues, when necessary.

9. The ECE secretariat will provide the necessary secretariat assistance and conference facilities to the Working Group at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in accordance with ECE rules and practices.

Annex VI

DRAFT DECISION
BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
AT ITS FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

ON THE AENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE® PROCESS

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming that sustainable development is a cross-sectoral concern of particular relevance to the work of the Commission,

Welcoming the results of the Fourth Ministerial Conference AEnvironment for Europe® held in Aarhus (Denmark) on 23-25 June 1998,

Noting the acknowledgement by the Ministers of the important role of ECE in overseeing the AEnvironment for Europe® process in close cooperation with relevant agencies and organizations,

1. Endorses the establishment of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the 2002 Ministerial Conference AEnvironment for Europe® in Ukraine;

2. Invites the Committee on Environmental Policy, as a forum for developing regional environmental policies and legal instruments, to contribute to their strengthening and to take the necessary action to implement the decisions taken by Ministers at Aarhus;

3. Also invites the Committee and its other subsidiary bodies to make a substantial contribution to the next Ministerial Conference in 2002;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that adequate resources are made available for servicing the activities under the auspices of ECE within the preparatory process for the fifth Ministerial Conference;

5. Encourages member States to provide contributions to support the implementation of the ECE environmentally-oriented activities;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to it on the implementation of this decision at its fifty-sixth session.

Annex VII

**EPR RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO UKRAINE BY THE
UN/ECE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

(as adopted on 21 September 1999)

PART I: THE FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**Chapter 1: Legal instruments and institutional arrangements for
environmental protection**

Recommendation 1.1:

A deadline should be set for the former Soviet regulations to be replaced or abolished. The laws that were drafted before the new Constitution was adopted should be re-examined critically. The harmonization between laws and their effective enforcement should be regarded as a priority.

Recommendation 1.2:

The National Environmental Action Plan should be revised and refined in close cooperation with other ministries and social groups concerned, to set clear priorities, targets and time frames in the different sectors of environmental protection. See also Recommendations 3.1 and 7.4.

Recommendation 1.3:

There should be a continuous exchange of views between the different administrations and interest groups involved throughout the law-making process; substantive contacts and cooperation between ministries and with other institutions should be possible without the authorization of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Recommendation 1.4:

Environmental auditing of industrial enterprises should be considered a suitable basis for gradually developing an integrated permitting system, covering air, water and waste at the same time. The organization of the various inspecting services should be reconsidered with a view to improving their combined economic efficiency. See also Recommendations 7.5 and 13.6.

Recommendation 1.5:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety should strengthen its coordinating activities regarding environmental monitoring. A coherent and comprehensible national monitoring system should be developed, for which the harmonization of data systems and methodologies is a prerequisite. The data should also be systematized, integrated and processed for management decisions. The European Environmental Agency should be provided with comparable data. The work on the development of an adequate environmental information system should be accelerated in order to assist in the strengthening of public and governmental awareness of environmental problems. See also Recommendations 4.7, 7.6, 8.2, 8.4, 9.5, 10.5, 11.6.

Recommendation 1.6:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety should improve public access to environmental information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention and should seek more contact with the entire NGO community, particularly when preparing legislation and developing policies or action programmes. Suitable methods for improving public participation should be adopted after consultation with the NGO community. Environmental impact assessment should be seen as one tool for strengthening public participation in environmental decision-making. The Ministry should intensify its contacts with the press. The public should be encouraged to pursue its environmental rights, and procedures for public participation in environmental decision-making should be put in place speedily.

Chapter 2 Economic and regulatory instruments

Recommendation 2.1:

The necessary and sufficient economic instruments needed for the introduction of the polluter-pays principle should be identified. Investigations are necessary in preparing decided moves towards an unequivocally market-oriented fiscal and economic policy. They should clarify what levels of environmental charges etc. are both sufficient and feasible, and determine the time frame for their introduction. See also Recommendations 7.3, 8.7 and 10.3.

Recommendation 2.2:

The system of ambient standards for pollutants that are most significant for environmental health and ecosystem protection should concentrate on the pollutants that can be monitored and for which the standards can actually be enforced, including those for which Ukraine has assumed international obligations. The standards should be simple, clear and controllable. See also Recommendation 8.5.

Recommendation 2.3:

A special mechanism should be designed to help create a market for secondary products. The waste disposal charges could be increased, and clauses for refunding could be introduced for recycling and reuse.

Recommendation 2.4:

The statistics on environmental expenditures should be improved, indicating the source of funding.

Recommendation 2.5:

A national environmental fund and regional environmental funds should be created with clear and transparent management systems. The purpose of the funds would be to improve the difficult funding situation of environmental activities during the transition period.

Chapter 3 International cooperation

Recommendation 3.1:

The National Committee for Sustainable Development should intensify its work and meet at regular intervals to make it an effective tool for intersectoral cooperation regarding environmental issues. See also Recommendation 1.2.

Recommendation 3.2:

Implementation, compliance and enforcement of environmental norms and action plans following existing international commitments should be a priority for all actors in Ukraine's environmental policy. Plans for the ratification of new international legal instrument for environmental protection should include an assessment of the cost of its implementation, and Ukraine should continue to work towards the ratification of all major international environmental conventions, in accordance with its national priorities. See also Recommendation 7.9.

Recommendation 3.3:

The coordination and cooperation between all institutions involved in the development of policies and the management of internationally funded projects should be improved. A special project management unit for environmental projects receiving foreign financial assistance should be established. A voluntary international task force could also be created, composed of partner countries willing to assist Ukraine in its environmental protection activities. A clear orientation towards market-oriented measures and approaches is needed also for international cooperation.

Recommendation 3.4:

The preparations for the "Environment for Europe" Conference in 2002 should start early, and involve all governmental and non-governmental institutions concerned.

Recommendation 3.5:

Awareness about international environmental conventions and policies and their importance for social and economic issues at the national and regional levels should be raised with special programmes targeting decision makers as well as the public.

Recommendation 3.6:

The development of bilateral and multilateral agreements, projects and action plans to conserve threatened species and migratory species should be encouraged; in particular, measures should be taken to prevent the import of alien species and the illegal traffic in wildlife specimens, especially those covered by CITES in order to prepare for its implementation.

PART II: MANAGEMENT OF POLLUTION AND OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chapter 4 Management of nuclear safety

Recommendation 4.1:

Following ChNPP Units 1 and 2, Unit 3 should also be shut down permanently according to the Memorandum of Understanding. If K2/R4 should start operation, the possible shutdown of other older reactors should be considered. The international community should consider assisting financially in all technical and socio-economic consequences of such decisions, which in some cases may substantially affect entire communities, like the city of Slavutych.

