

# **Session 5**

## **Summary Working Group B**

# Legislation, Policies and Institutions

- Broad agreement on main messages:
  - Some progress in environmental policy development (BEL, ARM), reform of policy instruments (ARM, MOL, UKR), streamlining legislation (AZB, BEL, KYR, RUS), more importance attributed to policy implementation and law enforcement (GEO, KAZ)
  - Slow progress on integrated permitting (GEO, AZB, RUS), and on innovative instruments in some countries (BEL, UZB)
  - Barriers: weak environmental authorities, frequent reorganisations (RUS, KYR) causing lack of continuity; fragmentation of environmental authorities (RUS), poor horizontal and vertical coordination, low capacities/staff number (BEL, UZB) at the sub-national level
  - Lack of co-ordination among donors initiatives (UKR)
- Additional information requirements:
  - Number of laws/strategies that have been approved
  - Number of environmental expert reviews and rates of refused application
  - Number of environmental hearing conducted within EIA

# Information Management

- Broad agreement on main messages:
  - In general situation in EECCA on information management remains critical
  - Some progress in developing indicators, environmental statistics, web-sites, exchange of environmental data and information between relevant gov. institutions (Interagency commissions on monitoring in BEL and UKR), voluntary reporting by enterprises (RUS)
  - Less progress or (lack of progress) in identifying priorities on environmental monitoring, modernising monitoring stations (ARM by 2008), SoE reporting, improving quality of information

# Education for Sustainable Development

- Main messages:
  - Not in all EECCA countries EE and ESD is priority issue
  - Some progress in developing/introducing the legislation/programmes on EE (KAZ, BEL), educational modules on EE for middle school teachers (CAR), establishing Coordinating Committees for ESD (KYR/UZB)
  - Barriers: Lack of information and training materials (especially in national languages), weak (lack of ) co-operation between MoE and MoED
  - focus on environmental education vs education for sustainable development
- Comments on information requirements: increasing role of mass-media in environmental education; integrate results from working group on education for sustainable development

# Public Participation in Decision-Making

- Main messages:
  - Progress in improvement of understanding PP at state level - national legislations, in developing capacities of the govern. agencies/NGOs (Caucasus, BEL,UKR through the Aarhus Convention projects), regular meetings by the Minister with the public (UKR, AZ), establishment of Advisory council within the Ministry (BEL,KYR); involvement of the public in developing LEAPS (MOL, RUS, CAR and Caucasus), involving public in decision making (IWRM Basin Councils in KAZ, UZB)
  - Barriers: weak capacity environmental authorities at local level, financing of PP initiatives, decreasing number of NGO (strengthening of state control)
- Comments on information requirements: national reporting to Aarhus convention (data at 2004), data about public expertise

# Water Supply and Sanitation

- Alarming situation on water quality and resulting health and environmental impacts especially in rural areas and in the poorest EECCA countries.
- Some progress in introducing metering policies (decrease in water consumption) (ARM); improving collection of billed water charges and tariff policies. Some positive experience with performance contracts in some municipalities (RUS)
- Barriers: low tariffs (do not cover operational costs; decreasing investments in maintenance and renewal of WSS infrastructure; weak governance, especially at local level; weak financial planning (AZER, KYR) TAJK, TURK)

# Transboundary Issues

- Some progress in some EECCA country in participation in the Convention's related work.
- Slow progress in some EECCA countries in accession and ratification of the convention, implementation's mechanisms
- Barriers: lack of human resources, insufficient progress in reforming the legislation.
- Additional issues to be included: Convention on the Caspian Sea, Carpatian convention, transboundary mountain ecosystems and transboundary protected areas initiatives

# Financial resources

- Broad agreement on main messages
- Some progress in the management of public expenditure (implementation of result-oriented budgeting and medium term expenditure framework and more control over budgetary resources UKR, MOL, KAZ)
- Barriers: environment is low in governments' agenda; financial resources are available but environmental projects have failed to attract them (weak institutional capacity to mainstream environment, poor experience with using different financial instruments); unreliable information base
- Additional information requirements: Kyoto Protocol mechanisms (CDM, JI)