

Environment and Security initiative

BELARUS • MOLDOVA • UKRAINE



ENVSEC EASTERN EUROPE NEWS & OUTLOOK

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the July 2007 summary of events, activities, progress and plans under the inter-agency Environment and Security initiative. The secretariat will attempt to regularly (roughly on the quarterly basis) send out such information, complementing the overall progress reports, ENVSEC websites and direct briefings through meetings.

This summary covers two months passed since the launch of the ENVSEC assessment and work programme for Eastern Europe at OSCE's 15th Economic and Environmental forum in Prague, and an outlook throughout summer to autumn 2007.

Launch in Prague 21 May

The launch of ENVSEC assessment report and work programme in a plenary session of the OSCE's 15th Economic and Environmental Forum was well attended. Country delegations were headed by high-level officials including Minister of the Environment of Moldova H.E. Constantin Michalesku and Deputy Chair of the State Water Committee of Ukraine H.E. Mykola Babich. The Secretariat of the Ukrainian Council for National Security and Defence was also represented. In their statements the three countries supported the process and expressed expectations of seeing the work continued, now through specific project activities. Dniester cooperation was featured as one example of ongoing work. The presentation of the work programme raised interest i.a. with the US and the EU delegations. Some 300 copies of the assessment report were distributed at the Forum, further copies are being disseminated via partner agencies (the report is available online at <http://www.envsec.org/easteur/>). ENVSEC / UNEP and OSCE press-releases and an interview of OSCE's Economic and Environmental Affairs Coordinator Bernard Snoy with AFP generated considerable media coverage via French- and English-language news agencies as well as in Belarus, Moldovan and Ukrainian mass media. Materials of the launch are available at http://www.osce.org/conferences/eef_2007_2.html?page=documents&session_id=94.

Work programme

An up-to-date regional work programme as presented in Prague is available at <http://www.envsec.org/easteur/>. The table at the end of this document summarises the latest developments with respect to individual projects, as consultations progress between respective ENVSEC agencies and governmental and other counterparts on both the donor and the recipient sides.

Russian version of the assessment

The Russian-language translation of the assessment report is currently under preparation and will be available in September. We will appreciate indications of how many copies would be required by our partners in the countries.

Country presentations

In order to convey information to various agencies and institutions in the countries about main findings of the assessment and future plans of the initiative in the region, ENVSEC intends to organise half-a-day country presentations in the three capitals. ENVSEC presentation in Chisinau took place on June 19, co-organised by the Ministry of Environment and the OSCE office in Chisinau and attended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of the Environmental Commission of the Parliament, and various ministries, agencies and organisations (including academia, NGOs and mass-media) who participated in the assessment process or take an interest in the environment and security matters. Country presentations in Minsk and Kyiv are tentatively scheduled for September 2007.

Meetings with country delegations / permanent missions

On 29 May – 1 June working meetings were held with ENVSEC's environmental focal points of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine attending the Working Group of Senior Officials under the Environment for Europe process in Geneva. The progress of work and future plans under ENVSEC Eastern Europe was shortly presented at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee in Vienna on 12 June. In Geneva on 11 July, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN H.E. Ambassador Yevhen Versheda met UNEP's Director and Regional Representative for Europe Jean Christophe Bouvier; this meeting is to be followed by a technical briefing for the Permanent Mission on selected ENVSEC activities. The mission has also proposed to facilitate later this year a meeting with Geneva-based missions of other countries involved in ENVSEC cooperation.

Environmental diplomacy course

We are happy to welcome in Geneva a number of ENVSEC counterparts who will attend intensive course in 'Environmental Diplomacy' organised by UNEP and the University of Geneva on 26 July – 9 August. This year the course accommodates some of ENVSEC focal points from Belarus and Moldova, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine whose participation was facilitated by ENVSEC in cooperation with the Canadian-Ukrainian cooperative project PROGINT that provided the funding. Information about the course can be found at <http://www.unige.ch/formcont/environmentaldiplomacy>.

Belgrade conference

The Environment for Europe conference in Belgrade on 10-12 October is an important milestone in pan-European environmental cooperation. ENVSEC will be present there both in a plenary discussion as an international partnership, and through a series of side events in the exhibition area. We look forward to representatives of ENVSEC partner organisations, national focal points and high-ranking country officials taking parts in these discussions. A forthcoming meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials and a drafting group for the Belgrade ministerial declaration on 29-31 August may be a good opportunity to discuss details with ENVSEC focal points attending these meetings.

