

**Fourth HELCOM PITF Regional Workshop  
Kaliningrad, Russia  
23 - 24 April 2001**

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. In the light of recent developments HELCOM PITF is reconsidering its focus on activities and has established a Preparatory Group to highlight relevant issues to be taken into account.

PITF has encouraged the Preparatory Group to continue arranging Regional Workshops in collaboration with governments and representatives from the local, regional and national level.

2. At the invitation of Russia the Fourth PITF Regional Workshop was held in Kaliningrad on 23-24 April 2001. The Agenda of the Workshop as well as the List of Participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

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3. The Workshop was opened by Mr. Yuri Tsybin, Chairman of the Committee of Natural Resources for the Kaliningrad Region, and welcomed by Mr. Tadej Mazepa, Vice-Governor of the Kaliningrad Region Administration.
4. The Meeting elected Mr. Göte Svenson, Chairman of the HELCOM PITF, as Chairman and Mr. Dimitri Zimin, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation, and Mr. Yuri Tsybin, Chairman of the Committee of Natural Resources for the Kaliningrad Region, as Co-Chairmen of the Meeting.
5. The Meeting set up a Drafting Group for formulating the Draft Conclusions of the Workshop to be agreed upon at the end of the Workshop. The Group was composed of Mr. Nikolai Krouglikov, Russia, and Mr. Ulrich Kremser, Helsinki Commission, the latter one being the Rapporteur.
6. The Meeting was addressed by key-note speakers from Russia/Kaliningrad Region (Mr. Vladimir Litvinenko) and from the International Financial Institutions (Mr. Inesis Kiskis, the World Bank).
7. Mr. Vladimir Litvinenko, Russia/Kaliningrad Region, described the environmental situation in the Region and drew attention to water-related issues in connection to mainly point-source pollution. However, one of the newly-emerging problems is related to increased transportation and proper handling of solid waste in the City of Kaliningrad and in the Region. It was stressed that despite of the progress in reducing emissions and discharges a lot of environmental problems still remain unsolved. Russia and the authorities in the Kaliningrad Region make increased efforts to implement the HELCOM Recommendations.

8. Mr. Inesis Kiskis, the World Bank, who represented the IFIs being Members of PITF, reported on the approach of IFIs for financing environmental projects in the Baltic Sea Region. He in particular addressed
- the special features of the Banks involved;
  - the terms of loans;
  - government priorities;
  - main principles for financing environmental projects.

Based on the experience gained the difficulties are

- original agreements to be honoured;
- immediate compliance with environmental effluent standards is unrealistic, phased implementation is therefore necessary;
- to be realistic in assessing the required capacity of wastewater treatment plants and landfills;
- timely provision of counterpart funding.

9. The Workshop took note of the information given on the assessment of the nine Hot Spots located in the Kaliningrad Region.

By site type the nine Hot Spots in Kaliningrad Region belong to:

- municipal and industrial wastewater treatment (1 Hot Spot No. 67 ),
- industry (4 Hot Spots; Nos 49, 50, 69, 61),
- hazardous waste (1 Hot Spot, No. 70),
- agriculture (1 Hot Spot, No. 72), and
- coastal lagoons and wetlands (2 Hot Spots; Nos 66, 73).

The existing legal and institutional framework is considered as an adequate pre-condition for proper dealing with the Hot Spots.

*Hot Spots related to urban wastewater treatment plants and industrial emissions and discharges*

Progress has been made as regards municipal and urban wastewater treatment and reduction of industrial emissions and discharges.

Main obstacles which hinder further upgrading and reconstruction are connected with lacking investment and high costs for updating technology.

The project for upgrading the Kaliningrad Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to address the city's needs and to meet environmental standards is under implementation. The investments are provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Nordic Investment Bank, Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation bilateral donors of Denmark and Sweden, as well as national and local grants. The WWTP is expected to be in use in 2005, but it will increase the tariff burden of the inhabitants. However, a large grant component provided for this particular project shall smooth the tariff increase.

The three pulp and paper mills ( Hot Spot Nos 49, 50 and 69) are partly reconstructed and thus reduced the pollution load into the environment. To make them environmentally friendly calls for further investments, which seem to be difficult to negotiate. To facilitate investments, in particular by external funding, it is necessary to meet the HELCOM Recommendations and to arrive at environmental technologies corresponding to those applied within the European Union, at least in the northwestern Russia.

A list of actions defined towards deletion of Hot Spots will be prepared later and put into a Thematic Report.

#### *Agricultural Hot Spots*

Agriculture still remains a main polluter of the Baltic Sea. Large parts of the territory of the Kaliningrad Region are drained and the rivers transport huge amounts of nutrients into the Curonian and Vistula Lagoons. An integrated approach shall be applied to the management of drainage systems and wetlands both for the Nemunas and Pregol river basins in order to secure sufficient buffering of nutrients and nature conservation.

A closer participation within the HELCOM Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) could help to promote the implementation of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention and of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice.

#### *Coastal Lagoons*

The Curonian Lagoon and the Vistula Lagoon receive most of the pollution from agricultural sources and through insufficient wastewater treatment, which threaten the biodiversity and nature preservation targets of the area.

For dealing with social, economic, and environmental aspects within the areas Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans have been developed and bodies have been established for elaborating action programmes.

The existing Integrated Management Plans shall be updated taking into account basic principles of the EU Water Framework Directive. Further on the Directive will probably have a big influence on the implementation of the action plans.

10. The Workshop reflected some progress in Russia/Kaliningrad Region within the framework of PITF. However, a number of environmental problems need to be further addressed.
11. The Workshop expressed the wish that Russia/Kaliningrad Region in cooperation with the Secretariat should compile an assessment of the Hot Spots of the Region as well as of the findings in a Thematic Report.

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**AGENDA FOR THE WORKSHOP**

1. Welcome
2. Election of Chairman
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Address by key-note speakers
5. Stock taking
6. Problem analysis
7. Identification of necessary actions and actors
8. Proposals including timetable for actions
9. Reporting and conclusions



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