Minutes of the meeting
with representatives from the Czech authorities
Prague, Czech Republic
30 October 2002

Introduction

The Preparatory Group under the Programme Implementation Task Force (PITF) has been arranging Regional Workshops to cover all the Baltic Sea countries during the last two years. A preliminary midterm evaluation of the Workshops was prepared in 2001 and the conclusions and positive experiences have been reported to PITF.

The Meeting was convened at the invitation of the Czech Ministry of Environment with the purpose of discussing the status of the Czech Hot Spots under the Joint Comprehensive Programme (JCP). The List of Participants is enclosed in Annex 1.

Cooperation on the JCP

Mr. Kinkor, President of the International Commission for Protection of the Oder River against Pollution (ICPOR), stressed that the Czech Republic is not directly involved in the HELCOM work but that the Czech Republic will participate and contribute to the JCP implementation through the ICPOR.

It was agreed that letters regarding the cooperation should be exchanged through the ICPOR. Furthermore, it was agreed that HELCOM could be invited to the next meeting of the ICPOR and that Mr. Kinkor as the President could be invited for the next meeting of the Programme Implementation Task Force (PITF) in Stockholm on 18-19 November 2002.

Discussion of the Czech JCP Hot Spots

The following three Hot Spots were discussed:

Hot Spot No.	*Location*	*Site name*	*Site type*
109	Oder	Ostrava	Municipal & Industrial
110	Oder	Ostrava Area	Industry (Chemical, Pulp & Paper etc.)
111	Oder	Upper Basin	Salt Control

The definitions of the Hot Spots were somewhat unclear, but the discussion was based on information in the Pre-feasibility studies from 1991 and 1992 which formed the basis for the establishment of the List of Hot Spots under the JCP.

Hot Spot No. 109 Ostrava (Municipal & Industrial)

Mr. Trdlica presented information about the development of municipal wastewater treatment in the Ostrava area.

The 15 most important municipal waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) in the Ostrava area created the Hot Spot. The data from 1989 was used when the Hot Spot was identified. Today there are 13 municipal WWTPs in this area with a capacity larger than 20.000 P.E. Total annual load data of BOD5 and SS for 1989 and 2001 were presented.

In the mentioned area five new WWTPs have been constructed and four have been reconstructed and modernised. Two plants have been closed down and the wastewater connected to one larger plant. All WWTPs have N-removal and twelve of the plants have P-removal.

The national regulations nearly correspond with the EU WWT Directive. A new Government Decree which will fully implement EU regulations is considered to be in force in 2003. Only wastewater treatment plants with a capacity less than 20.000 P.E. have sometimes problems with the discharged water quality with regard to N and P limits. All cities larger than 10.000 P.E. have biological WWTPs.

During the recent years the drinking water price has increased from 0.60 up to 13-16 Czech Krowns/m^3. The same price is for waste water discharge. The consequence of increased water prices is the decrease in consumption and discharge. In total 330 million Euros has been invested in construction and modernisation of treatment plants and in sewerage systems in the Oder catchment area.

It was agreed that Mr. Trdlica will provide information about the capacity of each of the remaining 13 WWTPs and the annual average discharge concentrations of BOD5, COD, SS, Total-N and Total-P for each plant.

- **Hot Spot No. 110** Ostrava Area (Industry -Chemical, Pulp & Paper etc.)

A list of the 35 largest industries was presented with 2001 data on annual discharges of BOD5, SS, dissolved matter, and oil.

The amount of wastewater from the industries in the Oder catchment area has been reduced from about 180 to 60 million m^3/year from 1990 to 2001. Major reductions of BOD5, COD and SS have been reached. Important factors have been the closing down of factories or reduction of production. In many cases the technology was changed and new WWTPs constructed. Most big industries in the region are Joint Stock Companies with a major share of state participation. Smaller industries are private.

The Government Decree No. 82/1999 Coll. on discharges from municipalities and industries will enter into force in the beginning of next year and will fully comply with EU regulations. According to the meeting some Czech regulations on heavy metals are stronger than the EU requirements.

Some industries were discussed, in particular because they were mentioned in the Pre-feasibility studies. No special data was presented apart from those mentioned above.

* Biocel Paskov: Pulp & paper industry.
The production has been modernised and special treatment measures implemented. The technology has been changed and chlorine is not used today.

* Nova Hut: Two metal industries in Ostravice and Lucina.
Treatment plants have been constructed and metal discharges are in line with regulations. Production is reduced.

* Vitkovice: Metal industry.
The production has been reduced and the wastewater treatment improved. The industry complies with the permit.

* MCHZ Ostrava (Moravske): Chemical industry.
There are still some problems with the coke plant. The phenol containing wastewater is discharged to the large municipal WWTP in Ostrava, which can handle phenols.

* Ostramo oil refinery: Closed.

* OKD Koksovna: Coke plants.
The two coke plants are still active. The phenol containing wastewater is discharged to the large municipal WWTP in Ostrava, which can handle phenols.

* OKD Coal mines (Karvina):
Of the original mines only six in the Karvina area remain - the rest located in the Ostrava area have been closed down. The COD discharge from a coke plant to saline water was stopped in 1995. The discharge of saline water is discussed under Hot Spot No. 111.

Major improvement seems to have been obtained. More detailed information is needed before a possible deletion can be considered.

- **Hot Spot No. 111** Upper Basin (Salt Control)

The discharge of saline water has been reduced due to the closing of all mines in the Ostrava area. The discharge has been reduced from 30 million m^3/year (1990) to 20 million m^3/year (2001). The COD discharge from a coke plant to saline water was stopped in 1995.

Only six mines remain active in the Karvina area and the discharge is to the Olse River leading to the Oder River. The water from the closed mines in the Ostrava area is discharged to Ostravice River (leading to the Oder River) in order to avoid flooding of the Karvina mine area.

The meeting considered the influence on the Baltic Sea of the saline discharges via Oder River. It was agreed that this Hot Spot may be deleted due to the same reasons as the corresponding Polish Hot Spot. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide the information to the upcoming PITF 19 meeting.

Conclusion

The meeting was very useful for all parties. The discussions gave a good impression of the progress and the implementation of new measures at the JCP Hot Spots. The Secretariat will present a proposal for deletion of Hot Spot No. 111 to the upcoming PITF 19/2002 meeting and look forward to continued cooperation via the Oder Commission.

Annex 1

List of Participants:

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic:

Mr. Jaroslav Kinkor, Director of Water Protection Department
and President of the International Commission for the Oder River
Mr. Martin Salvet, Department of International Affairs
Ms. Doubravka Nedvedova, Water Protection Department
Mr. Rudolf Cejnar, Department for European Integration

Water Research Institute T.G. Masaryk:

Mr. Ludek Trdlica

Secretariat of Helsinki Commission:

Mr. Mieczyslaw Ostojski, Executive Secretary
Mr. Claus Hagebro, Professional Secretary