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WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT

**Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)  
Working Group on Environment  
Swedish Chairmanship 2010-2011**

Adopted version

## **Work Programme**

**Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption**



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption Subgroup of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's (BEAC) Working Group on Environment is an arena for cooperation on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption in the Barents region. The work is based on the principles and methods outlined in the strategy document on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption as an element of a life cycle perspective.

The Work Programme guides the subgroups efforts in promoting cleaner production and sustainable consumption during the Swedish chairmanship of the Working Group on Environment during 2010-2011.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Cleaner Production is a preventive and integrated environmental strategy implemented in the production process and product life cycle in order to reduce risks to humans and to the environment. Cleaner Production Strategies have been implemented in a number of countries. In general the results have been encouraging from an environmental point of view, both through reduced pollution and through the improved environmental awareness as a result of the implementation process in the participating companies. It is equally important to notice that Cleaner Production will give a significant contribution to the bottom line results in the companies, partly through more effective use and management of raw materials and energy resources, and partly through improved quality and productivity as a result of improved motivation of employees and management. Furthermore, it gives business advantages to compete on a global market where demand for sustainable products is growing day by day.

### **History**

The Ministers of the Environment (of Barents Region) requested the Working Group on Environment (WGE) to promote effectively actions on Cleaner Production and to develop a Policy document with an aim to improve chemicals management as well. The WGE established a Task Force on Cleaner Production in October 2002 under Swedish Chairmanship to develop a strategy and concrete activities on Cleaner Production. Besides the Policy document, a common Action Plan was developed. In order to identify measures and responsible actors according to the common Action Plan, the countries within the Barents cooperation taking a direct active part in the implementation of the action plan developed National Action Plans.

The Task Force on Cleaner Production presented a policy document and Action Plan at the ministerial meeting in Luleå in 2003. This included enhanced co-operation and shared responsibilities in this field. The WGE also instructed the Task Force on Cleaner Production to identify the synergies of Cleaner Production cooperation in the Barents environmental hot spot process. At the Ministerial meeting in November 2007 in Moscow the mandate to the Cleaner Production Task Force was broadened to also include special attention to and activities on environmentally sound consumption in order to also consider the environmental effects of unsustainable consumption and to connect to the international work within UN on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Hence, the Task Force was transformed into a subgroup and the name was altered to the sub-group on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption( CPESC).

## **3. MANDATE AND DECLARATION**

The Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption has the mandate to work on projects on environmental hot spots, best available techniques (BAT), implementation of cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption strategy, projects on reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gases emissions, projects on

cleaner production, energy efficiency and sustainable consumption, projects on prevention and reduction of the pollution of environment by dangerous and harmful substances.

The Tromsø Declaration of February 2010 states the following:

### ***The Environment Ministers***

16. *emphasised* the importance of the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in their efforts to achieve greater coordination, and *highlighted* the importance of the up-coming negotiations on a convention for minimising and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global anthropogenic releases of mercury, thereby also protecting human health and the environment in the Barents region;

17. *welcomed* the revision of the Strategy Document for Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption and agreed to conduct activities in these fields;

18. *encouraged* contribution to the Marrakech process by identifying special needs in the region, sharing best practices, and proposing ideas for programmes and activities to the 10 Year Framework of Programs for Sustainable Consumption and Production;

19. *called for* coordinated efforts between the Working Group on Environment and the Joint Energy Working Group on developing projects on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and cleaner production and consumption;

20. *emphasised* the importance of further co-operation to promote cleaner production practices, and sustainable consumption and production tools such as Sustainable Public Purchasing, Environmental Management Systems and Best Available Techniques (BAT), and exchange of experience in the use of eco-labelling, environmental taxes and legislation;

21. *called for* further development of cooperation with different stakeholders, including universities, in order to integrate aspects of cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption in educational curricula and business management;

22. *underlined* the need for stronger focus on behavioural changes and sustainable consumption, supported by education, economic incentives and societal planning, using the experiences from the Marrakech Task Forces.

## **4. GOAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The Goal under the Swedish Presidency is to promote CPESC through multilateral projects and strengthen co-operation and coordination with other BEAC WGE subgroups and with ACAP WG on Hot Spots, the BEAC joint Working Group on Energy and the Barents Regional Working Group on Environment with the aim of reducing the environmental and social impact from the way products are produced, consumed and handled as waste in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

The goal is also to respond to the call from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg which called for a global 10 year Framework on Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and national and regional action by promoting SCP at national and regional level. This was discussed at the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in May 2010 in New York and will be adopted at the next CSD in 2011. The national and regional support to such a Framework is important as well as the identification of special needs, tools and strategic directions for respectively region and country.

## **5. PRIORITIES UNDER SWEDISH CHAIRMANSHIP**

The main activities and priority projects within the CPESC Subgroup are described below.

Projects and activities in the Work Programme will be addressed as time, resources and opportunity permit.

### **CPESC priorities under Swedish Chairmanship 2010- 2011**

- Strengthening the interlinkages between the work on cleaner production and energy efficiency, finding synergies with the joint Working Group on Energy in light of the Ministerial Meeting on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to be held in 2010, as well as the opportunity to develop projects under the Barents Window funding facility;
- Contributing to the hot spots elimination through the work of the subgroup and in cooperation with the temporary Subgroup on Hot spot elimination and with ACAP WG;
- Following-up the Marrakech Task Force Seminars on Building and Construction, Sustainable Lifestyles and Green Public Procurement in order to promote engagement in the Marrakech Process, and the development of a global 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- Further developing training on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption for engineers in industry as well as for authorities and agencies, and developing seminars on efficient tools and instruments for SCP;
- Seeking opportunities for strengthening education, training and awareness rising on cleaner production and not at least sustainable consumption, involving universities and other educational institutions in the Barents region;
- Mainstreaming of Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption aspects through cooperation between different actors and levels.