Recommendation 4.2:

Legal instruments (including the final adoption of licensing procedures for nuclear facilities) and institutional arrangements for nuclear safety should be aligned with the strategic objective of making operators of nuclear facilities responsible for safety. Environmental policy requirements regarding uranium mining, radioactive waste management and plans for the exclusion zone around Chernobyl should also be formulated swiftly.

Recommendation 4.3:

A realistic scenario for the role of nuclear energy should be developed urgently. The scenario should include (a) a revised projection of the future demand for electricity, (b) an assessment of the long-term capabilities of renewable energy in Ukraine, (c) a programme of energy saving measures and (d) an operational plan to make VVER reactors safer. See also Recommendation 13.5.

Recommendation 4.4:

The nuclear energy programme should put emphasis on the construction of dry storage facilities, preferably in the vicinity of nuclear power plants, and on the construction of waste-processing, conditioning and final disposal facilities focusing on long-term safety according to international standards.

Recommendation 4.5:

In view of the constantly decreasing stability of the shelter and the fact that nuclear excursions cannot be excluded, the SIP should be implemented without delay.

Recommendation 4.6:

To ensure a decent future for the exclusion zone, it is paramount that the Chernobyl waste should either be confined safely on site or disposed of in repositories in accordance with the minimum risk principle. The temptation to convert the zone into a large dumping area should be resisted. The status of settlements in the zones should be reconsidered frequently on the basis of realistic scientific analyses, and the change of status towards more normality should be promoted by the authorities wherever justified.

Recommendation 4.7:

A programme to improve the technical layout and equipment of monitoring facilities should be developed and implemented. Sampling, measuring, evaluation and documentation procedures should be standardized so as to facilitate the establishment of a national databank. See also Recommendation 1.5.

Recommendation 4.8:

The planned Information and Emergency Centre should be completed urgently, and the remaining three NPP sites should be equipped with all the automatic monitoring instruments. All attempts by the Ukrainian authorities to obtain the final share of financing as foreseen in the IEC concept should be supported.

Chapter 5 Promotion of industrial safety and cleaner production

Recommendation 5.1:

There is an urgent need to develop a coherent legal system on the issue of environmental safety by drawing up all required regulations and ordinances, and so provide clear-cut task sharing and coordination among the responsible bodies. See also Recommendation 10.2.

Recommendation 5.2:

Ukraine should speed up the adoption of the draft law on high-risk installations based on the EU Seveso II directive and the ECE Convention on Industrial Accidents, and prepare the relevant regulations, ordinances and norms necessary for the implementation of this law.

Recommendation 5.3:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety should effectively coordinate the use, transport and storage of hazardous substances, taking into account the relevant EU practices. The setting-up of a centre for chemical safety should be considered in this connection. This measure should be seen as a first step towards the urgent establishment of a comprehensive national emergency prevention and response system. See also Recommendation 6.6.

Recommendation 5.4:

A national cleaner production strategy, including a statement of programmatic policy objectives, management measures, information means, education and training programmes, other provisions for capacity building, institutional arrangements and funding mechanisms for the application of cleaner production, should be developed and adopted. The strategy should include a time schedule for implementation of the measures and should favour integrated approaches to cleaner production. Full cooperation with other ministries as well as industrial representatives should be ensured in the development of the strategy. The administration of cleaner production policies - including that of technological transfers - should be freed of all unnecessary bureaucratic complications.

Recommendation 5.5:

Industry should be encouraged to recycle and reuse materials and resources, including water resources, which are currently used in an unsustainable way. See also Recommendation 8.6.

Recommendation 5.6:

The Ministry of Environmental Production and Nuclear Safety should consider, at least for a limited period of time, supporting the provision of information on the potential for economic improvements through the introduction of cleaner production in Ukrainian enterprises. Likewise, education and training in this area should be promoted by requesting universities, business schools and other relevant educational establishments to integrate cleaner production and pollution prevention principles into their curricula. If there is not enough national funding for these activities, they would merit priority consideration in any international assistance programme.

Recommendation 5.7:

Centres for cleaner production should be established in each of the industrialized regions of the country. The centres should participate in the promotion of cleaner production concepts and principles in all possible ways.

Recommendation 5.8:

The funding of cleaner production investments should initially be given special consideration. If necessary, and for a limited time, fiscal measures should be taken to complement other sources of funding so as to promote such investments.

Recommendation 5.9:

Instruments for evaluating the environmental damage caused before privatization should be identified and introduced into the legislation; responsibility and liability sharing between the former and future owners should be clearly stated.

Chapter 6 Waste management

Recommendation 6.1:

The current establishment of a modern legal basis for waste management should aim at internal consistency and completeness with regard to management tasks and instruments, but avoid redundancies.

Recommendation 6.2:

Industrial generators of waste and NGOs should be associated, on a consultative basis or through pilot projects, with the ongoing development of the legal framework for waste management, as well as with all future activities. Campaigns should be organized to raise public awareness about waste minimization and waste recycling.

Recommendation 6.3:

The clear definition of administrative responsibilities and efficient coordination between different institutions involved in waste management should be seen as a high priority. In the interest of law enforcement, duplication of mandates has to be avoided. Each institution involved should obtain satisfactory budgetary authority for carrying out its mandate. Internal control mechanisms and external audits are needed to ensure an efficient, transparent and credible system of enforcement.

Recommendation 6.4:

A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken of all realistic funding possibilities for the purposes of creating the waste management facilities required in the country. A distinction between short- and long-term possibilities seems appropriate. The results of the analysis should be applied.

Recommendation 6.5:

The establishment of a plan of priority actions to improve waste recovery and treatment operations from an environmental point of view should be considered urgent.

Recommendation 6.6:

The obsolete pesticides should be analysed for their chemical characteristics and the associated human health and environmental risks, stored in an acceptable manner to reduce these risks and finally destroyed as soon as possible. See also Recommendation 5.3.

Chapter 7 Air management

Recommendation 7.1:

The adoption of the revised Law on the Protection of Atmospheric Air should give rise to the urgent development of implementing regulations. The creation of an interministerial task force should be considered, to coordinate the rights and responsibilities of all levels of administration in the new air management scheme.

Recommendation 7.2:

A training programme for environmental inspectors should be established to prepare them for their new tasks following the adoption of the new Law on the Protection of the Atmospheric Air. It should benefit from relevant experiences obtained in oblasts with modern air management. The programme should include the necessary funding provisions and should start to be implemented urgently.

