



YMPÄRISTÖMINISTERIÖ
MILJÖMINISTERIET
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Helsinki, October, 2004

**Barents Euro-Arctic Council,
Meeting of the Working Group on Environment (WGE)**

**13-14 September, 2004
Helsinki, Finland**

MINUTES - DRAFT

1 Opening, presentation of participants and adoption of the agenda

The Chair of the WGE, Ms. Ann-Britt Ylinen opened the meeting and wished all participants welcome. The list of participants is enclosed (annex 1). The Chair mentioned about the last-moment changes at the agenda. The agenda was adopted (annex 2).

2 Follow-up to the Action Programme

2.1 Hot Spots

2.1.1 Review of BEAC "hot spots" projects

Mr. Magnus Rystedt from NEFCO introduced the Review of BEAC "hot spots" projects (annex 3). He presented the projects of each Russian Barents region in three categories on the base of the estimated implementation time scale.

Especially the projects mentioned at the category two need actions for starting. The projects, where action should be started as soon as possible are:

- M6-1, M6-2: Murmanskaya poultry farm and Prigorodny pig farm. Feasibility studies have been done some years ago. These studies should be updated and investigate the financing situation.
- M6-3 and M7: Murmansk drinking water and Drinking water in Zelenoborsky-1. Feasibility studies should be carried out and investigate the financing situation.
- K3 and K6: water supply and sewage treatment in smaller towns. Feasibility studies and investment strategies should be carried out. There is a need for institutional reforms for financing.
- K4 and K5: Petrozavodsk water and wastewater. Studies done in connection to the World Bank water project should be updated.
- K8 and K9: waste handling in Karelia. These projects are high priority for Karelian authorities. Feasibility studies should be carried out.
- A2: Arkhangelsk Heat and Power Plant. Feasibility study should be carried out.

- A6 and A8: toxic waste and spent motor oil in Arkhangelsk. More information needed and feasibility studies should be carried out.
- A9: dioxin pollution from timber industry. More information needed.
- N2 and N3: Water supply and sewage treatment in smaller towns in Nenetsia. More information needed.
- Ko1: Green House Gas emissions in Vorkuta. NEFCO expressed its willingness to contribute/continue this project.
- Ko6 and Ko 8: Waste management and coal-mining waste handling in Komi. Feasibility studies should be carried out.

In the discussion that followed it was noted that the hot spot study is based on the regional analysis and reflect the view of the Russian experts on the urgent environmental problems. The need for the local ownership and commitment was emphasized. In the private sector the ownership lies on the company, but in the regional-wide problems the local authority need to be involved. Especially in the projects where investment are needed it is necessary to include the projects in the local budget of the regions. Those projects, which are already under implementation include local commitment. Other projects still require commitment at the local level. It is important to start direct cooperation with the regions and the companies.

The grouping of the projects under some specific themes was discussed. This would be an efficient approach for promoting and implementing the projects. For example water issues were mentioned as a very important theme from the Russian side.

NEFCO was acknowledged for the work done. The need for seeking cooperation possibilities with different programs and organizations was emphasized. One of the first tasks of the WGE is to seek and promote financing for the feasibility studies.

The Chair proposed to start discussions on where we need further activities, and find owners for the projects. She asked the members of the WGE to give opinion on the list and, especially addressing the Russian participants on how this analysis is seen from the Russian Barents regions. There is a need to gather further information on the priority projects, as well as to identify possible demonstration projects.

2.1.2 Cooperation with ACAP

WGE Chair Ms. Ann-Britt Ylinen and ACAP Chair Mr. Bob Dyer (U.S. EPA) introduced the item. The Chairs and NEFCO have met three times, the last meeting was back to back with this WGE meeting. Possible cooperation projects of joint interest were identified. The preliminary proposal of possible joint projects was made taking into account the possibilities for cooperation on the both WGE and ACAP agendas/frameworks. A draft list was presented for the meeting participants (annex 4) for comments and for later discussion about prioritizing within WGE members. The idea is to find projects where we could proceed by joining the efforts, and whether any or all of these projects could be identified as a joint projects.

