



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

BEAC/ meeting of the WGE national representatives

24.-25.5. 2012 Helsinki

Meeting report

Final 26.9.2012

Present:

Henna Haapala, WGE Chair, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Leena Voutilainen "

Tero Väisänen, Finnish Environment Institute

Lotten Sjölander, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Åke Mikaelsson, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Ingrid Lillehagen, Ministry of the Environment, Norway

Maria Dronova, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Russia

Ruslan Butovskiy, Fund for Sustainable Development

Additionally on 25.5.2012:

Ann-Britt Ylinen, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Emma Nurmi, Finnish Environment Institute

Anna Kuhmonen "

Tatiana Tyupenko, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda proposed by the Finnish chair, Ms. Henna Haapala was approved.

2. Information

- The Minutes of the last WGE meeting was approved.

- One sentence was deleted of the CPESC sub-group report: Stating Russia as a lead country of the project on education on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption in the Barents region will be taken out because the project hasn't yet been considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. In addition, there was a slight amendment of the SHE work programme 2012-2013 proposed by Russia. With these changes all WGE and sub-groups reports 2010-2011 and sub-group work programmes 2012-2013 were adopted.

3. BEAC Action Plan on Climate Change: Discussion on WGE's contribution

A Workshop on development of a draft Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Region was held on 20-21 March 2012 in Oslo, where the BEAC Working Group chairs were present. The workshop agreed on four policy areas for grouping the measures and projects: 1) mitigation, 2)

adaptation, 3) research, observations, monitoring and modeling, 4) outreach. The chair's draft document of WGE's proposals to the BEAC Action Plan on Climate Change was discussed. In the discussions it was proposed to explore synergies and identify more joint activities to be launched with the BEAC Working Groups and other relevant actors. It was decided that the WGE will propose for the CSOs that regional planning and permafrost as items will be taken into the Action Plan as a cross-sectoral issues.

Deadline for WGE's contribution to the BEAC Action Plan on Climate Change is by 10, September 2012. The final goal is to prepare a draft Action Plan to be presented to CSO (Committee of Senior Officials) in October 2012. The chair will circulate to the WGE members by the end of June a second draft of the WGE's contribution.

In addition, the chair informed the participants about the Analysis of Regional Climate Strategies. The study has been made by the Thule Institute in Oulu and will be finalized during the summer. It was preliminarily discussed that the WGE could initiate to organize a climate workshop together with the Barents Regional Council for the regional level stakeholders (counties-municipalities-research institutes) to disseminate the knowledge and experience of these regional and local climate strategies and how to put these strategies into practice.

4. Hot Spot issues

(H. Forsström participated via telephone connection, R. Butovskiy was absent)

The chair has circulated a draft Terms of Reference "for Revising and updating of the AMAP/NEFCO Hot Spot Report describing the state of all 42 original Barents environmental hot spots" that is aimed to address the task from the Ministerial Declaration. The TOR has been prepared together by the chair and NEFCO/Forsström, and it has been preliminarily discussed within the SHE group.

The TOR was thoroughly discussed and the discussions were focused on the question, what the Consultant is expected to do. As a result it was agreed that the name of the TOR is "Assessment of the AMAP/NEFCO Hot Spot Report describing the state of all 42 original Barents environmental hot spots". It was also agreed that the process will consist of two parts: Part I is the assessment and analysis of what has happened and Part II is the recommendations for the future work. Part I will be synchronized with the Screening and Analysis process (Step 2) of the Exclusion Procedure. The Consultant will take part in the work of the SHE, when it comes to the S&A process and this Assessment.

The chair will circulate a third draft of the TOR to the WGE members, and that comments and remarks should be sent no later than June 8. If no comments will be received, the TOR is seen as accepted by the WGE. The TOR will be introduced at SHE-HEGs workshop in St Petersburg at the end of June. After that NEFCO can launch the process to hire a Consultant. NEFCO will provide to the SHE members a short list of consultants who will be requested to submit tenders to carry out the task. There might be a need to establish a smaller group to develop criteria for selection of a Consultant. Mr Henrik Forsström from NEFCO will send additional information of the procedure.

In addition, the WGE members discussed the exclusion process with regard to the fast track proposals. It was agreed that the proposals from the SHE should come to the WGE 2 weeks before

the WGE meetings and the WGE encourages the SHE to draft a time schedule for the fast track proposals that will guarantee appropriate time for considering the proposals in each country, incl. the expert reviews.

*5. Administrative issues
(T. Tyupenko attended)*

The following issues were discussed:

- Meetings: The chair will aim to organize two WGE meetings/year: one conventional big WGE meeting with back-to-back sub-group and RWGE meetings and one smaller WGE meeting for the national delegates and sub-group chairs. The sub-groups are encouraged to arrange telephone, video, skype meetings, when appropriate.
- Observers: It was agreed that the conventional WGE meetings are open to observers. When the WGE meetings are aimed for internal discussions, preparations for Ministerial meetings etc., the participation will be restricted. Contribution to the WGE work was emphasized to be regarded as condition on participation. Sub-group meetings, they are mostly internal work meetings and observers will be invited as experts only in special cases. Access of observers' will be decided by each sub-group and sub-group chair.
- WGE and RWGE relation: More attention will be paid to enable the regional representatives to join the sub-group meetings. In the future, overlapping of meetings will be avoided, when possible, e.g. by trying to avoid simultaneous RWGE and sub-group meetings.
- Communication plan inside the WGE: Sweden's proposal for a communication plan was supported. It was agreed that Sweden/SEPA will provide a draft for the next meeting. Further collaboration with the IBS is also needed.
- Outreach: in the climate workshop in March came up that many WGs would like to be more familiarized and linked with the WGE's work. Possible cooperation will be elaborated further and the chair will be in contact with the relevant WGs and BRC.
- WGE and sub-groups mandate: The current mandate is from the year 2007. It was noted that no big changes are needed, but some slight updates: short lived climate pollutants will be included in the CPESC's mandate, cooperation with the Forestry Task Force in the NPS's mandate, outreach in the WGE's mandate and the SHE mandate will be included in the table. The chair will send updated mandates of each sub-groups for comments.
- Chairing the sub-groups: it was noted that the sub-groups are chaired primarily by the WGE chair-country. However, other member countries can also provide sub-group chairmanship, if reasonable. It is not excluded that sub-group observers can act as a chair, but it is an exceptional case and need to be agreed by all of the WGE members.
- Implementation plan of the Umeå Ministerial Declaration has been prepared and it was introduced by the chair. It is subject to updating, when needed.

6. Other issues and next meetings

The chair informed of the Conference on best environmental practices in the mining sector in the Barents region to be held on 23-25 April 2013 in Rovaniemi, Finland. The chair invited the WGE members to provide proposals on keynote speakers from every Barents country and to consider financial contributions to the Conference.

The chair introduced the WGE meeting schedule 2012-2013 and invited the WGE and sub-group members to provide information on relevant meetings.

Next meetings:

- SHE-HEGs' workshop on 26-27 of June in St.Petersburg
- Barents Green Growth Forum by Barents Regional Council, on 4-5 of September in Luleå: the chair encouraged the WGE to participate in it and spread information on it
- WGE-meeting on 24-26 of September in Kajaani
 - 24.9. a possibility for the RWGE meeting
 - 25.9 sub-groups' meetings
 - 26.9. WGE meeting – special theme: water projects