Recommendation 7.3:

The efficiency of existing economic instruments has to be analysed for the purpose of reassessing subsidies, consolidating environmental funds and increasing emission charges when necessary. The polluter-pays principle should be applied in a rigorous way to all emission sources, whether stationary or mobile, and systematically to both physical and legal persons. See also Recommendation 2.1.

Recommendation 7.4:

The priorities in the NEAP and its present implementation phase should be critically reviewed and focus on designing a realistic medium-term action plan or plans, separately for each city, in order to lower air pollution. See also Recommendation 1.2.

Recommendation 7.5:

The main polluters (i.e. power stations, chemical industries, metal industries, etc.) responsible for air pollution in big cities should be subject to environmental auditing to identify their potential for cutting emissions via low-cost measures. See also Recommendations 1.4 and 13.6.

Recommendation 7.6:

All possible ways should be explored to install modern computing and laboratory equipment as well as data transmission and analysis software at HYDROMET. See also Recommendation 1.5.

Recommendation 7.7:

The air pollution monitoring system should be redesigned and integrate existing sectoral air-quality measurement programmes. It should follow modern methodology and use automated equipment.

Recommendation 7.8:

The existing inventory and related reporting system should be redesigned and expanded to cover the most important polluters and concentrate on classic as well as the most hazardous pollutants. The inventory methodology should be in line with the EMEP inventory guidebook. The public should be informed of the results.

Recommendation 7.9:

Ukraine should accelerate its ratification of the environmentally relevant ECE conventions and protocols that it has already signed and develop appropriate strategies for their implementation. It should also envisage acceding to those that it has not signed and sign new instruments that could be instrumental in redesigning policies and strategies for air pollution abatement and implementation of urgent control measures within the NEAP. See also Recommendation 3.2.

Chapter 8 Water management

Recommendation 8.1:

The institutional responsibilities for water management and standard-setting should be streamlined. Clear responsibility for coordination should be assigned and a coordination mechanism should be created.

Recommendation 8.2:

The establishment of a national agency responsible for unifying the standard system and methods, i.e. a standardization agency, should be considered. See also Recommendation 1.5.

Recommendation 8.3:

Basin (or catchment) structures and committees should be created for each significant river basin, and integrated water management principles introduced at basin level. All affected national, regional and local authorities should participate, possibly together with international partners (i.e. the Republic of Moldova in the case of the Dniester). The institutional responsibilities of the basin structure should be matched by sufficient funding provisions, so that the (local) water management objectives can be achieved, in particular with regard to waste water. Financial resources from water charges collected at the basin level should be reallocated to improving the water management situation on the same territory. See also Recommendation 9.6.

Recommendation 8.4:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety should coordinate monitoring activities as foreseen in Resolution No. 391 of 1998. See also Recommendations 1.5 and 9.5.

Recommendation 8.5:

The number of water-quality standards should be reduced and they should be set at realistic levels, making enforcement possible. See also Recommendation 2.2.

Recommendation 8.6:

The best available technologies not entailing excessive costs and/or technology-based emission standards should be at the heart of abatement strategies. See also Recommendations 5.5 and 10.1.

Recommendation 8.7:

The cost of water should be transparent and realistic. Metering should be introduced for all users and payments made proportional to the water quantity really consumed. Water prices should cover the full cost of investing, operating and maintaining the water and waste-water infrastructure. Provisions should be made for those people who cannot afford it. See also Recommendation 2.1.

Recommendation 8.8:

To improve the efficiency of waste-water treatment, the staff should be trained further in plant operation, process control and instrument operation.

Recommendation 8.9:

There must be clear responsibility for the urban waste-water management and sewage sludge disposal. The preferred use of the sludge should be as fertilizer. The European Directives on urban waste water and on use of sludge in agriculture should serve as guidance.

Recommendation 8.10:

Supplying the population with sufficient quantities of drinking water that meets hygiene standards should be seen as a priority. The public should have access to information on the quality of drinking water. The use of suitable groundwater sources should be increased and drinking-water resources should be protected accordingly. See also Recommendation 14.1.

Chapter 9 Management of the environment of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov

Recommendation 9.1:

To improve marine environment management based on the principles set out in the 'Principal Directions', clear environmental policy objectives should be set and included in the national programme for the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Recommendation 9.2:

To better coordinate the efforts of the numerous institutions and to make marine environmental protection more effective, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety should set up a special unit for the protection of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.

Recommendation 9.3:

The specific needs of the marine environment should be reflected in special legislation on marine environmental protection. It should go hand in hand with all relevant national regulations and internationally accepted norms and include new mechanisms for raising and allocating funds.

Recommendation 9.4:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety, together with all other relevant authorities and with the participation of all stakeholders, should explicitly make integrated coastal zone management a full part of its new policy. This should also entail the creation of adequate instruments for institutional cooperation and involvement of the scientific community, local business and the general public, especially through NGOs, in the implementation of integrated coastal zone management.

Recommendation 9.5:

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety should strengthen its role as the coordinating governmental agency for marine environmental monitoring. It should, for instance, develop a mandatory common national programme for sea monitoring and should participate in the budgeting of all monitoring entities. It should also look for other sources of funding and organization mechanisms. See also Recommendations 1.5 and 8.4.

Recommendation 9.6:

A new funding mechanism for the construction and maintenance of the sewerage networks and waste-water treatment plants should be developed, which should clearly specify the responsibilities of polluters in this regard. See also Recommendation 8.3.

Recommendation 9.7:

Ukraine should participate in the further development and enforcement of a harmonized Port State Control system in the Black Sea region and in the development of a regional emergency response action plan, in order to establish new effective instruments for marine environmental management.

Recommendation 9.8:

Ukraine should consider initiating a basin-wide programme and/or seeking close cooperation between the Black Sea Environmental Programme and all existing or planned programmes for the rivers flowing into these two Seas, in order to promote basin-wide coordination of environmental management affecting the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Adequate coordination mechanisms should also be developed for the drainage area of the Baltic Sea in the country.

Chapter 10 Management of mineral resources

Recommendation 10.1:

A programme to improve the environmental performance in mining and mineral processing should be developed and implemented. It should focus on the introduction of best available techniques for waste-water treatment and tailing management, as well as on the training of staff at all levels of mineral resources management. See also Recommendation 8.6.

Recommendation 10.2:

Environmental management should be adopted as a requisite for the issuing of licences to mining companies. This plan should include a system of environmental funds for mine rehabilitation according to world mining standards. Special payments for this purpose should be established after the cost-benefit of such rehabilitation is analysed as part of the environmental impact assessment of mining companies. See also Recommendation 5.1.