Mr. Dyer informed about the ACAP process in general and especially pointing the cooperation possibilities between ACAP and WGE on hot spots. The aim of the ACAP is to address the environmental problems identified by AMAP through concrete projects. The priorities for ACAP actions are derived from the Stockholm Convention (12 persistent organic pollutants) and ACAP is working concretely on the long-range pollutants. The NEFCO/AMAP hot spot list has been as a catalyst for ACAP projects in the regions.

The "Stocks of obsolete pesticides", lead by Finland, was the first project identified as a project of joint interest. The pilot project in Arkhangelsk is now completed by ACAP and the promotional event will be held in Arkhangelsk on September 16. The Russian experts had a significant role in this project.

The aim of the project was to make an inventory, repacking and safe storage of the pesticides in Arkhangelsk. This project concept has spread also to some other regions in Russia.

The representative of AMAP, Mr. Vitaly Kimstach acknowledged the work done by NEFCO, WGE and ACAP. He highlighted one project in the proposal – A7-2, Franz Joseph Land, which is prioritized by the Arkhangelsk environmental authorities. This is a high arctic area, which is strongly contaminated by the military activities. There are 30 thousand tons of fuel and spent motor oils. Motor oils can contain PCB as a lubricator. This is going to be a circumpolar problem, because the containers are leaking. A survey was carried out in summer and the conclusions will be ready in November. He pointed out the further need for assistance to conclude this work and asked the WGE to consider this project as one of highest priorities in cooperation with ACAP.

The Chair concluded that there are some possible projects of high interest, such as A9, A7-2, timber industry & dioxin problem. **The meeting agreed that the participants will come with detailed comments on the proposed list of cooperation projects with ACAP. Deadline is by October 10.**

2.2 Cleaner Production

2.2.1 Cleaner Production Task Force

The Chair of the CPTF, Mr Hietamäki reported. This year the national action plans has been prepared and the priorities for the work has been identified. The financing questions remain still open. There are some proposals on how to proceed, and the countries have been asked to comment these proposals.

The recent cooperation between WGE and ACAP has given signals to focus the Barents Cleaner Production cooperation e.g. on dioxins, mercury and timber industry. One possibility is to develop the national plans to meet these needs. Mr Hietamäki acknowledged the Russian-Norwegian cooperation in Cleaner Production being very fruitful.

Next steps are under identification, but more resources and efforts are needed, as there is a need to develop new mechanisms and practices. The Nordic countries have prioritized the Cleaner Production and are prepared to continue financing relevant Cleaner Production activities. The two main cooperation lines for the future are development of a cleaner production education program for the universities and development of environmental management systems for individual companies. The latter is one possibility to address the hot spot projects by the means of cleaner production. Mr Hietamäki also mentioned that he will visit the Russian Barents regions to discuss the cleaner production with local authorities.

Mr Kinnunen informed about the idea of the CP university program as a cooperation project between the arctic universities. He stated that the local university has the best means to develop local know-how. By providing the CP in the curriculum there is a possibility to develop a capacity for the regions.

Mrs Tiupenko from Komi informed that the Cleaner Production and Energy Efficiency Centre has provided a Cleaner Production seminar for the students and she noted that this is closely connected to the plans of CP university program.

Mr Kahn from Sweden emphasized the connections between Cleaner Production and hot spot issues, as well as cooperation with ACAP. The education and development of management systems are important. He also mentioned the Pan European education on sustainable development. There will be an EU seminar in Belgium on sustainable consumption and production. The International Conference in Moscow is connected to these questions.

