

**Ninth HELCOM PITF Regional Workshop
Lvov, Ukraine
18-19 June 2002**

CONCLUSIONS

Introduction

1. The Preparatory Group has been arranging Regional Workshops in most of the Baltic Sea countries during the last two years. A preliminary evaluation of the Workshops has been prepared and the conclusions and positive experiences have been reported to PITF.

PITF has encouraged the Preparatory Group (PG) to continue arranging Workshops in collaboration with governments and representatives from the local, regional and national level and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The aim is to finalise the round of Regional Workshops before 1 September 2002.

2. At the invitation of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine the Ninth PITF Regional Workshop was held in Lvov, Ukraine, on 18-19 June 2002. Also representatives of Belarus and the Czech Republic were invited to the Workshop. The meeting was organised by the State Administration of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Oblast.
3. In accordance with the discussions at the HELCOM PITF 18/2001 meeting the Workshop was a joint workshop, where the Ukrainian Hot Spot together with the Belarusian and the Czech Hot Spots were considered. The Agenda of the Workshop as well as the List of Participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.
4. The Workshop was opened by Mr. Bogdan Presner, Head of the State Administration of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Oblast. Mr. Presner welcomed the participants and introduced the Ukrainian participants. Mr. Presner found that the Workshop offered a good opportunity to exchange information and for strengthening the cooperation with PITF and HELCOM.
5. Mr. Göte Svenson, Chairman of HELCOM PITF and Ms. Ulla-Britta Fallenius, Chairman of the Preparatory Group (PG) introduced the work of PITF and the series of regional workshops arranged by the Group. So far 34 Hot Spots have been deleted from the List of Hot Spots. The members of the PG were introduced. Mr. Karl-Johan Lehtinen from NEFCO represented the six International Financing Institutions (IFIs) participating in the work of PITF.
6. The Meeting elected Mr. Göte Svenson, Chairman of HELCOM PITF, as Chairman and Mr. Bogdan Presner/Mr. Ivan Zajats as Vice-chairmen of the Workshop.
7. Mr. Claus Hagebro from the Secretariat of the Helsinki Commission was elected as the Rapporteur to prepare the draft Conclusions of the Workshop to be agreed upon at the end of the Meeting.

8. In total four Hot Spots (one Ukrainian and three Belarusian) were discussed at the Workshop. In addition Mr. Hagebro gave a brief overview of the three Hot Spots in the Czech Republic (Nos 109-111).
9. The history, the problems, and the recent development and implementation of environmental measures were described for each Hot Spot. Planned projects and investments were presented.
10. Hot Spot presentations

UKRAINE

Hot Spot No. 94: Lvov (Municipal & Industrial)

Mr. Aleksij Shvets and Mr. Volodymyr Symashchuk (State Administration of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Oblast) gave a comprehensive presentation of the Hot Spot. The City is placed just on the Baltic Sea/Black Sea divide. There is one wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 490,000 m³/day and 95% of the city population is connected to the plant. The treatment plant provides mechanical and biological treatment. There are two outlets and in addition to these the Poltva river is monitored 500 meters downstream. Some monitoring parameters and data were provided. The sewerage system is not complete and some wastewater is without treatment.

Mr. Lev Hipp (MKP Lvivvodokanal) presented a project for the renovation of the wastewater treatment plant. The project is estimated to 40 mio USD and will be supported by World Bank credits (20 mio USD) and Swedish grants (6 mio USD). The city of Lvov and Vodokanal will bring 10.5 mio USD, which means that 3.5 mio USD is still missing. The project has been approved by the Ukrainian Government and the agreements with the WB and Sweden will be concluded by September.

The project will last two years and implement Swedish standards. It encompasses primary and secondary settling tanks, and an aeration system and a drying system for sludge. Also some automated monitoring will be implemented.

