

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

MAIN EAP TASK FORCE REPORTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE BELGRADE "ENVIRONMENT  
FOR EUROPE" MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Fourth joint meeting of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme  
for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP Task Force) and the Project Preparation Committee (PPC)

21-22 September 2006, Berlin

*Agenda Item 5 (ii)*

*ACTION REQUIRED: The Task Force is invited:*

- to agree that the EECCA Report be proposed as a Category I document for the Belgrade Conference and treated as a stand-alone publication with its own cover, like the EEA's 4th Assessment Report;
- to endorse the Guiding Principles of Effective Environmental Permitting Systems and to agree to consider at its next meeting which category of document it should be;
- to agree to recommend that the four other reports identified in this document be recommended as Category II documents

## MAIN EAP TASK FORCE REPORTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE BELGRADE “ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE” MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

This note aims to support a discussion of the reports that the EAP Task Force proposes to submit to the next “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in 2007. At the last joint meeting of the EAP Task Force and the PPC in November 2005, it was decided that the EAP Task Force should concentrate on producing a small number of reports that synthesise results from the main areas of work. Subsequently, the revised proposal was endorsed by the Bureau at its last meeting. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the EAP Task Force that the documents below be submitted to the Belgrade Ministerial Conference. The Bureau emphasized that the EAP Task Force’s main input to the Belgrade ministerial conference should be the assessment of EECCA countries’ progress in achieving the objectives of the EECCA environment Strategy (see below).

At this time, most of the reports are not available. Nevertheless, the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) that prepares the Ministerial Conference requested participants to identify documents that would be submitted to the Belgrade Ministerial Conference. There are different categories of documents: Category 1, for possible action by Ministers - signature, endorsement, adoption, discussion - submitted through and endorsed by the WGSO; and Category 2, background documents - informational and analytical documents of direct relevance to the Conference agenda - submitted through the WGSO. The proposed category for documents to be submitted to the Belgrade conference is indicated below in light of the Bureau’s discussion of this issue.

### **Category I**

#### ***Progress in Environmental Management in EECCA countries (EECCA 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 EECCA 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 close cooperation with other international organisations and will actively involve EECCA Governments, NGOs and EECCA RECs in the preparatory process. An outline of the report was discussed at a regional workshop in Kiev on 18-19 May, and at the June 2006 meeting of the Task Force Bureau.

The Task Force Bureau has recommended that this report should be the “flagship” document from the EAP Task Force to the Belgrade meeting. It is being prepared to complement the EEA’s 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report and to support a policy dialogue on EECCA countries performance in achieving the objectives of the EECCA environment strategy. One of its unique features is the extensive cooperation with other international organisations involved. For these reasons, the EAP Task Force may wish to endorse the recommendation of its Bureau to the WGSO that the EECCA Report be proposed as a Category I document and treated as a stand-alone publication with its own cover, in the same way as the EEA’s 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report.

#### ***Guiding Principles of Effective Environmental Permitting Systems***

This document presents key policy, procedural and institutional elements for strengthening environmental permitting systems in the EECCA region. Integrated permitting is a fundamental tool for modern environmental management. Detailed technical guidance has been developed in the form of "Integrated Environmental Permitting Guidelines for EECCA Countries" published in 2005. The purpose of the Guiding

Principles is to generate political support for reforming current, ineffective permitting systems, and facilitate international cooperation between EECCA and OECD countries in this regard. The Guiding Principles were endorsed by the members of the EECCA Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN) at their annual meeting in June 2006. At the last Bureau meeting it was agreed that the appropriate category for the “Guiding Principles for Environmental Integrated Permitting” should be determined after the agenda for the Belgrade Conference and main outcome documents for the Conference were identified. Accordingly the proposed category of this document will be discussed at the next meeting of the EAP Task Force and PPC in March 2007. In the interim, and on the recommendation of REPIN, the EAP Task Force is invited to endorse the Guiding Principles.

## **Category II**

The EAP Task Force Bureau recommended that the following documents be classified as Category II documents for the Belgrade conference:

### ***Financing Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in EECCA countries, including progress in achieving water-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)***

This report will build on the discussions at the 2005 Yerevan Meeting of Finance, Economy and Environment Ministers on financing the water supply and sanitation sector reform in EECCA countries. It will provide updated information on EECCA countries’ progress in implementing the 2000 Almaty Guiding Principles for the Reform of the Urban Water Sector. It will also assess progress in achieving the water-related MDGs, and provide a vehicle for Ministers to endorse and reinforce the policy conclusions and recommendations emerging from the Yerevan Conference. The report is expected to be finalised in spring 2007.

### ***Trends in Environmental Finance***

This report aims to build on the analysis prepared for the 2003 Kiev and previous “Environment for Europe” ministerial conferences. It will report on data collected from EECCA countries, as well as from donors, IFIs and the private sector, to compile a comprehensive picture of financial flows for environmental purposes in EECCA countries. Trends in EECCA countries will be benchmarked against those in OECD and central and eastern European countries. The report will also integrate the conclusions emerging from EAP Task Force work on the cost-effective use of financial resources and mechanisms for mobilising additional resources. The report is expected to be finalised in spring 2007.

### ***Assessment of Reform of Environmental Compliance Assurance Systems in EECCA***

This report will review actions taken by EECCA countries to reform policies, instruments and the institutional frameworks for enforcement and compliance with environmental requirements in EECCA. It will do this by assessing EECCA countries progress in implementing the Guiding Principles for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Agencies in the Transition Economies that were adopted at the Kiev Conference and the Guidelines for Introducing Integrated Environmental Permitting in EECCA. The report is expected to be finalised in spring 2007.

### ***Progress Report on Partnerships***

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. A first draft of the report will be prepared for EAP Task Force-PPC joint meeting in March 2007, and finalised by May 2007.