

Minutes

47th Meeting of the Subgroup for Hot Spots Exclusion (SHE#47), and CPESC

Kirkenes, Norway, March 15th, 2016

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was attended by the following Members of the SHE and CPESC-groups:

- Norway: SHE: Ms Hanne Aronsen (co-chair) and Ms. Olaug Bjertnæs (Norwegian Environment Agency), Mr Jan Thompson and Ms Helén Andersen (Ministry of Climate and Environment)
- Russia: Ms Maria Dronova (co-chair (Ministry of Natural Resources and environment),
- Sweden: Mr Åke Mikaelsson and Ms Nadezda Maslova (Swedish Environment Protection Agency)
- Finland: Ms Emma Nurmi (Finnish Environment Institute)
- NEFCO: Mr Henrik G Forsström, Mr Ruslan Butovski
- International Barents Secretariat (IBS): Ms Maria Dianova

In addition, the meeting was attended also by the following:

- Henna Haapala, Ministry of Environment, Finland
- Mr Igor Konyukhov, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Murmansk Region
- Mr. Vladimir Chizov (PASVIK Director)
- Elin Kronqvist, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Sweden
- Ms Rebecka Snefugli Sondell, IBS
- Tatu Turunen, Kainuu Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finland

Interpreter: Mr Boris Kochetkov

SHE co-chair Ms Aronsen welcomed the group to the first meeting of the SHE group under Norwegian chairmanship of the Barents WGE. The meeting was a joint meeting with the CPESC group.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted with minor changes.

3. Presentation of Norwegian priorities for SHE 2016-2017

Norway presented its SHE priorities during the 2016-2017 chairmanship. Norway will keep a main focus on the following themes during their SHE chairmanship:

- Continue the efforts to exclude specific hot spots, building on the good co-operation and successful results from the previous chairmanships of SHE,
- Build on the good co-operation with the regional HEGs,
- Establishing Specific Exclusion Criteria for priority hot spots applying for exclusion
- Launch support activities for hot spots exclusion, inter alia with Sectoral approach
- Streamlining of TEC review of Screening and Analyses reports with the aim to simplify the process and the reporting.

4. Review and adoption of the Minutes from previous meetings

Minutes of SHE 42: Finland sent comments that needs to be incorporated into the minutes. Russia will give their comments by the end of the week (by 18th March 2016). In case there will be no conflicting comments the Minutes shall be considered adopted shortly after this deadline.

Minutes of SHE 44 were adopted intersessionally and circulated 25th February 2016.

Minutes of SHE 45: Russia will give their comments by the end of the week (by 18th March 2016). In case there will be no conflicting comments the Minutes shall be considered adopted shortly after this deadline.

Minutes of SHE 46: A few minor comments were received during the meeting. Norway will update the SHE46 minutes accordingly. Norway and Sweden will find a solution to the comment on section 9 number iv, about collection of secondary comments on Ko1. The members will give final comments by the end of the week (by 18th March 2016). In case there will be no conflicting comments the minutes shall be considered adopted shortly after this deadline.

5. SHE Work Programme 2016-2017

The group discussed the draft list of activities for the SHE work programme 2016-2017. The chairmanship suggested some key principles for the activities, which were welcomed by SHE, such as: a) Each activity should have a Lead country. b) The Lead is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the activity, involving all relevant parties as appropriate and reporting progress and results back to the SHE group at their SHE meetings. c) The Lead may delegate tasks.

Various examples on supporting activities, e.g. on the promotion of the definition of exclusion criteria as well as the action planning were discussed. It was agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting with the aim to reach acceptable formulations for in the work programme and to assure the needed flexibility.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposed streamlining of the TEC review of the S&A reports with the aim to simplify the work. The need for this and the timing were questioned. However, the group recognized the need to strengthen the communication between the experts and the HS owners in the process of reviewing the S&A reports. Suggestions for such activities are welcomed for further discussion.

Ms. Haapala suggested to select the sectors (PPM, energy etc.) and nominate the leading countries for different sectors.

Ms. Dronova suggested not to agree the sectorwise activities and methodology (seminars, study visits) before it is discussed with the regions.

Mr Henrik G Forsström mentioned that IBS can be a powerful tool for promoting of the sectorwise activities. The table covering the Russian BREFs, HS and the on-going environmental projects was developed by Mr. Butovski and will be circulated to the SHE group.

Based on the discussions it was recognized that there is a need for certain adjustments in the draft work programme. The group agreed to give written comments on the SHE work programme, including the list of activities, by March 31st 2016. A telephone meeting will be set up in the beginning of April to discuss the SHE work programme and the list of activities further, in order to come to an agreement on the text in the work programme.

6. BEAC communication

Ms Rebekka Snefuglli Sondell from the International Barents Secretariat presented a project on communication within the Barents Council. The members gave input on their view on communication and co-operation between groups within the Barents Council, and possible room for improvement. Ms Sondell encouraged the group to focus on communication of results from the SHE group, and invited the group to send her feedback on possible improvements of communication. The results from the communication project will be ready in July 2016.