The sewerage system in Lvov is in bad condition and needs renovation. Due to many leakages not all wastewater is treated and the groundwater may become polluted. Renovation of the sewerage system is estimated to 240 mio USD. The city's water supply is based on groundwater of high quality and is conducted to the city from sources 20-110 km outside the city.

There is some industry discharging to the sewerage system. It is mostly food industry, light industry and construction industry. Some industries are not active for the moment. There are some metal problems (mainly Fe and Cu).

It will take some years before the deletion of Lvov as a Hot spot can be considered.

BELARUS

Mr. Aliaksandr Pakhomau from Belarus (Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources) presented the status of the three Belarusian Hot Spots.

Hot Spot No. 47: Daugava River Basin

First of all the Workshop agreed to name the Hot Spot "Vitebsk" (Municipal & Industrial). The Hot Spot consist of one major discharge point plus a number of minor points. The main problem is the Vitebsk wastewater treatment plant. The treatment

plant has a capacity of approximately 90,000 m³/day but receives about 100-120,000 m³ daily. The city has a very high water consumption (about 300 l/person per day). The plant is overloaded and in particular the secondary settling tanks are too small. There is some industry (construction, metal, leather and food industries) connected to the plant.

A project is planned for reconstruction of the plant and including construction of secondary clarifiers. The costs are estimated to about 7-8 mio Euro. The project is being discussed with the World Bank.

Water pricing was discussed. The price is 0.02 USD/m³ (about 1 USD/m³ in other parts of Europe). The population covers about 40% of the municipal costs in this way but it is planned to increase the price by 60% next year. Swedish and Danish experience was presented, and it was concluded that proper water pricing is important in providing money for investment and operation/maintenance and at the same time reducing the water consumption and thereby the necessary capacity of treatment plants. The social impact of water pricing must be taken into account and compensated in certain cases.

Hot Spot No. 61: Grodno (Municipal & Industrial)

The city of Grodno represents an industrial centre in the area. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is approximately 92,300 m³/day but the load is about 107 - 118,000 m³/day resulting in 20-30% overload. The city has a very high water consumption (about 350 l/person per day). A project for constructing a new treatment plant with a total capacity of 167,000 m³/day for the price of 75 mio USD has been outlined. The aim is to solve the problems by 2010.

Hot Spot No. 93: Brest (Municipal & Industrial)

The city of Brest with 286,000 inhabitants discharges to Bug river and thereby to the Vistula. This treatment plant is not overloaded, but it is completely run down as there has been no maintenance of the plant over the years. The operating conditions were described in the documentation provided for the Workshop. There are some industries in the area and some of them have their own treatment plants. Information about all of these industries cannot be obtained.

Sludge is a major and urgent problem. The sludge management in the plant is very bad and there is a carry-over to the outlet. Sludge is not removed from the plant because there is no place to dispose it. About 300,000 m³ is in storage but the dams may break during heavy rain causing a pollution disaster. Denmark and Poland have provided a grant (350.000 Euro) for technical assistance to solve the problem. The plan is to install a sludge filter press, but there is some delay.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Unfortunately there were no representatives from the Czech Republic present and no updated information available about the Hot Spots in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic had informed that the Odra River Commission might provide information about the Odra river basin, but contacts had not resulted in any response.

Mr. Claus Hagebro, HELCOM, gave a brief overview of the three Hot Spots in the Czech Republic based on the Pre-feasibility study from 1991. Regarding Hot Spot No. 111, which is shared with Poland, the Workshop decided that the Czech Republic should be informed about the latest developments. It is the position that the salt discharges from mines have no impact on the Baltic Sea, and consequently the Hot Spot has been deleted from the Polish side. The Czech Republic should be invited to propose deletion of this Hot Spot. A meeting about Hot Spots 109 and 110 should be proposed or at least updated information about these Hot Spots should be requested.

