

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the Subgroup for Hotspots Exclusion

Meeting in Syktyvkar, on 9th of June 2011, at 09.00 – 13.00 Moscow time

- 1) The meeting was opened in time scheduled, with representation of Finland (Henna Haapala), Sweden (Åke Mikaelsson), Norway (Barbro Thomsen), Barentz Secretariat (Anna Lund), NEFCO (Henrik Forsström and Arto Vitikka), Green Business AB (Richard Almgren) and Russia (Andrey Peshkov from MNRE, Ruslan Butovsky from Fund for Sustainable Development, Yermilov – Rosprirodnadzor of Komi Republic and Sidiyakina – Minprirody of Komi Republic)
- 2) It was decided that the Minutes of the SHE12 Meeting of June 2nd, 2011 which are ready, will be reviewed by Åke Mikaelsson, distributed to the SHE participants for review and adoption at the next SHE meeting.
- 3) Andrey Peshkov suggested to include additional Agenda item on the EU-Russia dialogue and after that the Agenda was adopted. Andrey Peshkov was appointed as a Chair of the meeting, Åke Mikaelsson as a co-Chair and Ruslan Butovsky – as a Secretary
- 4) Andrey Peshkov as a representative from MNRE reported about the EU-Russia dialogue. The MoU between European Environmental Agency (EEA) and MNRE was signed April, 11, 2011. The MoU underlined 6 areas of cooperation: (1) Forestry (not applicable to MNRE); (2) Shared Environmental Information Systems (related to HotSpots and BEAC interests) including monitoring systems (Roshydromet – coordinator); (3) transboundary pollution; (4) imported waste and hazardous chemicals management in the framework of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions; (5) Mobile environmental monitoring and control implementation; (6) Space technologies and trainings for sustainable development. The SHE participants expressed their interest to this information and decided to look for the opportunities to organise a workshop between BEAC and EU, covering the HS, CP and waste management issues in Barents region.
- 5) MNRE reported to SHE that the Ministry collected a lot of information on HS from Komi during the meeting. Besides MNRE collected information from Arkhangelsk during last 2 weeks which has to be analyzed. Henna Haapala informed SHE that the meeting of the Karelian HEG took place on 8 June. The planned Regional HEG meetings in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk will also update information on HS.

- 5) MNRE presented a revised version of the Hot Spot Exclusion which consisted of 5 steps. This procedure was based on the Fast Track Exclusion Procedure initially proposed by Henna Haapala and reviewed by MNRE specialists and adapted to MNRE prerequisites and terminology. The presentation has to be sent to SHE and regional HEGs.
- 6) SHE's possibilities for supporting the regional HEGs was discussed. SHE together with the countries respective Technical Expert Councils may assist with i) Assessment of the state of environment, or environmental performance at a HS, ii) permitting advises, iii) preparation of financial documentation, iv) feedback on assessment etc or v) comparison of environmental standards (norms). SHE decided to provide directed support to the Hot Spots Exclusion in a) the Republic of Karelia, b) the Komi Republic, c) Arkhangelsk Oblast, d) Murmansk Oblast, e) Nenets Autonomous Okrug , in accordance with their respective priorities and status. It is very important that SHE can promote and facilitate the exclusion process through the regional HEGs in order to be ready to propose up to 8 HS for exclusion at the Ministerial meeting in November. Therefore, SHE needs to have preparatory meetings with all HEGs and explain to them how they shall act, what documentation to provide (in accordance with the relevant Russian legislation and regulation!) to verify that a HS is ready for exclusion. This has to be explained both for the Fast Track Exclusion Procedure as for the ordinary Exclusion Procedure. It was agreed to define deadlines for the different steps and the list of papers, necessary for the exclusion by the Ministerial Meeting in November. Preliminary it was agreed that the complete proposals with explanations should be submitted to the MNRE by the regional HEGs by August 3,. Then the MNRE will give their statement by August 10 which should be translated to and discussed at a joint SHE-HEG meeting in Moscow on August 25, then the SHE group will analyze the information till the preparatory WGE meeting in Stockholm on September 30 and give its proposal for the WGE by October 31. Henrik Forsstrom proposed to award the excluded HS by a special Diploma, containing the information about why the HS was excluded and stating its achievements. It is important that in the final "Exclusion Conclusion" to be presented for the Ministerial Meeting will be information about the achievements and reasons for exclusion, but also the proposals for further improvements and monitoring. SHE has to decide who will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up procedures and what will be the final result of the exclusion.
- 7) The planning of the SHE-groups visit to the regional Hotspots Exclusion Groups considering the summer vacations was discussed. It was planned that July 22, Ake Mikaelsson and Ruslan Butovsky and other available SHE member will visit the Arkhangelsk HEG. The meeting with the Murmansk HEG may be organised together with the planned visit of Pajala project specialists. It was decided that the SHE shall explore the possibility to organise a joint regional group meetings (Arkhangelsk-Nenets and Murmansk-Petrozavodsk). All regional groups will meet in Moscow August, 25 in MNRE and it will be efficient to plan another SHE meeting this day in Moscow.
- 8) Mr Arto Vitikka (NEFCO consultant) presented the Hot Spots Information System as a supportive tool for HS exclusion. The structure of the Information System was adopted. It was stated that continuous up-dating of the information was an important issue and that this has to be done by the Russian partners. MNRE stressed the point on how the information flow will be organized as MNRE and SHE is responsible for the information quality. It is important that MNRE proves the quality of all information at different levels, in particular the information which is to be placed in Internet. Also it is important to present the official documents in a simple language and provide the funds for translation of the most important documents into English and Russian if needed. Regarding the continuous presentation of progress for the respective Hot Spots, it was found that an

announcement of the respective Step of the procedure (with number and text) would be a suitable way, rather than the colour code.

- 9) The next SHE meeting is planned as a conference call scheduled for June 23, 2011.