

MINUTES OF THE BARENTS CLEANER PRODUCTION TASK FORCE MEETING

25.5.2005

St. Petersburg, Russia

PARTICIPANTS:

Finland, Ministry of the Environment

Mr. Markku Hietamäki (chair), Environment Counsellor

Ms Kirsi Kentta (secretary), Senior Adviser

Ms Henna Haapala, Senior Adviser

Norway

Ms Ingvild Swensen, Ministry of the Environment

Ms Anne Berteig, Ministry of the Environment

Sweden

Ms Gunilla Blomquist, Ministry of Sustainable Development

Russia

Mr. Nikolai Ivanov, State Control for the NW Federal District

Ms Tatyana Kalianova, Federal Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear
Supervision Service of Russia (Rostekhnadzor)

Ms Larisa Yanchik, Russian–Norwegian Cleaner Production Centre

Ms Irina Markovets, *i* Morskaja inspektsija

Mr. Valery Solomonov, Director, Cleaner Production Centre in the
Republic of Karelia

Ms Tatyana Tyupenko, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Natural Resources
and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Komi

Mr. Agvan Movsesyan, Head of Department, Administration of the
Nenets Autonomous Okrug

Observer

Ms Elisabet Paulig-Tønnes, Senior Manager, NEFCO

Ms Ella Barnes, US EPA

Ms Anastasia Marova, Committee for Nature Use, Environmental
Protection and Ecological Safety

Ms Vera Zakharova, U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg

Interpreters

Ms Irina Solovieva

Ms Olga Sapunova

The chair, Mr. Markku Hietamäki, opened the third Task Force Meeting under the Finnish chairmanship of the Barents Cleaner Production Task Force and welcomed the participants.

The Agenda of the Meeting was adopted. The minutes of the last meeting in Oulu were approved. The present situation with the national action plans was discussed. The national action plan of Russia can act as a basis for cleaner production cooperation, Ms Larisa Yanchik stated. "We invite colleagues from other countries to join forces in order to add their know-how to the implementation of this plan", she said. In October a round table will be organized in Jasnaja Poljana in order to prepare recommendations for concrete actions to promote sustainable development in practice.

Mr. Valery Solomonov stated that the biggest polluters have started to make improvements, and that the first priority should now be the municipal level. Ms Tatyana Tjupenko told about the recent cleaner production development in the Komi republic – energy-saving programmes are up and running. Ms Irina Markovets stated that the Russian–Swedish–Finnish BAT project, in which the principles of an integrated environmental permit system and HELCOM norms were used as guidelines, has been of the utmost importance for St. Petersburg and its region.

Ms Ingvild Swensen reported on the latest development in Norway – interest in the green procurement ideology is growing. A good 70% of the state procurement is environmentally beneficial and the newest target will be 80%. The collection of toxic waste has increased and now the question is how to recycle toxic waste. One problem, however, is that although the number of old toxic substances is decreasing, there are constantly new chemicals coming on the market. A campaign for the general public providing information about the environment and consumption has been launched. A public sector procurement law has been adopted.

Ms Gunilla Blomquist highlighted the situation in Sweden: activities include capacity building and providing information to other ministries on sustainable development and consumption. Large events focusing on global and local aspects of sustainable production and consumption are under preparation or have already been planned. Dialogue around IPP (Integrated Product Policy) continues, focusing on best practices. The national strategy on sustainable development will be revised to integrate questions of consumption into the concept of sustainable development. The Swedish EPA is studying how different instruments and principles (legislation, taxes, eco-labelling and producer's responsibility) fit together, how to co-ordinate them and how to make them more supportive. Sweden is one of the lead countries for consumption questions and will establish a task force together with developing countries and UNEP as a follow-up to the Marrakech process. In the Barents region, Sweden will continue supporting concrete actions on legislation development and training of environmental authorities

The concept of the BAT project in St. Petersburg, mentioned by Ms Markovets, could be used in other regions as well

Mr. Hietamäki highlighted the situation in Finland: a working group on sustainable consumption and production will prepare a new programme in mid-June for the minister. This is also a hot issue in Finland. Mr. Hietamäki stated that the Nordic cooperation meeting, held in February, had very open discussions and came to the conclusion that the national action plans are still at very early stages and that, in the future, more co-ordination is needed. Mr. Hietamäki also told about a visit to Rostekhnadzor in Moscow. A seminar (on permitting and control issues), which was going to be held in Petrozavodsk for representatives of industry and authorities, has now been postponed until autumn. It is good to have more time to develop the content of the seminar and also to think how the Norwegian–Russian CP centre could be included in this work. In the Republic of Karelia a follow-up seminar to the Environmental Management System project will also be arranged for three companies in December. An attempt was made to start similar EMS projects in a few enterprises in the Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions, but this did not happen, most likely because of financing questions. The capacity building on air emission measurements is still continuing with Murmansk and Karelia and a project at the Murmansk waste incinerator is at the second stage.

Mr. Hietamäki opened the discussion on the CPTF's report given to the WGE in October in Rovaniemi by asking what the participants hoped to get and what they gained from this task force. The main items and the volume of the report should be agreed on. Mr. Hietamäki asked for feedback on how much others can contribute to the report. The conclusions should include a realistic assessment of the present work in order to have a solid base on which to set priorities that can be passed on to the next presidency and for guiding future work. Additionally, if the CPTF is to be continued, a precise written mandate should be prepared.

Ms Blomquist reminded the participants that when the CPTF started it was agreed that not only the production processes of industry should be studied, but also it was important to include a wider, life-cycle approach and the concept of sustainable production and consumption. "It may be too soon and too difficult to include the whole approach, but let's start a bit by time", she proposed. The question of developing indicators for sustainable consumption and production has been discussed for many years in the EU, and it seems to be very difficult to agree on the indicators.

Ms Markovets stated that it is very important to follow what is happening both in the environmental and economic fields. Mr. Hietamäki said that one way to bring CP ideas more closer to the actors in the field is to start with regional seminars in which the following issues could be discussed: procedures, technical bodies, how the environmental legislation is administered, the enforcement of legislation, and how to control emissions. Ms Tjupenko supported this idea and said that the enterprises are not familiar with the Nordic legislation. Mr.

Solomonov stated that such seminars would not bring anything new, there have already been six seminars this year and the EU norms are not as stringent as the Russian norms. Mr. Hietamäki stated that it is not easy to compare practices in different countries because the approaches differ so much, but there could be some merit in informing each other about enforcement procedures. Ms Yanchik stated that as the EU and Russia are getting closer such a seminar could be relevant, but that it should be well planned and the right persons should be invited. Ms Blomquist said that the Swedish EPA would like to take part in such regional seminars and one should avoid duplicating existing seminars and co-ordinate the actions. Mr. Hietamäki concluded the discussion on regional seminars by promising to send a proposal to the participants, which can be discussed at the next meeting.

The content of the draft report for the WGE was discussed further. Ms Swensen stated that the chairman's assessment of the present work should be included, as well as what has been done so far and a proposal for the next presidency.

Ms Yanchik stated that during the Finnish presidency, national action plans have been made, but a joint plan is not yet ready. It would be important to get a strong position from the Nordic countries on what they are really ready to do.

Finally the preparation of the draft report was agreed:

- Background, target and objectives of the work	2	pages
- National Action Plans	4 x 1	
- Economic instruments (NEFCO)	1	
- RNCPC	2	
- Conclusions and recommendations	1, 5	

The texts should be sent by the end of July, the drafting meeting will be in Helsinki at the end of August and the draft of the report will be sent two weeks before the meeting to the members of the CPTF.

Ms Haapala stated that a Barents hot spot meeting with the federal authorities took place in February in Moscow and now the regional meetings are going on. Ms Yanchik said that when the original list of hot spots was made the municipal projects were not reflected strongly enough and they should now get more support.

Mr. Hietamäki said that he will prepare a draft for the new mandate for the CPTF. He also stated that at Luleå the countries did not state how much resources they will give to this CP work. The WGE has later put a proposal in front of us that the hot spots should be a priority, he said.

Ms Blomquist stated that there should be more close cooperation with the energy group and possibly other groups, as similar activities are going on. She also said that the CPTF should make some CP preconditions for cleaning up the hot spots. Ms Yanchik stressed the

importance of the contact with the ACAP and brought up the anti-dioxin campaign as a good example.

Ms Yanchik stated that a Nordic Forum will be organised in June in Norilsk. Ms Tjupenko mentioned that just recently 35 people in Uhta received a diploma for training in CP and that a Russian–Norwegian–Canadian–Estonian social-ecological conference is under preparation. Mr. Hietamäki highlighted that Finland was placed at the top of the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index of Yale University. Norway was in second place, Sweden, fourth, and Russia, 34th, out of 146 countries.

It was agreed that two meetings are needed: one drafting meeting in August and one meeting back to back with ministerial meeting in Rovaniemi.

Mr. Hietamäki summed up the meeting by saying there is a lot to be done and hoped to get the contributions for the draft report by the end of July and closed the meeting.