11. Presentation by an IFI

Mr. Karl-Johan Lehtinen from the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) informed about the activities of NEFCO, which is ten years old. The main criteria for involvement are 1) a Nordic partner, 2) applied positive unit abatement cost principle (more environmental protection for the money invested in a project than if invested in the Nordic countries). The administrative paper work sounds complicated but can be made faster under certain circumstances. More information on the internet: www.nefco.fi

12. Final discussion

There was a lengthy and fruitful discussion. The Chairman encouraged Ukraine and Belarus to continue the promotion of environmental protection and if possible to accelerate the implementation of the plans.

On the question on how the HELCOM PITF can support the countries it was agreed to keep the State Administration of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Oblast directly informed about PITF activities in addition to the official contact in Kiev.

A new major polluting problem near the Ukrainian/Polish border was described. A small residential area (15,000 inhabitants) discharges untreated wastewater to a small river going to Vistula and Poland (20 km away). In addition an open sulphur mine discharges 100,000 m³ of polluted water per day (sulphur and salts). The mine is going to be closed but there is a problem with the mine water, which may also contain heavy metals. It was commented that sulphur is no problem for the Baltic Sea but heavy metals may pose a problem. It was concluded that the State Administration in Lvov may collect further information and consider together with the Ministry in Kiev if a request should be directed to HELCOM PITF regarding establishment of a new Hot Spot.

The Belarusian representative informed that Belarus might sign the Helsinki Convention during the next year. This information was welcomed by the Chairman.

The problem with obsolete pesticides and storage of these was discussed. This issue may give rise to new serious polluting problems in many countries. A representative of the State Administration of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Oblast informed about the problems with old pesticides. In Lvov Oblast there are 620 t old pesticides of which 120 t are stored in 195 containers. This is a temporary solution and not environmentally safe in the long term. More information about the problem with old pesticides will be send to the HELCOM Secretariat. The HELCOM Project Group on Hazardous Substances deals with the problem, and a Danish project report on how to destroy old pesticides in an environmentally safe way is expected this year. The HELCOM Secretariat will send available information to the State Administration.

The PG Chairman concluded that this Workshop once more underlined the importance of considering water supply, sewerage system, and wastewater treatment as an integrated system and that water pricing is important for municipal water management.

The Workshop expressed the wish that the Ukraine and Belarus, in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat and the PG, should compile a Thematic Report with an assessment of the Hot Spots as well as a presentation of the findings at the Workshop.

The Chairman thanked the State Administration of Ecology and Natural Resources in Lviv Oblast for organising and hosting this successful Workshop. It is the first time that there as been a HELCOM meeting in the Ukraine and it may indicate a future strengthened mutual cooperation.

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Agenda and Timetable

Tuesday, 18 June 2002

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| 0900 – 0930 | Registration of the Participants |
| 0930 – 1100 | Welcome by Representative of the Organizer |
| | Opening of the Workshop |
| | <u>Agenda Item 1</u>
<i>Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur</i> |
| | <u>Agenda Item 2</u>
<i>Adoption of the Agenda</i> |
| | <u>Agenda Item 3</u>
<i>Presentation of Hot Spots</i> |
| | - Hot Spot No. 94, Lvov (Municipal & Industrial) |
| | - Discussion |
| 1100 – 1130 | Coffee break |
| 1130 – 1300 | - Hot Spot No. 47 (Daugava River Basin), Belarus |
| | - Hot Spot No.61, Grodno (Municipal & Industrial), Belarus |
| | - Hot Spot No. 93, Brest (Municipal & Industrial), Belarus |
| | - Discussion |
| 1300 – 1430 | Lunch break |
| 1430 – 1600 | Consideration of Czech Hot Spots (Nos 109, 110 and 111) |
| | <u>Agenda Item 4</u>
<i>Problem analysis and identification of necessary actions</i> |
| 1600 – 1630 | Coffee break |
| 1630 – 1730 | Wrap-up discussion |
| 2000 – 2200 | Reception |

Wednesday, 19 June 2002

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| 0900 - 1000 | <u>Agenda Item 5</u>
<i>Adoption of Conclusions</i> |
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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