### **Method of work**

- The CPESC subgroup will have minimum 2 meetings every year, preferably back to back with the BEAC WGE meetings,
- All decisions of the subgroup are made in consensus. The observers have an advisory role. All decisions should be reflected in a protocol or minutes from the meeting,
- The subgroup should develop and agree on priority projects for every 2 year chairmanship period,
- All relevant documents from the subgroup should be posted on the BEAC webpage to secure availability and transparency,
- Participation in the subgroup is open to federal and regional authorities in the Barents region. Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden should have appointed members to the subgroup. Representatives from indigenous peoples organizations and other relevant organizations, including NGOs may participate as observers in the subgroup,
- The rotation of chairmanship of the subgroup will follow the chairmanship of BEAC WGE, unless otherwise agreed,
- Reports and recommendations from the subgroup will be submitted to the BEAC WGE for information and approval.

## **6. PROJECTS AND SCHEDULE**

### **The following multilateral projects are identified:**

1. Cleaner Production training programmes for enterprises in North West Russia - continuation of the work of CPSD Center.
2. Seminar on CPESC instruments and voluntary tools with a focus on Eco-labelling in cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers.

3. Project on education- to promote training on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption in universities within Barents
4. Project on Best Available Techniques and Permit Granting – based on a permit procedure case study in Pajala.
5. Finalize project Case studies and good examples of cleaner production and Environmentally Sound Consumption approaches.
6. Follow up of the Marrakech Task Force seminars, on: Sustainable Construction and Buildings (Finnish Task Force; Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (Swedish and Italian Task Force); Green Public Purchasing (Swiss Task Force) and a new seminar on Sustainable Tourism (French Task Force) in cooperation with the Regional Working Group.
7. Contribution to Hot Spot exclusion through recommendations and activities on Cleaner Production, in cooperation with the ad hoc subgroup on Hot Spot Exclusion.
8. Cooperation with ACAP through cleaner production activities based on an overview of facilities for environmentally sound destruction of hazardous substances in the Barents region/Barents countries as a first step.
9. Project on energy efficiency through cooperation with the BEAC Joint Working Group on Energy and the Energy Efficiency Centers,; providing information and education.
10. Contribution to the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP by providing information on regional initiatives/activities to UN-organizations.

## **6. MEMBERS**

### **The following persons are appointed members of the Subgroup:**

Gunilla Blomquist, Chair, Swedish Ministry of the Environment  
 Andrey Peshkov Ministry of Nature Resources and Ecology (MNRE), Russia  
 Hanne Aronsen, Climate and Pollution Agency, Norway  
 Kaarina Huhtinen, Finnish Environment Institute

### **Regular observers:**

Malena Swanson, Swedish Ministry of the Environment  
 Ruslan Butovsky, Ministry of Nature Resources, Russia  
 Yan Tsygankov Cleaner Production Centre, Moscow  
 Henrik Forsström NEFCO  
 Henna Haapala Finnish Ministry of the Environment

Other relevant organisations and institutions may participate as observers in the subgroup.

## **APPENDICES**

CPESC REPORT TO BEAC WGE 2007-2009  
 CPESC STRATEGY DOCUMENT  
 LIST OF PROJECTS (Short List)  
 PROJECT SHEETS

**REPORT 2007-2009****5. Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption**

The finalized projects include i. a. 3 Cleaner Production training programmes for engineers in industrial and municipal companies (Vorkuta, Nyandoma, Petrozavodsk), sharing of information between universities and technical colleges in the Barents region about including Cleaner Production in the curricula, seminars on Sustainable Consumption and Production, engaging North West Russia in the work of the Marrakech Process and the global work to develop a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as arranging the 2nd International Roundtable in Yasnaya Polyana on sustainable lifestyles and cleaner production.

A project documentation template has been developed in order to provide a fixed format for the essential project information, including the objectives, participants, roles and responsibilities, activities, timeframe, deadlines, budget and funding, of the projects. The final report of the project is also included, giving the whole history of the project comprised in one document.

The Cleaner Production Policy Document, developed for the period 2003-2005, has been revised and developed into a Strategy Document for Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption in a life cycle perspective. The subgroup has also focused on the Barents environmental "hot spots" and supported the work of the Task Force on creating criteria for exclusion of "hot spots" from the list.

In order to share knowledge on Best Available Techniques in the mining sector, the subgroup has discussed a project on permit granting for an iron mine in Pajala, Sweden, near the border to Finland. Sweden has invited Russian, Finnish and Norwegian authorities, enterprises and other stakeholders to participate in the project. The subgroup has taken steps to initiate co-operation with the re-established Barents Working Group on Energy. Furthermore, ideas for project co-operation with the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) under the Arctic Council have been presented. The subgroup will continue to seek co-operation and synergies with these working groups.

The Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) has taken active part in the work of the subgroup and supports its aims. NEFCO has also carried out several projects aiming at cleaner production and sustainable development mainly by providing financial support from its Cleaner Production and Energy Savings Credit Facility. One such project consisted in the reconstruction of a sewage water treatment system at a plywood factory in the Komi Republic. Moreover, energy savings measures have been conducted in the Republic of Karelia and the Arkhangelsk Oblast, leading to an average decrease of energy consumption by 44%.