The Chair summed-up the discussion on hot spots and cleaner production issues. The meeting agreed, that the WGE members and the representatives of the Russian Barents Regions **will comment the documents under discussion (1. acap-barents list, 2. Review of hot spots, and 3. hot spot list) emphasising the realistic targets and most urgent needs concerning the hot spots, as well as priorities by countries and the Russian Barents regions. Information about on-going or planned activities by member countries or other stakeholders is also needed. Proposals for further actions are welcomed as well as the ideas on grouping of the hot spots (e.g. water projects). Deadline is October 10.** The secretariat will prepare a summary on the comments and on the base of this information fact sheets with more detailed information on the most important hot spot projects will be prepared together with NEFCO. She also proposed that we could have one brainstorming meeting on this topic before the next WGE meeting.

2.2.2 International Conference "Cleaner Production as a Contribution to Sustainable Development"

Mr Tsygankov, from the Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Centre (RNCPC) informed about the preparations for the International Conference "Cleaner Production as a Contribution to Sustainable Development", in Moscow on 6-9 December 2004. Recently, there has been a meeting at the Ministry of the Natural Resources. The concept, budget, program and participants were discussed. The main aim of the conference is to give impetus to the formulation of sustainable production and consumption policies in Russia, and to introduce the cleaner production development in Russia and the results of the Russian-Norwegian CP cooperation program.

UNEP is conducting a serie of sustainable consumption and production seminars in Eastern Europe and negotiations are going on with UNEP on the organizing of the working groups and seminar. In addition, discussions have been carried out with relevant Russian companies, OECD, UN/Europe and the EU Moscow Representation. RNCPC asked the Nordic Countries to inform, which budget items could be financed by the Nordic countries. Mr Tsykangov informed that the conference is supported by the state institutions, but the reorganization of the Russian environmental administration has led to a new arrangement process. It is not yet clear, which institution will be responsible for environmental protection, and it is possible that environmental issues will be divided between several institutions.

Mr Poutanen from Finland commented by noting that the event would have a political character and the ministries in Russia should be strongly involved. This is a prerequisite for good results from the meeting. Finland is ready to support the conference.

Mrs Swensen from Norway stated that the involvement of the ministry and officials in charge is important for the conference and for the follow-up the results. Norway will participate in the conference, the chairman of the plenary from the Norwegian side has been nominated. Norway will come back later to the question of financial support.

Mr Kahn from Sweden was pleased to get information on the good work and progress done. The difficult situation with the administration is known. It is important to follow-up not only the Barents cooperation, but also the ECE and Environment for Europe process. The suggested budget is rather high in comparison to the Nordic financing possibilities. So, additional means of financing is needed. Sweden will support the conference as already informed earlier.

Mr Tsygankov thanked for the support and was optimistic to get information on the involvement from the Russian ministries and institutions in the near future. He proposed that the international advisory group should have a meeting in the nearest future. RNCPC will come with a proposal for a date within a week.

The book proposal by the RNCPC "Cleaner Production to Russia as a Way to Sustainable Development" was discussed (annex 5). More information was requested, especially about the target group of

the book and about the synchronization with other such kind of publications. It was emphasized from the Russian side, that there is a need for such kind of handbook for the companies. **More comments are welcomed directly for the RNCPC.** The Chair concluded that the time is too short to prepare this book for the International CP Conference in December. Instead **the CPTF and member countries could provide fact sheets for the conference about the CP cooperation in Barents region and about the bilateral cooperation.** In addition, there will be a brochure provided by Norway. It is reasonable to coordinate these publication processes together, as well as look at other related publications.

2.3 Nature protection and sustainable forestry

Professor Paavo Pelkonen from the University of Joensuu introduced the model forest development within the Forest Sector Task Force. There was an application process in the Russian Barents regions. Three proposals were provided from Arkhangelsk and one from Murmansk. Finally, Kovdozersky in the Murmansk Region was selected as a site for the model forest. The model forest sites in Sweden, Finland and in Norway will be in cooperation with this Kovdozersky project. It is planned to leave an application for the EU's Neighbourhood Programme in March next year. The cooperation between the FSTF and WGE and Habitat Contact Forum has been discussed many years. This model forest project can provide a concrete possibility for cooperation.

