



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
for Central and Eastern Europe

**Statement by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
to the Third Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE EIA Convention**

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC-CEE) is happy to contribute to the activities carried out under auspices of the UNECE EIA Convention.

Since the Second Meeting of the Parties to the EIA Convention, the REC-CEE has been pleased to organize series of informal workshops among the Central and Eastern European countries (CEE) to discuss the key issues in the negotiations on the SEA Protocol.

Further to this the REC-CEE has supported a workshop on sub-regional cooperation held in Szentendre, Hungary, in June 2003. The REC-CEE has also included training materials on the EIA Convention in the EIA Training Resource Manual developed within the framework of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe.

Following the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Parties to the EIA Convention, the REC-CEE will be pleased to support the elaboration of a Capacity Development Manual for the SEA Protocol. We would like to use this opportunity to announce our intention to organize two regional workshops to review the draft Capacity Development Manual with EU member states and South Eastern European countries already in October 2004.

In order to support implementation of the EIA Convention and its SEA Protocol in the EECCA region, the REC-CEE and EECCA RECs are ready to cooperate closely with the UNECE Secretariat, UNDP and other interested agencies on respective EIA and SEA capacity building activities. These activities will support implementation of the Environmental Strategy for EECCA¹ adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev, May 2003.

¹ Environmental Partnerships in the UNECE Region: Environmental Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia