

**Fifth HELCOM PITF Regional Workshop**  
**St. Petersburg, Russia**  
**13-14 June 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 and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

2. At the invitation of the Russian Federation the Fifth PITF Regional Workshop was held in St. Petersburg on 13-14 June 2001. The Agenda of the Workshop as well as the List of Participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.  
.1-2
3. The Workshop was opened by Mr. Dimitri Zimin, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, and welcomed by Mr. Alexey Frolov, Department of Natural Resources of the North-Western Region and Mr. Anatolij Baev, Department on Protection of the Environment of St. Petersburg Administration.
4. The Meeting elected Mr. Göte Svenson, Chairman of HELCOM PITF, as Chairman and Mr. Dimitri Zimin and Mr. Alexey Frolov 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 Meeting. The Group was composed of Mr. Leonid Korovin and Ms. Galina Tsvetkova from Russia and Mr. Ulrich Kremser from the Secretariat of the Helsinki Commission, who also acted as the Rapporteur.
6. The Meeting was addressed by key-note speakers from Russia/Leningrad Region (Mr. Alexey Frolov) and from the International Financial Institutions (Mr. Jaakko Henttonen, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD).
7. Mr. Alexey Frolov, Russia/Leningrad Region, described the environmental situation in the Region in the context of natural water courses and lakes as well as of the needs of the city of St. Petersburg. Most pressing problems are concentrated to water supply and municipal wastewater treatment, the emissions and discharges from the pulp and paper mill "Syasstroj" and "Volkhov Aluminium" as well as to the hazardous waste disposal "Krasny Bor Landfill". In general the environmental situation has been improving since 1992 but a lot remains to be done. With the improvement of the Russian economy an accelerated implementation of the JCP and deletion of the Hot Spots in the Leningrad Region can be expected.
8. Mr. Jaakko Henttonen, Principal Banker from EBRD, representing the IFIs and being Vice-Chairman of HELCOM PITF, highlighted some of the main trends related to Russian economy in general and to needs in investments in infrastructure in particular. The EBRD level of activity will be increased to 1.0 billion Euros in Russia (about 30% of the annual commitment of the EBRD) in the nearest years, which illustrates a stable partnership with Russia.

The low level of investments in municipal infrastructure as well as in industry is a reflection of an unsatisfactory status of related regulatory framework. Reforms in sector are urgently required to promote the principle of full cost-recovery as the basis for economy of municipal enterprises. This will include realistic tariffs as well as application of sound budgeting practices. President Putin's attention for the reform is a welcomed development.

"Vodokanal St. Petersburg" has been a solid partner for the EBRD with donor support from countries, i.e., Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany and France, in developing its technical and financial programme. It has been proved that their sound economy will form a solid base for future investments.

The most important present investment at Vodokanal is the SW wastewater treatment plant, which will by and large solve the problems with wastewater related Hot Spots of St. Petersburg. For that purpose a significant international partnership has been formed with the participation of EBRD, NIB, NEFCO, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, European Community and, ultimately, the EIB with its first involvement in Russia.

Solutions to the JCP Hot Spots as well as other key environmental issues in Russia require national reforms to benefit from the available investment funding by the IFIs and private investors. Donor funding has been crucial to enhance the project preparation and institutional management development. The Northern Dimension Environment partnership will pave way for a coordinated co-operation to meet the HELCOM goals within its comprehensive programme.

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

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

- municipal and industrial wastewater treatment (4 Hot Spots; Nos 18, 19, 20, 21),
- industry (3 Hot Spots; Nos 14, 15, 22),
- hazardous waste (1 Hot Spot, No. 23), and
- agriculture (1 Hot Spot, No. 24).

10. The Meeting noted with appreciation that the well-prepared documentation was elaborated in both English and Russian languages giving a solid basis for the discussion.

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

Progress has been made as regards municipal and urban water supply and wastewater treatment under the responsibility of "Vodokanal St. Petersburg" from 1992 until the year 2000. General improvement of the situation can be stated (Hot Spot Nos 18, 19, 20 and 21). It concerns the construction of a sewer connection, treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater as well as phosphorus removal. Russia has applied for the deletion of Hot Spot No. 21 from the list and the matter is still under consideration within HELCOM. Timetables for the remaining three Hot Spots on how to proceed towards deletion are elaborated. The needed investments seem to be secured/allocated.

Due to the efforts taken (within the 18 largest plants out of ca. 200) the discharges of heavy metals from metal plating industry (Hot Spot No. 22) have been reduced significantly. Implementation of several new technologies under LIFE projects with the participation of partners from the Baltic region to a major extent helped in solving the problems of reducing pollution from metal plating production. Some plants were closed down and the reduction of pollution load is mainly dedicated to decreased production by

economic depression and to a lesser degree to technical improvements. The reduced discharge figures seem to meet the HELCOM Recommendation's requirements.

The "Krasny Bor Landfill", Hot Spot No.23, is processing and depositing toxic industrial waste since 30 years using mainly outdated technology. Since 1992 some improvements have been made but there is an urgent need for a new plant. The number of pits is reduced from ten to six but the territory of the landfill is fully used, which is regarded as a potential threat to the environment and to the water supply of St. Petersburg. Additionally the handling of toxic waste in the Leningrad Region is considered to be inadequate. Several programmes and constructions aimed at improving the management of toxic industrial waste are expected to result in conditions allowing an application for the deletion of the Hot Spot from the list in 2003/2004. The recent financing agreement of April 2001 between the City of St. Petersburg, EBRD, NEFCO and Scandinavian donors will enhance reaching the set target.

The "Volkhov Aluminium Plant", Hot Spot No. 15, produces raw aluminium, polyphosphates, etc. and generates thermal energy. In parallel to the production process in 1992 huge amounts of harmful substances were released. Despite the efforts to reduce emissions and discharges the plant is still considered as a big polluter. The problems are mainly concentrated to the lack of wastewater treatment, outdated equipment, as well as too insufficient operation of electronic filters. Resolving the remaining problems needs financing, which might be difficult to render. The best case scenario foresees the implementation of plans for resolving the problems by 2006/2007.

The "Syastroi Pulp and Paper Mill", Hot Spot No.14, is equipped with old and outdated technology. Despite the efforts to reduce pollution significant results have been achieved only regarding emissions into the air. There are plans to modernize different parts of the factory, which seems to be very costly. To get appropriate funding from the Federal Government, banks, and donors is considered as most important but at the same time difficult.

## **12. Agricultural Hot Spots**

Five of six pig farms (Hot Spot No.24) were closed down due to economic changes in Russia during the past decade. For the time being only one pig-breeding farm with 51,000 pigs is operating. HELCOM PITF will be informed about the state of the closed-down farms. A timetable with actions towards deletion of the last remaining farm from the list of Hot Spots will be elaborated.

## **13. Final evaluation**

The Workshop reflected progress in Russia/Leningrad Region within the framework of PITF. The start has been somewhat slow, but the results achieved are encouraging. This includes a change of attitude of the responsible actors with regard to integrating environmental aspects into their decision-making. Preparing the region for international economic competition facilitates introducing environmental aspects. The Meeting stated the importance of reducing the pollution load from the Leningrad Region to the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea and stressed the importance of close co-operation of St. Petersburg Administration, Leningrad Region Government and Regional Coordination Council regarding accelerated implementation of the JCP and other HELCOM provisions/commitments.

The Workshop expressed the wish that Russia/Leningrad Regional authorities concerned, in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat and the PG 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 Chairmen
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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St. Petersburg, Russia, 13-14 June 2001**

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