



REC Statement at MoP-2 PRTR Protocol

3 (b) Provision of technical assistance

The REC expresses appreciation for the work done in the past 3 years under the Protocol and for the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2011-2014. As a not for profit international organization, REC has been active in supporting the Parties and Signatories of the Protocol through projects mainly in the South Eastern European region with the kind support of the German Federal Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme, and through another project funded by Finland via the ENVSEC initiative. The projects were running between 2011 and 2013 and their goal was to provide knowledge for authorities, operators and NGOs to understand their role and responsibilities in developing functioning PRTRs and understand the reporting requirements, as well as to improve the practical implementation and support ratification of the PRTR Protocol. The projects among others resulted in creating the conditions for launching the practical PRTR reporting procedure in the FYR of Macedonia. With the assistance of the German Federal Environment Agency experts, the free German BUBE reporting software for PRTR was adapted and installed, user manuals for authorities and operators were provided on the use of software and the use of reporting software was tested with a pilot facility. Public access to PRTR data was improved via the web portals developed both in the FYR of Macedonia and Serbia, integrated with the ongoing reporting process.

Capacity building was provided for operators, authorities and NGOs in form of trainings and stakeholder meetings creating a dialogue between the competent authorities and other stakeholders, discussing how the reporting process could be implemented and improved in the FYR Macedonia and Serbia, and in Albania and BiH considering the status of PRTR development and what the next steps could be in order to continue the process of setting up operational registers. Training for NGOs was provided in Albania on PRTRs and how the PRTR information could be used by the public, how the NGOs could be involved in the development of PRTRs which is also needed and would be crucial in other SEE countries as well, for the NGO community due to the technical character of PRTRs. Local language guidance materials were developed for operators in Albania, FYR of Macedonia and in Serbia. The REC is planning to continue the work supporting the Parties and Signatories in the SEE region and also in selected EECCA countries. The experiences of these projects, and especially, the adaptation and use of the free German reporting software, could be useful also for other SEE and EECCA countries which do not yet have reporting tools in place.