It was proposed that the project-like activities requested by IBS for monitoring of the sub-group's progress, may be sought among the SHE WP-activities to be further discussed.

7. Status for Hot Spot Exclusion

Ms Dronova presented the status of hot spot exclusion after the Sortavala 2015 Ministerial, where the following hot spots were excluded:

- K4 Drinking water in Petrozavodsk (Karelia K4);
- A3-#2 Severodvinsk heat and power plant No 2 (Arkhangelsk A3-2), partial exclusion;
- Ko3-1 Mondi Pulp and Paper Mill, emissions to air, (Komi Ko3-1), partial exclusion.

This was the first time HSs were partially excluded.

- It was noted that three hot spots were selected as pilot hot spots for Exclusion by Long Track and thus for formulation of Specific Criteria and Action Plans, etc A3-1 Severodvinsk HPP#1: Pilot for specific criteria.
- Ko6 Industrial and domestic waste: Pilot for specific criteria.
- Ko7 Wastes of timber and PPM: Pilot for specific criteria.

It was also concluded that three hot spots have applied for exclusion by Fast Track:

- A4 Novodvinsk Pulp and Paper Mill
- Ko1 Greenhouse gases from Vorkuta coal field
- Ko2-1 Vorkutinskiy Cement Plant

It was concluded that these applications need to be assessed and answered to by SHE as soon as possible and either promoted or rejected.

Furthermore, the group discussed the need for visualizing progress at hot spots where work on environmental improvements has started but where the HS is not yet excluded. The group asked Mr Mikaelsson to propose a plan to SHE on how to introduce a new color in the hot spot exclusion process/system. Mr Mikaelsson agreed to do this by 31st March.

8. Screening and Analyses reports

As input to the discussion on better guidance on the required content of S&A reports, with the aim of simplification, Norway (Ms. Olaug Bjertnæs) presented an overview of the information needed to facilitate the TEC review in order to compare with European BAT and relevant emission levels from industry in Nordic countries.

Some concerns were raised regarding the timing of this since most HS owners have already delivered S&A reports. However, the group recognized the need to strengthen the communication between the experts and the HS owners in the process of reviewing the S&A reports. The group will discuss this further in order to come to agreement on the level of ambition, the need for the information and text for the working programme.

9. CPESC - Norwegian priorities for CPESC 2016-2017

The CPESC chair Mr Thompson presented the Norwegian priorities and proposed CPESC tasks. A document on this was circulated to the CPESC members in advance.

During the discussion it was noted that most of the proposed CPESC tasks were already included in the SHE work programme. The group discussed different options for co-operation or merging of the SHE and CPESC subgroups.

The options were;

- 1) To continue work as two separate groups, with separate mandates but with joint meetings;
- 2) To merge the groups with one consolidated mandate and work programme;
- 3) To abolish the CPESC group since there were no identified projects under the CPESC agenda with a Lead country or secured funding, and to lift specific CPESC items that are not hot spot-related, to WGE for WGE itself to follow up on them.

It was concluded that the options should be reported to WGE and the decision on this should be left to the WGE.

10. Support Activities

Because of time constraints, the CPESC and SHE group did not in detail discuss concrete support activities in this meeting, a discussion which was postponed till a later meeting.

11. Template for Specific Criteria for Hot Spot Exclusion

The agenda item was postponed to a later meeting.

12. Summary of Next Steps and Task Distribution

<i>Task</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Circulate the Norwegian SHE priorities 2016-2017	Hanne	1 week (25 March)
Comment on/Approve the Minutes from SHE 42 from 2-3 September 2015	All SHE members	End of this week (18 March)
Comment on/Approve the Minutes from SHE 45	All SHE members	18 March
Comment on/Approve the Minutes from SHE 46 from 28 th of October 2015	All SHE members	18 March
Written comments on SHE work programme 2016-2018	All SHE members	31 March 2016
Telephone meeting to discuss and settle the SHE work programme 2016-2018	All SHE members (Norway will invite)	First half of April
Propose to SHE how to introduce a new colour in the hot spot exclusion process/system, and were, how and when to use it.	Åke	31 March 2016
Information on the 50 BREFs and their relation to the hot spots.	Ruslan/Henrik	1 week (25 March)
Circulate draft exclusion criteria for A3-1, Ko6 and Ko7 (in English).	Ruslan	1 week (25 March)

13. Any Other Business

The following will be reported to WGE from the SHE and CPESC meeting:

- Norwegian SHE priorities
- The draft list of SHE activities
- The results from the discussion on possible merging of SHE/CPESC

14. Date for Next Meeting

The SHE group agreed on a telephone meeting in the first half of April to discuss and agree on the work programme 2016-2017.

15. Closure of the Meeting

The Co-chair expressed her gratitude to all participants and declared the meeting closed.