

EAP Task Force

Eighth Annual Meeting of the EECCA Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network

12-13 June 2006 (Tbilisi, Georgia)

REPIN(2006)14/Eng

KEY DECISIONS

The REPIN Network, which is part of the OECD/EAP Task Force, was formally established in 1999 and has operated in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) since late 2000. The Network has substantially enlarged its scope of work after the Kiev “Environment for Europe” Ministerial meeting in 2003. REPIN work has helped to revise policies and legislation, to reform environmental institutions and to upgrade the knowledge and skills of environmental officials and experts in EECCA countries. These efforts have been concentrated in three main areas: (i) strengthening environmental policy instruments; (ii) strengthening environmental compliance assurance strategies and instruments; and (iii) improving performance of environmental enforcement authorities in EECCA.

The current document presents the key decisions of the 8th REPIN Meeting.

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EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK (REPIN) : KEY DECISIONS

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network was held in Tbilisi on **12-13th June 2006**. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Georgia, and organised by the OECD/EAP Task Force Secretariat.

REPIN MEMBERS:

1. Adopted the **Summary Record of the 7th Network Meeting**, held on 17-18 October 2005 in Moscow, Russian Federation.
2. Endorsed the **Guiding Principles of Effective Environmental Permitting Systems and recommended to submit the Guiding Principles, via the EAP Task Force, for approval by EECCA Environment Ministers at the “Environment for Europe” conference in Belgrade in 2007**. This document constitutes the policy-level output of a five year process of intergovernmental dialogue and institutional development. It seeks to generate high-level political support for permitting reform in individual countries and facilitate international cooperation in this field. The participants agreed to provide final editorial comments by 25 June and asked the Secretariat to forward the Guiding Principles to the Task Force members for review prior to their meeting in Berlin (21-22 September 2006).
3. Took note of **progress with the Work Programme implementation**.
4. Agreed to refine the **Environmental Policy Implementation Rating** and will provide comments on individual criteria by 10 July 2006. Based on these criteria, the REPIN members will conduct self-assessments by the end of October 2006 (a possible extension of the deadline should be discussed with EECCA Strategy Team).
5. Endorsed the outline and the schedule of development of a **regional report on trends in modernising environmental regulation and compliance assurance in EECCA** that is intended as Category II document for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference. The participants identified a number of key messages to be spelled out in this report.
6. Re-iterated their support for the development of the **Guidelines on Performance Measurement for Environmental Enforcement Authorities of EECCA**. The participants proposed to identify a core set of indicators and brainstormed on possible input, output, and intermediary outcome indicators. Comments on the draft Guidelines will be provided by 15 August 2006.
7. Strongly supported the idea and the preliminary list of issues for a **High-Level Environmental Policy Event** to be held in 2007. This event is aiming at the identification of priorities on the emerging agenda of policy planning and implementation in EECCA.
8. Took note of information regarding latest developments in partner networks, including ECENA, IMPEL, and Interpol, as well as of EuropeAid assistance to the Caucasus and elements of a Tacis water governance project for selected EECCA countries.
9. Took note of the recommendations of the **Environment Chapter of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises** and the mechanism of their implementation.