



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN WATER SECTOR OF UKRAINE

November 28, 2017
Kyiv, Ukraine

National Political Dialogues (NPD) became the main tool within the framework of the Water Initiative of the European Union in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in recent decades in order to promote water policy reforms.

The purpose of this Dialogue in Ukraine is:

Discussion and development of proposals on legislative and institutional changes in Ukraine in the field of water policy, including implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union:

- preparation of the National Water Strategy,
- discussion of the draft Concept of reforming State Agency for Water resources,
- presentation of draft order of Cabinet of Ministry of Ukraine about new water monitoring system in Ukraine preparing in accordance with EU WFD,
- status of implementation of Urban waste water EU Directive and Nitrate EU Directive in Ukraine.

Presentation and discussion the results of the Situation Analysis underlay both review of the targets and update of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Protocol of Water and Health under UNECE Water Convention.

The Meeting of the Steering Committee for the National Dialogue on Water Policy was chaired by **Mr. Mykola Kuzio**, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on European Integration. About 90 representatives of central executive authorities, scientific institutes, international organizations, active technical assistance projects, financial institutions and the public participated in the Meeting.

Mr. Mykola Kuzio emphasized the importance of the continuing of the process of political dialogues in Ukraine between all interested national stakeholders, as well as international projects in order to fulfil Ukraine's obligations under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.



Mr Mykola Kuzio, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on European Integration; Mrs Iryna Ovcharenko, Head of State Agency for Water resources (left); Mr Olexander Klitko (right), EU Delegation in Ukraine

There were four sessions on the NPD meeting.

First session: «Governance reforms in the water sector» was dedicated to approaches to reforms in the sphere of management and control of water resources use, protection and recovery. Invited speakers were proposing approaches to reforming the water sector, including - in particular - reforming the State Water Agency. The participants were presented the draft concept of water sector reforms by ensuring introduction of river basin-based integrated water management and introduction of fundamental European market-based principles for provision of water management services. In critical terms, the said reform is based on successful implementation of provisions of the Water Framework Directive, as well as on opportunities to introduce basic market-based arrangements for provision of irrigation and drainage services (and fulfilment of other management functions delegated to the State Water Agency by the due legislation). According to outcomes of the preparatory meeting of the Dialogue (held in early 2017), the said issues will be considered in the context of the future National Water Strategy and as component parts of the Strategy. The participants were discussing the situation of establishment and launching of Basin Councils (according to Art. 13 of the Water Code of Ukraine and Order # 23 of MENR of 26.01.2017) as key river basin management bodies in Ukraine, as well as approaches to development of River Basin Management Plans.

Topic 1. Reforms in the sphere of management and control of water resources use, protection and recovery

Speakers:

- Mr Mykola Kuzio, *Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine*

- Mr Hovgera, *Representatives of EBRD*
- Ms Iryna Ovcharenko, *Head of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine*
- Mr Yurii Husiev, *Project Manager of "H₂Office" EBRD Project and "H₂Office" Project Team*
- Mr Matthew Griffiths, Ms Tatiana Efimova, *Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development*



Mr Matthew Griffiths, Ms Tatiana Efimova, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Topic 2. River Basin Management Plans

Speakers:

- Mr Oleksandr Bon, *Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources*
- Mr Alexei Iaroshevych, *EU-funded Project "Support to Ukraine in approximation of the EU environmental acquis" (APENA)*
- Mr Philippe Seguin, *EU Water Initiative Plus Project (EUWI+)*
- Ms Tamara Kutonova, *UNDP/GEF Project - "Promotion of Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Management in the Dniester River Basin"*



Mr Mykola Kuzio, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on European Integration; **Mrs Iryna Ovcharenko**, Head of State Agency for Water resources (left); **Mr Olexander Bon**, Ministry of ecology and nature resources (left)

Session two: «Reforming the system of water monitoring in Ukraine» was dedicate the water monitoring procedures - the ones recently developed by MENR and submitted for review of relevant central executive bodies (referred hereinafter to as CEBs). Particularly important aspects include institutional, technical, information and human capacity of water monitoring actors for ensuring implementation of the procedures that comply with WFD requirements and introduce development of relevant basin-based water monitoring programs. At the same time, in order to make informed environmental governance decisions, it is necessary to ensure accuracy and reliability of environmental data through ensuring relevant metrological control over quality and accuracy of quantitative measurements. Pending issues also include processing of raw data for production of reliable information to inform decision makers at the level of governance. Discussion of the above aspects and accounting for experience of European partners allow to frame a long-term vision of the aspects proposed for discussion.