Recommendation 10.3:

The current regulatory system for the management of mineral resources should continue to be developed. Particular attention needs to be paid to the development and implementation of differentiated charges in accordance with (a) geological particularities, (b) scarcity of the resource, and (c) exploitation conditions. Furthermore, charges for environmental pollution should be increased and regularly adjusted to inflation. See also Recommendation 2.1.

Recommendation 10.4:

The restructuring of the State Committee of Geology and Mineral Deposits and the creation of a national geological survey should be seen as a top priority. The existing restructuring plan should be implemented as soon as possible.

Recommendation 10.5:

The current monitoring system run by the State Committee of Geology and Mineral Deposits needs to be (a) reduced overall, and (b) more concentrated in the most relevant areas (e.g. Donbass). The introduction of a plan aiming to reduce and redistribute the monitoring network, modernize laboratories and develop environmental monitoring standards should be envisaged. See also Recommendation 1.5.

Recommendation 10.6:

To reduce the environmental impact of the coal industry and the large subsidies from the national budget to the coal sector, and to give profitable mines a chance to succeed, the Government should implement the coal sector restructuring project after the necessary environmental investigations for each individual mine have been undertaken, and the corresponding environmental mitigation measures are determined, included in the closure plans, and financed.

Chapter 11 Management of bioresources and nature conservation

Recommendation 11.1:

It is necessary to set up national, regional and sectoral programmes for the restoration of rare plants and animal species as well as for the management of introduced alien species especially where they adversely affect local biodiversity.

Recommendation 11.2:

The draft national action programme for biological diversity protection and sustainable use should be adopted urgently.

Recommendation 11.3:

Training and capacity building should be introduced as a regular component of any EECONET project to make Ukrainian specialists acquire the skills necessary for managing biodiversity and nature protection projects. To this end, the creation of an international centre in Ukraine to give training in nature conservation and EECONET development would be an excellent opportunity for meeting the needs of Ukraine and of its neighbours in eastern Europe and the newly independent States. The centre could benefit from western partner experience.

Recommendation 11.4:

The creation of new protected areas preferably as regional landscape parks under the responsibility of regions (oblasts or groups of rayons) should be considered. A limited but controlled use of these zones and their assets could be authorized subject to the payment of a fee. Local people and communities should be better involved in this process of nature conservation, and their specific interests and needs better taken into account.

Recommendation 11.5:

Biodiversity conservation and nature protection components should be included into all decision-making processes of regional and sectoral development programmes (e.g. the Dnieper programme).

Recommendation 11.6:

The existing special unit (i.e. Central Board for National Natural Parks and Reserve Management) may be improved to ensure the harmonized implementation of protection regimes and rules for different protected areas, including the balancing of funding in the different protected areas. All institutions of the Nature Reserve Fund of national importance should be subordinated to the Central Board. See also Recommendation 1.5.

Recommendation 11.7:

The monitoring of species and ecosystems, the compiling of a species cadastre and the mapping of habitats should be seen as prerequisites for any management policy, and should therefore be pursued in spite of the economic difficulties. National surveys on threatened or rare species and habitats (in particular those which fall under international agreements) should be carried out or updated.

Recommendation 11.8:

The biological monitoring strategy should be pursued and completed. It should be well-funded, result-oriented and cost-effective. The legal framework should be adjusted accordingly, making it clear what information should be collected, by whom and how.

PART III: ECONOMIC AND SECTORAL INTEGRATION

Chapter 12 Environmental concerns in agriculture

Recommendation 12.1:

Designated land uses should be monitored and periodically re-evaluated, in order to adapt them to changing socio-economic conditions. The existing command-and-control system of land use should in the long run be replaced by partnership arrangements between the public administrations and the farmers.

Recommendation 12.2:

It should be recognized that more environmentally friendly and ultimately sustainable agricultural practices must be promoted and developed urgently. To this end, adequate training programmes for both private and collective farmers should be set up. The training should be undertaken by a suitably equipped extension service. Any revision of the existing national guide for good agricultural practice should include a realistic agricultural production strategy.

Recommendation 12.3:

An inter-ministerial/inter-agency unit should be created to monitor, analyse and control the environmental impacts of agriculture, and of genetically modified organisms. A system of indicators to analyse these impacts would be useful.

Recommendation 12.4:

The improvement of the Land Code and the adoption of the Law on Land Protection should be accelerated, as should the adoption of the National Programme for Land Protection till 2010. International financial assistance for the implementation of the Programme should be sought, possibly in particular in the framework of the GEF.

Recommendation 12.5:

Environmental rehabilitation programmes of contaminated agricultural land at oblast level should be initiated, based on satisfactory monitoring information as well as innovative methodologies, which could even attract international assistance.

Chapter 13 Environmental concerns in energy

Recommendation 13.1:

A stable legal, regulatory and institutional framework for investments in the energy sector should be created and implemented, in order to strengthen further the efforts undertaken so far for a long-term market-oriented energy policy. It should recognize the particular features of investment projects in this sector together with the obvious need for large-scale investment. Investments favouring the development of renewable forms of energy should be given priority.

Recommendation 13.2:

The Government's role in the energy sector is to be redefined. The large number of government ministries, agencies, bodies and State enterprises

currently involved in controlling energy production, distribution and prices should be streamlined as a result.

Recommendation 13.3:

A sustainable, market-oriented and coherent policy aiming at energy savings so as to reduce import dependency and promote energy conservation should be developed as a matter of urgency. It should specify the need to liberalize markets and take fiscal measures and technical measures like the introduction of modern metering equipment for individual users. Social concerns should increasingly be transferred to well-targeted social security programmes and not remain part of energy policies.

Recommendation 13.4:

The establishment and publication of a time schedule for the introduction of market prices for all forms of energy should be seen as an urgent requirement for the success of the energy sector's restructuring and modernization.

Recommendation 13.5:

The transition of the electricity supply system should, first, concentrate on reducing air emissions from existing thermal power stations, and on organizing an integrated and interconnected grid system inside the country and with its neighbours. See also Recommendation 4.3.

Recommendation 13.6:

Environmental audits in thermal power plants should be considered. See also Recommendations 1.4 and 7.5.

Chapter 14 Human health and the environment

Recommendation 14.1:

The public health sector should pay more attention to the effects of water pollution and to preventing water-borne diseases. Ukraine should ratify the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. A system of monitoring bathing waters should be set up, and collected information should be disseminated to the public. See Recommendation 8.10.

