

## **Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Subgroup for Hotspots Exclusion**

### **Telephone Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2011, at 10.00 CET**

- 1) The meeting was opened in time scheduled, with representation of Finland (Henna Haappala, Ismo Tiainen), Sweden (Åke Mikaelsson), NEFCO (Henrik Forsström), Norway (Barbro Thomsen) and Russia (Ruslan Butovsky from Fund for Sustainable Development representing Andrey Peshkov from MNRE).
- 2) The Agenda was adopted, Åke Mikaelsson was appointed as a Chair of the meeting and Ruslan Butovsky – as a Secretary.
- 3) The Minutes of the Meeting of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 were reviewed and adopted. MNRE reported that the Minutes of February 25, 2011 were ready and will be distributed to SHE members next day for consideration.
- 4) All SHE members agreed that the meeting of February 25, 2011 was a great success as all five Federal Subject Administrations participated in the meeting with comprehensive reports, deep analysis of the current situation with most of the Hot Spots and the list of Hot Spots that the regional HEG's propose for fast track exclusion. In line with the meeting results it was concluded that all five regions have a clear understanding of the Hot Spot Exclusion Procedure as well as their own priorities and the Exclusion procedure now can be launched in all five Federation subjects. MNRE reported that the Federation subjects also have started to provide the Ministry with additional information and by now the information from Karelia has arrived. It was decided that the Minutes of the meeting and all information from the subjects of Russian Federation (original and analysis) will be distributed to all SHE members for analysis and consideration. It was stressed that it is important to present a comprehensive overview of the information received from the regional HEGs, e.g. in the form of an overview chart for better assessment of the completeness, content and quality of the information received and to be able to use it for the planning of the SHE-groups support to the regional HEGs. In particular SHE members are interested in recent information from Karelia and Murmansk since the first site visits to these regions are planned already for April. MNRE also will distribute both the old and new information from the regions to SHE members for better analysis.
- 5) NEFCO reported on the start-up of the Hot Spot Information System activities and it was decided that the temporary test link to the website should be accessible to all members. It was suggested to launch a short meeting at the end of the week on the HS Information System after all SHE members will explore the website. NEFCO will send Åke the new link to be distributed only to SHE members for testing.

- 6) Assuming that it is important to collect additional information from the regions, it was decided that MNRE will send Minutes of the February 25, 2011 meeting to the regional hotspots exclusion groups and will inform them on the coming SHE site visits in April-May. The purpose of the site visits will be to meet the entire regional groups in the regions, to discuss and agree on the regional action plans, to explore the working possibilities of regional groups and to assist them in their hotspots exclusion activities and to visit the concrete hotspots. All countries expressed their interest in coming SV. Although MNRE suggested to start site visit in the second half of May due to climatic conditions, it was stressed that it is important to start the visits to the regional HEGs as soon as possible, preferably in April and to focus primarily on Murmansk oblast and Karelia. It is also important to visit and activate the regional HEGs as soon as possible as well as to meet with the Hot Spot owners. Thus the time schedule of the SHE Workplan should be revised, but this work can be completed only after collection the information from all regions.
- 7) A complementary SHE meeting is scheduled to March, 18 at 13.00 CET. It will be devoted primarily to the Hot Spot Information Center activities.