



The Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)

Eastern Europe Regional Consultation Meeting

Minsk, Belarus, 8-9 September 2014

Outcome Statement

From 8 to 9 September 2014, representatives of governments of Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, as the countries of the ENVSEC Eastern European region; academic and non-governmental institutions; and ENVSEC's international partners convened in Minsk, Belarus, to take part in the ENVSEC Eastern Europe Regional Consultation meeting, generously hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

The meeting saw two days of plenary and group discussions, where the scope of problems calling for immediate attention and action on the part of the Eastern European countries and their ENVSEC partners was outlined and analyzed in great depth and detail.

The meeting reviewed prospects for future cooperation and interaction with the donor community, with main challenges and priorities in the area of environment and security for the parties outlined, as well as the steps to be taken to tackle them jointly.

This Outcome Statement is the result of the two-day deliberations.

The high-level participants of the Regional Consultation Meeting

Confirming the need to jointly define strategic priorities for the ENVSEC programme in the region;

Understanding that ownership of environment and security projects by national stakeholders, as well as their integration into national development frameworks and regional cooperation planning, is essential;

Stressing the importance of closely involving donors in a joint programmatic outlook of ENVSEC in the regional development;

Emphasizing the need to address regional environmental concerns in conflict zones by way of cooperation between all stakeholders and sectors of society through strengthening trust and cooperation between stakeholders – local authorities, civil society, youth, men and women – by supporting joint working groups, contacts and through identifying and implementing sustainable solutions;



Acknowledging that the nexus between water pollution, climate change, hazardous waste, anthropogenic impact and other environmental risks is to be closely monitored and forms the core of cooperation in the framework of ENVSEC;

Aiming to keep the public in the region fully informed and properly educated in the current environment and security risks and the means to overcome them;

Determined to step up cooperation to increase national and regional capacity and resilience to environment and security threats:

Agree as follows:

To *decide* on the vision of priority programmatic areas to year 2020;

To *identify* the following priority areas for further programme development by ENVSEC partners:

Water issues and transboundary water basins

- Legislative base
- Water resource management plan
- River transport and the effect of watercourse-regulating works
- Prevention of negative anthropogenic impact on water resources (such as pollution, including one-time accidental spills)
- The effect of hydraulic structures
- Reduction of extreme event risks
- Prevention of biodiversity loss in ecosystems, establishment of transboundary protected areas
- Groundwater protection
- Monitoring and information exchange
- Education and public awareness

Climate change: an ecosystem approach

- Adapting economic and ecosystem sectors to climate change



- Education and public awareness

Management of chemicals and hazardous wastes

- Collection, storage and disposal of hazardous waste
- Implementation of international agreements, including institutional capacity-building in the region
- Monitoring and information exchange
- Education and public awareness

Transboundary environmental security

- Road transport
- Environmental cooperation at state borders (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Montreal Protocol, the CITES, the Cartagena Protocol (including transfer of GMO containing substances: cross-border aspect)), Convention on Mercury, European Agreement on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Espoo Convention and Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment)
- Education, public awareness, and participation (including target groups) (Aarhus Convention)
- Forest fires in contaminated areas

Environmental cooperation in conflict situations

- Monitoring of environmental threats in the region, including economic, political, migration and other conflict situations
- Risk analysis, minimization of the impact of conflicts on the environmental situation in the region and implementation of international bilateral and multilateral environmental commitments, including multilateral environmental agreements

Industrial activity and environmental security

- Industrial objects (pollution prevention and land restoration, clean-up of emissions and dumping)



- Pipeline transport
- Alert and early warning system for industrial accidents
- Radiation monitoring and security