Recommendation 14.2:

The following food protection measures should be considered for urgent implementation:

- local needs assessments and inter-sectoral collaboration for implementing food safety activities should be included in local food protection programmes
- a code of hygienic practices should be distributed to all district food industries and local authorities
- the implementation of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system should be ensured
- regular assessment of food technologies that prevent food-borne diseases and reduce post-harvest losses should be ensured by the responsible institutions
- education in the principles of food safety and hygienic handling of food should be organized for all those handling food

- the districts should promote food safety in tourism by raising the awareness of the travel industry about possible food-borne hazards
- information gathering and dissemination among the public should be strengthened, including surveillance of food-borne diseases
- information campaigns to combat mushroom poisoning and botulism deaths should be improved
- food quality control on street markets should be ensured.

Recommendation 14.3:

The public health sector should take measures to prevent injuries and violence in cooperation with the other institutions involved. Public information campaigns in this respect should be undertaken in cooperation with other involved institutions.

Recommendation 14.4:

Data are needed on the most important sources of indoor air pollution, including gas cookers and indoor smoking. Information on the associated health risks, together with recommendations on how to minimize them, should be included in health advice packages given to families as part of health promotion campaigns.

Recommendation 14.5:

To reduce occupational morbidity:

- individual protective measures should be reintroduced and workers should be adequately informed about their health risks
- economic instruments should be applied to encourage enterprises to observe health and safety standards, as well as to report all occupational disease
- adequate monitoring of occupational disease in all economic sectors, including uranium mines, should be ensured.

Recommendation 14.6:

A strategy and programmes to abate the psychosocial effects of the Chernobyl accident should be developed, and programmes to identify the long-term health consequences of long-term exposure to low-dose radiation should be supported. A programme should be planned and implemented to monitor the children of parents affected by the Chernobyl accident.

Recommendation 14.7:

Indoor radon should continue to be assessed, in order to investigate areas not yet examined and to monitor trends and results from action to reduce radon in high-risk homes. Information on behavioural measures such as ventilation practices should be made available to households in high-risk areas. Building codes and environmental impact assessments should include sections designed to ensure that radon levels do not exceed 100 Bq/m³ in new buildings.

Recommendation 14.8:

More effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms should be established between the Ministry of Health Protection, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety and other relevant ministries and State committees, focusing on health promotion and environmental protection around

specific issues, such as traffic, agriculture and foodstuffs, mining and industry, water quality and waste. It should particularly aim at the implementation of the National Environmental Health Action Plan, closely coordinated with the National Environmental Action Plan. It should also relate to coordination between national, regional and local levels of public administration.

Annex VIII

EPR RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO CROATIA BY THE
UN/ECE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

(as adopted on 22 September 1999)

PART I: THE FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**Chapter 1 Legal instruments and institutional arrangements for
environmental protection**

Recommendation 1.1:

The organization of environmental protection, physical planning, tourism and water protection, hunting, fisheries and forest protection in a combined ministry should be considered. This ministry should also include an organizational unit to coordinate environmental education projects and raise environmental awareness among the public.

Recommendation 1.2:

The Environmental Protection Law should be revised to meet, inter alia, the requirements of the Aarhus Convention. Improvements in public access to information, public participation and access to justice in accordance with the Convention will also strengthen enforcement mechanisms for environmental protection.

Recommendation 1.3:

The public should receive further information on the EIA procedure, encouraging it as well as NGOs to make use of the public participation procedure. Information about planned developments should be published at an early planning stage to facilitate public participation.

Recommendation 1.4:

Inspections should be systematically combined as much as possible. This is particularly true for environment and water protection inspections. An environmental inspector should also be appointed in the county of Zagreb.

Recommendation 1.5:

The level of the fines legally prescribed should be examined and adapted, taking into account the economic situation. The fining procedure should be simplified.

Recommendation 1.6:

Legal provisions should be developed to exempt NGOs from paying taxes and allow donors to deduct their financial contributions to NGOs from their taxable revenues. The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and Environment should clearly define its funding policy towards NGOs and improve its transparency.

Recommendation 1.7:

Periodic and "state-of-the-art" representative opinion polls should be carried out on questions regarding environmental protection, including the general relative ranking of environmental protection among the priorities of the population (nationally, regionally, by age group and socio-economic category of the respondents), and the most pressing specific environmental problems.

Chapter 2 Economic and regulatory instruments

Recommendation 2.1:

A time schedule for the full enforcement of all environmental payments should be set and published, including the social conditions that have to be met for the implementation of its steps. Creating an environmental fund with a clear and transparent management is recommended as a measure for improving the funding and efficiency of environmental payments and expenditures during the transition period.

Recommendation 2.2:

The necessary and sufficient economic instruments and their levels should be identified with regard to those measures that are already envisaged in existing legislation.

Recommendation 2.3:

A special mechanism should be designed to help create a market for secondary products. The charges related to industrial waste collection, transport and disposal could be increased, if refunds are introduced at the same time for recycling and reuse.

Recommendation 2.4:

The statistics on environmental expenditures as well as their sources of funding should be improved as a matter of priority.

Chapter 3 Environmental consequences of armed conflict

Recommendation 3.1:

The effects of the armed conflict on the environment should be quantified to the maximum possible extent, to become the basis for a comprehensive remediation strategy. Monitoring practices should be widely extended to prepare the strategy.

Recommendation 3.2:

Local capabilities should be strengthened to cope with the environmental consequences of the armed conflict on a medium- to long-term basis. Strengthening should involve making finances available as required, including possibly from international assistance.

Recommendation 3.3:

Scientists should evaluate xenobiotic and metabolic processes occurring in underground strata used for the extraction of drinking water, in order to ascertain the microbiological processes that may be causing degradation of chemicals polluting such water. These metabolic processes are of particular

importance when such metabolites increase the toxicity of the pollutants. Expertise in anaerobic metabolism will have to be developed.

Recommendation 3.4:

Training in environmental health risk assessment, ecotoxicology and related topics should take place, specifically at regional and local levels. It should be extended to both industrialists and academics.

Recommendation 3.5:

Ground contaminated with incompletely burnt pesticides or related products (including PCBs) should be examined and, as necessary, remediation measures proposed, and no new warehouses, production units nor, in particular, any dwellings should be built in those areas.

Recommendation 3.6:

Croatia should be invited to actively contribute to the regional assessment of environmental impacts of armed conflicts, in the context of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

Chapter 4 International cooperation

Recommendation 4.1:

Implementation, compliance and enforcement of environmental norms and action plans following existing international commitments should be a priority for all actors in Croatia's environmental policy. National priorities should be defined for international environmental cooperation, preferably as part of the National Environmental Strategy and the National Environmental Action Plan, which are currently being developed.

