

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE  
TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION  
PROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

Cancels & replaces the same document of 07 October 2005

**POSSIBLE INPUTS TO THE BELGRADE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE FROM THE EAP TASK FORCE AND PPC**

**16-17 November 2005, Yerevan, Armenia**

**Agenda Item 7**

*The attached document presents reports that the EAP Task Force and PPC Secretariats have identified as possible inputs to the Belgrade Conference. The list of possible inputs is not exhaustive and delegates may identify other possible inputs emerging from the work of the EAP Task Force and PPC.*

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

*Delegates are invited:*

*(i) to discuss the possible inputs for the Belgrade Conference in the attached report*

*(ii) to agree on recommendations they may wish to make to the Working Group of Senior Officials preparing the Belgrade Conference.*

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## **POSSIBLE INPUTS TO THE BELGRADE “ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE” MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FROM THE EAP TASK FORCE AND PPC**

### **EECCA Strategy Progress Assessment Report**

Responding to a request from Ministers at the Kiev 2003 Conference, this report will assess progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA Environment Strategy. The Stocktaking report that was prepared for the Tbilisi 2004 Meeting of EECCA Environment Ministers and their partners will be used as a baseline for the assessment. The Report will focus on reviewing actions taken by EECCA countries to achieve the objectives of the Strategy and environmental policy objectives more generally. It will be prepared in a close cooperation with other international organisations and will actively involve EECCA Governments, NGOs and EECCA RECs in the preparatory process. The report will complement the EEA's 4th Assessment report which will focus on environmental trends in the pan-European region.

### **Achieving the Water related Millennium Development Goals**

One pre-requisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water supply and sanitation is a realistic and affordable financial plan identifying how resources will be mobilised to cover the costs of achieving the goals. This report will present the results achieved from the development of such strategies in EECCA countries using a methodology – FEASIBLE -developed within the EAP Task Force. It covers both rural and urban populations and takes into account affordability constraints at the level of consumers and public budgets. The report will identify some of the difficult political, environmental and social choices that EECCA countries face in order to achieve the water-related MDGs, as well as provide some indication of the order of magnitude of the associated costs.

### **Proceedings of the Yerevan Ministerial Conference on Financing Water Supply and Sanitation in EECCA Countries**

In November 2005 EECCA Ministers of Economy/Finance, Water and Environment and their partners from the OECD will meet to assess progress in reforming the water supply and sanitation sector, to discuss the challenges that are associated to the financing of water infrastructure, as well as the further measures that need to be undertaken to improve water services. This publication presents the chair's summary, as well as the key background papers that supported the Ministers' discussions. Participants at the Belgrade Conference may wish to review and provide further impetus to the policy conclusions and recommendations emerging from the Yerevan Conference, particularly in regard to achieving the water-related MDGs.

### **Trends in Water and Supply Sanitation Services**

In 2000 EECCA Ministers of Economy/Finance and Environment adopted Guiding Principles for the Reform of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in EECCA and asked the EAP Task Force to monitor their implementation. One response has involved the OECD/EAP Task Force secretariat establishing a water utility database bringing together financial and technical performance information from more than 400 utilities in 9 EECCA countries. This report will draw on this data base to assess the

current situation in the urban water supply and sanitation sector in EECCA and present latest trends. It will provide an update on the situation described at the time of the Yerevan Conference.

### **Environment Financing Trends**

This report aims to build on the analysis prepared for the 2003 Kiev and previous "Environment for Europe" ministerial conferences. These reports analysed the trends, sources and targets of environmental expenditures in EECCA countries. In addition to domestic expenditures, the report will analyse environmental finance originating in donors, IFIs and the private sector. Trends in EECCA countries will be benchmarked against those in OECD and central and eastern European countries. The potential to mobilise finance for environmental investments from new sources will be assessed. As for previous reports, information will be collected by means of questionnaires to EECCA countries, donors and IFIs.

### **Principles of Effective Environmental Permitting**

This concise policy document targets policy-makers and identifies the key features of effective and efficient permitting systems. The introduction of integrated permitting for large industry, and a corresponding scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises, will help to simplify the regulatory system, reduce administrative costs and create a better framework for compliance in EECCA and other transition countries. The report is based on the more detailed and comprehensive, "Integrated Environmental Permitting Guidelines for EECCA Countries" published in 2005. It may be considered for submission to the Belgrade Conference for endorsement. This could help to generate high-level political and institutional support for permitting reform, and facilitate international cooperation between EECCA and OECD countries in this regard.

### **Progress in Implementing the Guiding Principles for Strengthening Environmental Enforcement Agencies**

At the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial meeting in Kiev in 2003, Ministers welcomed the "Guiding Principles for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Authorities in Transition Economies and "invited the environmental enforcement authorities in these countries to implement [them] and donor countries to help them to do so". A report will be prepared to assess progress in reforming environmental enforcement authorities in EECCA region using the Principles as a reference. The performance of the enforcement systems in EECCA countries will be benchmarked against those in OECD and CEE countries. The report will highlight the achievements, present successful cases, and identify remaining challenges.

### **Proceedings from the Conference on Effectiveness and Efficiency of Environmental Policy Instruments in EECCA**

The report will synthesis the lessons learned in reforming environmental policy instruments and institutions in EECCA countries. It will draw upon the work conducted within the EAP Task Force, and other international bodies, in recent years. Issues which may be addressed in the conference and resulting report include:

- environmental quality standards and their linkages with environmental permitting;
- environmental assessment (EA) practices;
- instruments for compliance assurance and promotion,
- economic instruments for environmental protection, including pollution and product charges, damage compensation and environmental insurance systems,
- information-based instruments

The report will provide recommendations for improving the design of policy instruments when used alone or in combination to reduce environmental pollution and stimulate better management of natural resources in the transition to a market economy.

### **Report on Partnerships for the EECCA Environment Strategy**

The Report will present a review of environmental partnerships developed and implemented under the EECCA Environment Strategy. It will analyse available information on completed, ongoing and planned partnerships in the EECCA region since the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The report will also highlight the importance of the quality of partnerships and offer some methodological guidance for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of partnerships. The report will be supported by a comprehensive data base that has been established to monitor, describe and facilitate partnerships that contribute to achieving the objectives the EECCA Environment Strategy in EECCA countries.

### **PPC Report to the Sixth Ministerial Conference**

The PPC will submit a report describing its main activities, as it has for previous “Environment for Europe” ministerial conferences. If a similar structure is adopted as for the report to the Kiev conference, the report would address the PPC’s achievements since the Kiev conference and the main activities carried out, as well as the possible role of the PPC after the Belgrade conference.