Advisory board meeting

ENVSEC Advisory Board meeting will take place in Geneva on 6 November. Although this year it is not possible to support the attendance of focal points / representatives from all ENVSEC recipient countries, the secretariat plans to do so for selected regions including Eastern Europe. In this connection we intend to organise near Geneva on 4 November a one-day working meeting among national focal points from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, ENVSEC agencies and other interested organisations. The meeting will review the

progress of work and further plans in the region. We would appreciate if you mark these dates in your calendar and confirm your interest and ability to participate.

National focal points

Reliable communication between the ENVSEC secretariat and our counterparts in the countries to a large extent depends upon a functional network of national focal points. Some of the initially nominated focal points (e.g. within the Ministry of the Environment of Belarus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine) have changed jobs since the start of the initiative. The secretariat will thus be grateful to agencies where such changes have occurred or are expected to happen for formally confirming / nominating replacements in charge of liaison with ENVSEC.

ANNEXES

Status of ENVSEC projects in Eastern Europe as of July 2007

Project	Lead organisations*	Lead countries**	Status
Transboundary cooperation and sustainable management in the Dniester river basin	UNECE OSCE	MD, UA	Concluding meeting of the Dniester project 2 nd phase took place in Chisinau on 13 June. Agreeing on the follow-up programme of work and negotiating external support for its implementation.
Real-time monitoring and decision support systems for international rivers: the Dniester and Prut rivers	NATO	MD	On-going, preparing to return to full operation the 4 installed stations for automated monitoring of water quality
Cross-border assessment and management plan for the Drysviaty / Druksiai lake basin	UNEP	BY, LT	Negotiating full external support for implementation, discussions with countries' environmental authorities
Cooperative flow and flood management in the upper Pripyat / Dnieper - Bug canal basin	UNEP OSCE	BY, UA	Tri-lateral (with Poland) expert meeting to be held provisionally in September 07 at the Ukrainian State Water Committee, to discuss options for cooperation and joint action.
Joint research related to activities with transboundary impact in the Danube delta	UNECE	UA, MD, RO	Conceptualisation
Mitigating risks from stocks of obsolete pesticides in transboundary basins and near-border areas	NATO	MD, BY	Activities in Moldova on-going; in Belarus planned with the Academy of Science and the Ministry of the Environment
Development of capacities for application of the Espoo Convention	UNECE	BY	Discussed with the Belarus ministry of the Environment, in the planning stage
Mapping and analysis of distribution and flows of radionuclides around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	NATO	BY	Planned with the Ministry of Emergencies and the Academy of Science
Strengthening capacities to assess and prevent risks from hazardous activities	UNECE	MD	A workshop in Moldova with participation from neighbouring countries; preliminary planning with the Ministry of the Environment / Hydromet
Assessing environmental implications of energy development policies and trends	UNDP UNEP	BY, MD, UA	National components can be started once there are agreements with national energy authorities; regional analysis / literature review ongoing
Training, awareness raising and institutional support to address environmental effects of defence activities	OSCE	UA	Pending available funding; preliminary discussions with the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence.
Disposal of stocks of rocket fuel toxic component (mélange)	OSCE	UA	Memorandum of Understanding between OSCE and Ukraine soon ready for signing. Fund-raising

			ongoing.
Needs assessment, technical, institutional and legal strengthening of environmental cooperation in Transnistria	OSCE	MD	Conceptualisation
Environmental assessment of development planning and environment-security monitoring in Crimea	UNDP UNEP	UA	Environment assessment component is being added to UNDP's support programme for the Crimean regional administration. Scoping / conceptualisation of the monitoring component.
Assessment and capacity-building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Soligorsk regions	UNEP	BY, UA	Builds on on-going cooperation in environmental information and reporting with Donetsk regional administration. Discussion of possible mining-related activities planned in August 07. Negotiating full external support.
Public participation and exchange of information on hydropower development on the Neman and Zap. Dvina rivers	UNEP	BY	Conceptualisation
Prevention of illegal cross-border transport of hazardous waste: training of border and environmental authorities	OSCE	UA	Negotiating full external support
Development of Moldovan national environmental security programme	UNEP	MD	On-going with the Ministry of the Environment
Awareness, public participation and education on environment and security risks and linkages	UNEP All	BY, MD, UA	Conceptualisation. Media activities around the Prague launch and country presentations. Facilitating attendance by country representatives of environmental diplomacy training.

* for ease of reference and seeking further information, only one or two organisations per project are shown in this column. For a full list of ENVSEC partner organisations involved in particular activities please see the Work programme.

** similarly, only countries directly leading projects activities on the organisational level (i.e. where the activities are taking place) are shown. For a listing of all countries expected to participate / benefit from the project activities please refer to the Work programme.

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