Recommendation 4.2:

An analysis of all existing international cooperation for environmental protection should be undertaken. A strategy for attracting funds involving all governmental bodies related to environmental protection should be developed. The creation of a unit for project management in the State Directorate for Environment should be considered.

Recommendation 4.3:

The State Directorate for the protection of Nature and the Environment should consider creating a national coordination body which can serve as a forum for information exchange, coordination and cooperation on sustainable development.

Recommendation 4.4:

The ratification procedures for the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals should be initiated. See also Recommendation 5.7.

Recommendation 4.5:

Awareness about international environmental conventions and policies and their importance for social and economic issues at the national and regional levels should be raised, with special programmes targeting decision makers as well as the public.

Recommendation 4.6:

The forthcoming action plan on climate change should include suitable economic instruments in order to support the respective objectives.

PART II: MANAGEMENT OF POLLUTION AND OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chapter 5 Air management

Recommendation 5.1:

The National Environmental Strategy, the National Environmental Action Plan and the Industry Development Strategy should be drafted in broad collaboration with all those concerned. An implementation strategy taking into account the generally accepted priorities and a realistic assessment of the available resources should be included in the strategic documents. Whenever possible, economic and legislative instruments should support the strategies' implementation. See also Recommendation 5.6.

Recommendation 5.2:

Sufficient funds for the county offices and inspectorates should be secured from the county budgets. Priorities should be set on the national level, and their implementation on the local level coordinated systematically. The staff of the offices and inspectorates should be strengthened at least in counties with a high concentration of industry.

Recommendation 5.3:

A detailed concept for a national air quality monitoring network should be established. If appropriate, automatic continuous measuring devices could be used for monitoring traffic-related pollution. The introduction of benzene measurement is essential. See also Recommendation 14.5.

Recommendation 5.4:

The by-law on the methodology of measuring pollutant emissions from stationary sources into the air should be prepared in collaboration with expert institutions as well as industry, and, prior to its adoption, the cost of applying it should be assessed. For sulphur dioxide, also mass balance estimation should be possible.

Recommendation 5.5:

Remedial programmes for particular non-compliance sources should be set up in accordance with local environmental protection documents, with which the local physical plans should comply.

Recommendation 5.6:

Economic incentives encouraging the purchase of cleaner technologies, abatement techniques, monitoring devices, techniques for the development and use of renewable energy sources, waste recycling, rational energy production/use etc. should be introduced in the taxation and custom system.

Recommendation 5.7

Croatia should ratify the VOC Protocol to the Convention of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Croatia should actively prepare for the possible implementation of the new Protocol to Abate Acidification,

Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. Its first national communication should be drawn up in broad collaboration with the economic sectors concerned, and realistic baseline emissions negotiated with the responsible international body.

Chapter 6 Management of freshwater resources and quality

Recommendation 6.1:

The National Water Council should be revived. It should be representative of Parliament, and involve water management experts and scientists as well as NGOs. It should coordinate its decisions with the Committee of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning in matters regarding waters and environmental protection.

Recommendation 6.2

Basin water management plans should be urgently completed. Basin agencies should obtain greater autonomy, in particular regarding the spending of the financial resources collected in their basin. Basin committees should be created or their role strengthened in decision-making. These committees should be equally made up of representatives of local territorial authorities, users (or their associations) and the State.

Recommendation 6.3:

The efficient protection of complete river catchments in the karstic area deserves a special protection regime.

Recommendation 6.4:

Funds collected from charges, or obtained from other sources, and earmarked for water protection at the basin level should be allocated case by case depending on the results of a cost-effectiveness analysis. See also Recommendation 9.8.

Recommendation 6.5:

Economic incentives and a command-and-control approach toward industry should be strengthened to encourage (i) the introduction of cleaner technology, and (ii) industrial investments in waste-water treatment units. See Recommendations 10.2 and 10.4.

Recommendation 6.6:

Professional training programmes should be set up for operators of waste-water treatment units. Engineers and experts employed in such units should be trained in water management, including all technical and policy-making issues, or adequate measures should be taken to retain chartered or other well qualified staff in these units.

Recommendation 6.7:

Once the Environmental Emission Cadastre will be reliable and complete, it should fully integrate the existing water emissions registers and should be used as a common decision-making tool, in particular in the introduction of an integrated permitting system.

Recommendation 6.8:

The existing monitoring system for waters should be harmonized and improved. The use of automatic monitoring should be increased. Integration and processing of data should be upgraded. The data should be processed and disclosed.

Recommendation 6.9:

Cooperation between Croatia and all countries in the region concerned by transboundary water management and protection should be improved. The status of cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia should be clarified from the legal point of view, and a technical programme of cooperation should be defined in order to prepare the ground for the necessary international support and investments.

Chapter 7 Waste management

Recommendation 7.1:

The enforcement of the existing waste legislation should be considered the first priority for waste management. It should be facilitated by clearly committing sufficient resources to the task, including money to train inspectors and other public and private staff involved in waste management.

Recommendation 7.2:

A national waste management policy plan - currently under preparation as part of the National Environmental Action Plan - should be implemented, including legal and economic priorities and instruments that actually achieve the intended goals. A subsequent national programme of action for the various sectors should be adopted, making budgetary and other financial commitments. Special attention should be given to financing hazardous waste management. See also Recommendation 7.3.

Recommendation 7.3:

The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and Environment should consider establishing a small administrative unit to (a) propose streamlining administrative practices in waste management, and (b) facilitate dialogue with and between local waste management authorities. This dialogue should include exchanges on such issues as socially acceptable fees for the collection and disposal of waste. See also Recommendation 7.2.

Recommendation 7.4:

Both the Inspectorate and the Waste Register should give particular attention to the import, export and transit of wastes. It is recommended that detailed data on the permits and the actual import, export and transit of wastes, and in particular hazardous wastes, should be made accessible to the public. The permitting and control functions for the import, export and transit of waste should be separated and made transparent.

Recommendation 7.5:

The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and Environment should consider assisting municipalities to develop their waste management master plans, by launching a pilot programme in one county for capacity building in municipal waste management and inspection.

Recommendation 7.6:

A sufficiently complete and reliable waste information system should be developed between all institutions concerned, starting from the completion of the waste cadastre. The public should be informed of possibilities for waste reduction, recycling and similar issues through suitable campaigns.