Ms Hemmi from the Finnish Environment Institute informed about the Finnish-Russian cooperation in nature protection. A joint training project in Kovdozersky, including biodiversity issues is being assessed as a possibility for cooperation.

It was agreed that there is a need for a joint meeting. **It was proposed to have the meeting in connection to the preparation of the application for the Neighbourhood Programme next March. Finland will inform later about the date of the meeting.** It will be open for the representatives from the WGE and the results will be reported to the WGE.

3 Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes had been sent to the members for comments before the meeting. The comments sent had been taken into account. The minutes were adopted as presented.

4 Barents news: CSO, RWGE, other Regional Councils

The Chair informed about the Barents CSO news. At the same time there is a Meeting of the Barents State Secretaries at the Solovetsky Islands, where the hot spots are discussed.

Mr Gunnar Nilsson from Norrbotten informed about the RWGE news. The next meeting of RWGE will be in November in Rovaniemi.

Mr Marco Zavaratelli informed about the Adriatic-Ionic Initiative. There is ongoing cooperation in the field of coastal and river basin management between Italy, Montenegro and Croatia. He proposed cooperation for Barents WGE in this field. The Chair thanked for the proposal and undertook to discuss it with the CSO.

The Chair informed about a new political Action Programme 2005-2008, which has been adopted by the Nordic Council of Ministers (Environment).

5 Water cooperation – see separate minutes

6 EU's Neighbourhood programmes

Mr Martti Poutanen from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland informed about the recent developments in the preparation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which is expected to be the main EU instrument for (cross-border) financial assistance from the beginning of 2007. In the Communication on EU's Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 (July 2004) the EU Commission outlined the ENPI to be enhanced to cover all financial assistance to the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). This may be a matter of concern for EU-Russia cross-border cooperation, since EU-Russia relations are not discussed in the frame of the ENP. It is important that the new instrument can be applied to support EU-Russia cooperation, incl. the Northern Dimension projects and those identified in the Barents cooperation.

Sweden commented by noting that at a later stage of the preparation the EU member countries will have more say in the preparation of the Instrument and that the specific position of Russia as EU's strategic partner can be duly taken into consideration.

It was noted that during the interim period 2004-2006 the Neighbourhood Programmes should be effectively used to maintain and increase EU's support to the environmental projects in the Barents region.

7 Preparations for the 10+1 Barents environmental ministerial meeting - preparation of the report on the Barents 10 years' environmental cooperation

The Chair informed that the Seventh Barents Environmental Ministerial Meeting will be in Rovaniemi. The members were asked to comment the convenience of the weeks 35 or 36 for a date of the Ministerial meeting. The 10+1 years of Barents environmental cooperation will be celebrated in connection to the Ministerial Meeting.

The Chair introduced the idea about a report/publication on the Barents 10 years' environmental cooperation. The proposal is to divide the publication into two parts: history/institutional part and articles-memoirs of the persons (in addition to the member countries and the regions NEFCO and AMAP) who have participated in the cooperation for a long time. The draft for the first part has been sent to the WGE members by e-mail already before the meeting (annex 6). The general outline for the publication was supported. It was proposed that the history part should be more future oriented than the current version. Also the idea to present shortly successful projects was supported.

It was agreed that the members will send their comments on the draft and to give the names of the authors of the articles-memoirs by the end of September. The articles should be ready by the November 15.

8 Next meeting and any other business

It was decided to held the next meeting in Oulu at the end of January next year. The Chair will send later the proposal for date and the theme for the next meeting.

The Chair concluded the WGE meeting, thanked all participants for a productive meeting and wished everyone pleasant journey back home.

ANNEXES

(meeting material is available at the web sit: http://www.barentsinfo.fi/wge_docs/ppa/)

1. List of participants
2. Agenda
3. Review of BEAC "hot spots"
4. Barents Environmental hot spots, BEAC WGE and ACAP – Proposal for cooperation projects of joint interest
5. Book proposal by the RNCPC "Cleaner Production to Russia as a Way to Sustainable Development"
6. WGE 10 years: draft review