Speakers:

- Mr Serhii Vykhryst, *EU-funded Project “Support to Ukraine in approximation of the EU environmental acquis” (APENA)*
- Ms Olesya Shevchenko, *“Open Environment” Project*
- Mr Michael Sutter, *EU Water Initiative Plus Project (EUWI+)*
- Mr Viktor Komorin, Mr Yevhen Dykyi, *the Ukrainian Marine Ecology Centre*
- Mr Vladymyr Varlamov *Ukrainian R&D Institute of Environmental Problems*



Representatives of EUWI+ Consortium

Session tree: «Drinking water and sanitation». According to findings of the last brief report of Ukraine on implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in 2016, Ukraine started to review its national targets with support of UN ECE and accounting for new international frameworks and commitments: Sustainable Development Goals and EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. According to the Guidelines on Setting Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health, in October 2017, Ukraine started to develop the Situation Analysis for 2015, in 20 target areas. According to Article 6.2 of the Protocol on Water and Health, results of the Situation Analysis underlay both review of the targets and update of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Protocol (approved in 2003). The results will be presented at the session.

The session was also focus on issues of access to safe drinking water of good quality, problems of rural water supply and sanitation, and associated impacts of deregulation processes.

It is worth to note the following contemporary trends observed:

- Weaker fulfilment of state functions in the sphere of water monitoring (including drinking water monitoring) and almost completely cancelled fulfilment of functions of state control/supervision in the sphere of drinking water supply and sanitation (the moratorium for regular inspections up to January 1, 2018),
- Non-compliance of Ukraine with requirements of the Protocol on establishment and/or strengthening the system of control/supervision and early prevention of water-related diseases;
- Lack of state policies on ensuring quality and safety of drinking water and sanitation, a serious and lengthy failure to address already accumulated problems in the sphere of



access to sanitation and wastewater disposal, and issues of water resources pollution in Ukraine,

- Lack of a balanced state tariff policies for protection of consumer rights and ensuring affordable water supply and sanitation services; lack of appropriate, relevant and complete information for consumers on water quality and available water sources.

All the above factors affect efficient decision-making in the sphere, accounting for global political frameworks - Sustainable Development Goals and regional commitments for European integration and implementation of EU water directives.

Topic 1. The Protocol on Water and Health

Speakers:

- Mr Oleksandr Bon, *Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources*
- Ms Anna Tsvietkova, *UNENGO "MAMA-86"*
- Mr Roman Rodyna, *State Institution "Public Health Centre of the Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine"*
- Mr Oleksandr Kravchenko, *the R&D Institute of Urban Utilities*

Topic 2. Problems of sanitation and wastewater treatment

Speakers:

- Ms Tetiana Medved, *Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities*
- Mr Volodymyr Skubchenko, *President of "Drinking Water of Ukraine" Association*
- Mr Ivan Zherlitsyn, *Chairman of "UkrVodokanalGeologia" Association*

Session four: "Water and agriculture". According to Decree # 847-r of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of September 17, 2014 (on Implementation of the Association Agreement with Ukraine, on the One Part, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the Other Part), the Ministry of Ecology and the Ministry of Agricultural Policy were authorised to implement a number of actions for implementation of the Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12.12.1991 Concerning the Protection of Waters against Pollution Caused by Nitrates from Agricultural sources as amended by Regulations 1882/2003/EC and 1137/2008/EC (referred hereinafter to as the Nitrates Directive). According to the Action Plan for Implementation of the Nitrates Directive, the Ministry of Ecology, the Ministry of Agricultural Policy, the State Water Agency and other CEBs are responsible for its implementation. In particular, there are some problems of cooperation between these CEBs and it is necessary to involve agro-businesses into the process. The session was focused on enhancement of cooperation between the CEBs for implementation of the Directive and the session participants were presented materials developed in the framework of fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Ecology and APENA project experts.

Speakers:

- Ms Anna Tsvietkova, *UNENGO "MAMA-86"*
- Ms Nataliia Osadcha, *Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute*
- Mr Olexander Bon, *Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources*



Mr Mykola Kuzio, *Deputy Minister for European Integration*, finalised and adopted of conclusions of the National Policy Dialogue:

- Mr Kuzio thanked all participant for fruitful meeting and organisations were preparing NPD meeting and asked:
- Continue work on the development of the draft documents considered for their successful approval at the level of national normative documents,
- Participants of the meeting can send their comments to the Ministry and all authors of the documents examined,
- MENR invites everyone to join the discussion of the new documents on the working groups set up under the ministry,
- International experts must support MENR in successful development of EU approaches to environment legislation and practice,
- Next NPD meeting will held in May 2018.



All participants of NPD meeting at 28 of November 2017 in Kyiv, Ukraine