Recommendation 7.7:

The adequate elimination of obsolete pharmaceuticals, hazardous industrial chemicals, as well as medical wastes should be seen as the most urgent problem in hazardous waste management, which should be considered the most important part of waste management in general.

Chapter 8 Nature conservation, forest and biodiversity managementRecommendation 8.1:

The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment should put a higher priority on nature protection, starting with increasing the expert staff in its relevant departments.

Recommendation 8.2:

An academic advisory committee under the responsibility of the Director of the State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and Environment should be set up to assist in the decision-making and evaluation processes regarding biodiversity conservation.

Recommendation 8.3:

The responsibility of the Department for Protected Areas should be increased, In particular, it should oversee the implementation of the management plan more closely.

Recommendation 8.4:

Biodiversity protection measures should be incorporated into all spheres of human activities, and not only limited to the protection regime provided to certain species and areas. Protection of natural habitats in economically exploited areas should be improved by implementing specific guidelines for nature protection in agriculture, forestry, water management, physical planning and other activities.

Recommendation 8.5:

Each ecosystem should be used according to its specificity in an ecologically sound manner. The use of the coast for fish farming and marinas should be regulated. Urban sprawl along the coastline should be prevented, new constructions close to existing urban zones streamlined, a coastal strip protected from building and public access to the sea secured.

Recommendation 8.6:

Physical planning and its implementation should be based more strongly on joint actions and coordination between the national, county and local administrative levels.

Recommendation 8.7:

Coordination of actions regarding nature protection and biodiversity conservation between the State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and Environment and other ministries and directorates should be improved. A special unit in the State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and Environment should be entrusted with the responsibility for coordination. See also Recommendation 1.1.

Recommendation 8.8:

The monitoring of nature should be improved in particular with regard to biodiversity, soil and surface water. An inventory of the state of soil degradation and of the state of natural habitats should be envisaged. See also Recommendation 6.7.

Recommendation 8.9:

Cooperation with neighbouring States on physical planning, biodiversity and water management should be intensified, including data exchange. Croatia should implement the international conventions and agreements relating to nature protection and biodiversity conservation that it has ratified, and it should join the main international ecological and development programmes.

Chapter 9 Management of marine resources and pollution

Recommendation 9.1:

An integrated coastal zone management plan should be prepared and implemented.

Recommendation 9.2:

Technopoles should be established where medium and small-sized industries can share basic supply and treatment facilities so as to benefit from economies of scale in investment and operating cost.

Recommendation 9.3:

Operation centres should be set up to deal with emergencies and protection of the coastal sea and shoreline, where this is not yet the case.

Recommendation 9.4:

A waste management plan should be developed for the islands and the coastal area.

Recommendation 9.5:

It should be explored, whether navigation should be routed further away from the islands and the coast and to safer port approaches. Especially cargoes with hazardous substances, oil, etc., should follow special routes. Monitoring should take place in coordination with Italy, Croatia and Slovenia.

Recommendation 9.6:

Croatia's national monitoring programme "Systematic Research of the Adriatic Sea as a Basis for the Sustainable Development of Croatia" should be approved and implemented.

Recommendation 9.7:

Any new installation should be allowed to operate only if it is monitored and found to comply with the appropriate pollution control. Old and highly polluting installations should be closed within a relatively short time unless they can be economically retrofitted to environmentally sound conditions.

Recommendation 9.8:

All municipalities and major tourist resorts should have proper sewage treatment and effluent systems. An acceleration of investment in waste-water treatment is needed to counteract the deterioration of inland and coastal water quality. Effective conservation of the coastal water quality depends on success in the protection of complete river catchments in the karstic areas. See also Recommendation 6.3.

Recommendation 9.9:

Croatia should assess the tourist carrying capacity of its Adriatic region in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Building and Housing, the State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, the State Water Directorate and assistance from the Regional Activity Centre of the Priority Action Programme.

PART III: ECONOMIC AND SECTORAL INTEGRATION

Chapter 10 Management of selected environmental issues in industry

Recommendation 10.1:

A legal framework promoting the development and implementation of cleaner technologies should be developed in cooperation with the State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, the future national cleaner production centre, and other appropriate public and industrial institutions.

Recommendation 10.2:

The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment should undertake a large-scale information campaign on available assistance for industrial enterprises in their introduction of cleaner technologies. The promotion of the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series in Croatian industry should be a second major objective for the campaign. The campaign should also provide information on relevant demonstration projects for the actual introduction of cleaner technologies and products.

Recommendation 10.3:

The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, in cooperation with other governmental authorities represented in the Commission on the Safe Management of Chemicals, should develop a law for the safe management of chemicals, based on the relevant EU directives and practices. It should also strengthen its coordinating role in the safe management of chemicals.

Recommendation 10.4:

The Government, in cooperation with chemical companies, should define and apply economic measures that promote a wider introduction of environmental protection measures in the chemical and petrochemical industries, including both in-process and modern end-of-pipe technologies.

Recommendation 10.5:

The development of an information system on industrial pollution should be started in the near future, beginning in the chemical industry. It should primarily focus on monitoring soil and groundwater pollution in the vicinity of refineries and chemical industrial sites.

Recommendation 10.6:

Restructuring and privatization in the energy sector to improve energy efficiency, taking into account national conditions and interests, should be seen as an urgent requirement for energy conservation.

Recommendation 10.7:

Government and energy enterprises should undertake further research and development of cleaner coal processes, as well as environmentally sound processes using renewable energy resources.

Chapter 11 Environmental concerns in agriculture and forestry

Recommendation 11.1

The draft law on soils should be finalized, and a land protection policy should be formulated, adopted and implemented. The management of soil erosion risks should be entrusted to a special administrative entity under the supervision of the State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, which is currently responsible for soil protection.

Recommendation 11.2:

Permanent monitoring of soil quality should be established - preferably on the basis of the law on soils proposed above - together with a land information system. See also Recommendations 8.8 and 11.1.

Recommendation 11.3:

The existing legislation - Law on Heritage, Law on Cadastre, Law on Agricultural Land - should be harmonized in the framework of general environmental policy, and a new land register should be prepared, so as to improve the economic efficiency in agriculture and encourage privatization.

Recommendation 11.4:

The finalization of the law on organic farming and its adoption by Parliament should be seen as a priority.

Recommendation 11.5:

Economic incentives and other means should be applied to encourage family farms to turn to various forms of sustainable agriculture and agro- and ecotourism.

Recommendation 11.6:

Developing national guidelines for good agricultural practices should be considered. Farmers should pay particular attention to preventing ground and surface water pollution by nitrates, heavy metals and pesticides and permanent monitoring should be established. The role of extension services should be strengthened in regard to the use of fertilizers and plant protection agents. The use of biological and other environmentally friendly pesticides should be encouraged.

