

Working Group on Water and Health
27-28 May 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

The Pilot reporting in accordance with art. 7 under the Protocol on Water and Health – preliminary remarks

First reporting cycle: aim and method

Objectives:

- (a) To assess progress (self-assessment by Party and assessment by the Meeting of the Parties);
- (b) To exchange experience and share lessons learned;
- (c) To demonstrate the main challenges/obstacles in implementing the Protocol, thereby informing activities under the Protocol's programme of work;
- (d) To test the reporting format.

Method:

Guidelines and template disseminated among Parties and Signatories in November 2009 with the deadline to reply by 31 March 2010

Responses received: 20

Parties: 17 Signatories: 3

Summary reports received from:

- Armenia
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Switzerland
- Ukraine

Procedural aspects

- Time of submissions: ten reports were submitted in accordance with the requested deadline (31 March 2010)
- Language: majority in English, five in Russian, one French/one partly in French and one in German
- Structure: many followed the format/guidelines, however, some failed to answer certain parts and questions, without providing explanation
- In few cases it was difficult to trace down the origin of information (reports sent by fax, without providing information on the person/institution submitting the report)

General aspects

- Four Parties have clearly set targets with the approach of the Protocol; other provided a list of national actions, legislative acts and/or lists of EU obligations
- Three Parties had targets in a draft format – not formally adopted
- One Party set regional targets
- In part III (Targets and Target dates set) many referred to EU legislation => usually the timetable and indicators of progress are in line with the those applied for EU
- The coordination mechanisms/meetings to implement the Protocol were created/conducted in several Parties
- The main drivers of the process: Ministries of Environment and Health
- At least in three Parties a coordination “body” was established by Ministerial order with a clear ToR

General aspects

- Some of the reports were addressing only the work/progress done => challenges and problems were not reported
- The legal basis for implementation seems to be in all Parties
- The public participation vary significantly (from active engagement to putting the information on the website)
- Half of the reports indicated some emerging issues: mainly climate change, but also emerging WRDs and chemical pollutions

Common indicators

- The reporting on the common indicators on both components: health and water, gave vague information => background statistics were given differently
- Many of the reports relate to numerical figures, without a clear background information on how these figures were calculated
- Not all the countries were able to provide data and report on the common indicators
- Differences in assessment and methodology

Targets

- There is no clear links between the targets and common indicators in the reports
- In some cases it was not clear whether the targets were set or existed as a part of national policy
- Several Parties stated that the process is ongoing
- At this stage it is too early to make an assessment on the overall progress on all the aspects

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

http://www.unece.org/env/water/Protocol_implementation_reports.html