Recommendation 11.7:

Methods should be implemented to reduce water pollution by farm effluents, and to reduce the excessive water use in livestock facilities and the high water content of liquid manure. Systems for the collection of liquid manure and other effluents from major farms need to be built.

Chapter 12 Environmental concerns in tourism

Recommendation 12.1:

Guidelines for sustainable tourism addressed to local communities, containing notably a checklist of important elements to take into account in tourism development and practical advice on how to resolve environmental problems in tourism, should be drawn up at the national level according to the principles of local Agenda 21.

Recommendation 12.2:

The national authorities should adopt legal instruments on protected tourist resources, defining a list of tourist resources and protecting them against other economic activities. The legal instruments should mention environmental requirements that protected tourist resources have to preserve, including the quality of bathing water in accordance with international practice.

Recommendation 12.3:

A permanent committee on sustainable tourism composed of representatives of State, county and local levels, and NGOs should be established. The committee should have permanent scientific staff at its disposal and should take part in international networks on sustainable (tourist) development. See also Recommendation 12.1.

Recommendation 12.4:

The National Strategy of Tourism should include provisions for foreign and domestic investors in the tourism sector dedicating part of their investment to the building or renovation of public environmental protection facilities.

Recommendation 12.5:

At primary and secondary levels of education, courses should be introduced concerning tourism in general and the importance of developing an environmental friendly tourism in Croatia in particular.

Chapter 13 Human health and the environment

Recommendation 13.1:

An operational plan to implement the National Environmental Health Action Plan should be prepared in close coordination with the National Environmental Action Plan and accepted by the Government. The plan should set priorities, define methods of implementation, and assign responsibilities and resources.

Recommendation 13.2:

Collaboration should be clearly improved between the sectors and institutions involved in assessing and managing the health risks due to environmental exposure (administration, public health agencies, research and education).

Recommendation 13.3:

Existing data on health status should be analysed to gain insight into the geographical differentiation in health and its links with the environment. Geographical, region-specific analysis should be routinely used in health surveillance. The National Institute of Public Health may need additional capacity for this activity.

Recommendation 13.4:

Time trends of several health indicators deserve closer scrutiny (e.g. drop in life expectancy at age 65, high mortality due to lung cancer, injuries). It is also necessary to assess to what extent the patterns can be related to environmental factors.

Recommendation 13.5:

Efforts should be made to reduce the share of deaths with causes classified as "ill-defined conditions". Especially in a region-specific analysis, the large proportion of such deaths may obscure the spatial and temporal patterns of mortality.

Recommendation 13.6:

The number of medical consultations caused by intestinal infectious diseases registered by the primary health care system is five times the number of digestive system infectious diseases registered by the communicable disease registry. It should be verified to what extent this difference is caused by the definition of diagnostic criterion applied by each system, or by systematic errors. If the quality of the data collected by the primary health care service is verified, this information can be considered for use in the surveillance of water-related health risks. As with the mortality data, the analysis must include a spatial component.

Recommendation 13.7:

National air quality standards for thoracic particles (PM₁₀) should be re-considered and the recommended values may have to be markedly reduced. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} should be monitored to verify compliance with the standards and to assess the results of actions to reduce pollution and its health impacts.

Recommendation 13.8:

The level of population exposure to heavy metals, and in particular the blood lead level in children, should be assessed to verify if the high concentration of some metals in sedimented dust is also a health risk. The assessment should focus, in the first place, on people living in the vicinity of the larger waste sites and in areas with heavy traffic.

Recommendation 13.9:

A programme should be established to reduce population exposure to radon, if further measurements show that there is a genuine health risk.

Recommendation 13.10:

The national system of food contamination control should be improved to ensure more efficient actions on the part of the responsible services and to reduce the risk of food-borne disease.

Chapter 14 Environmental concerns in transport

Recommendation 14.1:

As a matter of priority, environmental factors should be considered in managerial decisions at State level on physical planning and related new transport policies. The State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment should have a role in the related decision-making process and the public should be involved earlier. See also Recommendation 1.1.

Recommendation 14.2:

Strategic environmental assessment should be established to provide a sound basis for a long-term transport strategy. It should cover all transport modes and include effects like shifts in traffic, changes in the choice of the means of transport and possible traffic-inducing conditions.

Recommendation 14.3:

The environmental impact assessment of transport infrastructures should be improved.

Recommendation 14.4:

A long-term plan in the transport sector, based on the results of a strategic environmental assessment, should be drawn up. In particular, a strategic plan for the future development of the national transport system should favour electrification of railways and improvement of both public and waterway transport.

Recommendation 14.5:

Environmental pressure from the transport sector should be controlled in particular in urban areas. In this regard, resources should be made available, and available instruments be used, for the following priority tasks:

- promoting the use of less polluting vehicles and fuels, in particular the use of gaseous fuels in the transport sector both through incentives and by setting up a distribution network over the whole territory

- setting up inspection and maintenance programmes to enforce emission control standards
- monitoring benzene and particulate matter in urban areas.
- phasing out leaded petrol.

See also recommendation 5.3.

Annex IX

MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

TITLE	PLACE	DATE
Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	Gothenburg	29 November - 3 December 1999
Meeting of the European Environment and Health Committee	Geneva	9-10 December 1999
Meeting of the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy	Strasbourg	20-23 March 2000
Second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	The Hague	23-25 March 2000
Meeting on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Sectoral Policies	Geneva	14 April 2000
Commission on Sustainable Development	New York	24 April - 5 May 2000
UNEP 20th session of the Governing Council	Nairobi	
Steering group on urban-transport patterns and land-use planning	Geneva	Spring 2000
Second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	[Dubrovnik]	May 2000
ECE/OECD Workshop on Enhancing the Environment by Reforming Energy Prices	Průhonice	14-16 June 2000
ECE Committee on Human Settlements	Geneva	18-20 September 2000
ECE Committee on Environmental Policy	Geneva	25-29 September 2000
Ad hoc Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the fifth Ministerial Conference AEnvironment for Europe®	Geneva	in conjunction with the Committee's session 25-29 September 2000
Ministerial Consultation on Environmental Policy-making in CEECs (EAP Task Force)	Szentendre	19 June 2000
EAP Task Force including Ministerial Consultation of NIS	Almaty	16-19 October 2000
First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents		September - October 2000
Second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	Sofia	9-11 October 2000
Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health	Budapest	9-11 October 2000
Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	Geneva	4-7 December 2000