

EEB CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL POLICY AND STRUCTURAL FUNDS

“Promoting effective involvement of environmental citizens organisations in the implementation and monitoring of Structural Fund assistance in new Member States”

PROGRAMME

Organiser: European Environmental Bureau/EEB in co-operation with National Society of Conservationists/Hungary

Under the patronage of Ms. Dr. Maria Korodi, Hungarian Minister for Environment and Water Management and Mr. Dr. Etele Barath Political State Secretary of Hungarian Prime Minister's Office

Time: April 27/28

Length: Two days:

- ❖ first day - an NGO conference
- ❖ second day – an official conference with participation of Minister(s), EU officials, Central European national authorities

Place: April 27 – Museum for Natural History, Budapest
April 28 – Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest

Participants: About 60 including 40 NGOs from the Accession countries as well as the EU Member States and the rest from governments (Ministry of Environment, Regional Policy, Agriculture), regional structures, EU officials.

Objectives:

- preparing for the challenge of integrating environment and sustainable development in regional policies in an enlarged Europe.
- dissemination of good practices of regional policy in the EU Member State.
- continued promotion of effective involvement of NGOs in the implementation and monitoring of the programmes and projects under the Structural Funds.
- developing and strengthening dialogue between environmental organisations and national authorities in the accession countries.
- influencing EU and national policies and legislation related to regional policy for sustainable development.

Day 1 (Apr 27) – NGO meeting

I. Public participation in planning and implementation of Structural Funds assistance

10-13

Presentations

1. Requirements for involvement of environmental organisations/the public into the planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation of Structural Funds
Mr. Petr PELCL, Center for Community Organising/CCO, Czech Republic
2. Good practices in the EU – presentation of a few positive examples where NGOs were involved and where it led to an impact. Does the involvement continue and how does it work
Ms. Isabel RIPA JULIA, Women in Europe for a Common Future, Spain
Ms. Karin DUBSKY, Coastwatch, Ireland

Questions and answers

Coffee Break

3. Conclusions of the project “Partnerships for Sustainable Development” in Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland (the Visegrad group) and other similar initiatives.
Mr. Istvan FARKAS, National Society of Conservationists, Hungary

Discussion, conclusions and recommendations

Facilitator: Mr. Paul KOSTERINK, Milieukontakt Oost-Europa, The Netherlands

14-17

II. Integration of environmental aspects to Structural Funds operation

Presentations

1. Member state experiences using Structural Funds/SF for environment
Ms. Patricia CARRERA, Ecologistas en Accion, Spain
2. Experiences of SEA of National Development Plans and Operative Programs in Central and Eastern Europe/CEE
Mr. Jiri DUSIK, Regional Environmental Center/REC

Questions and answers

Coffee Break

3. NGO evaluations of National Development Plans/NDP in CEE
Ms. Erszebet BELICZAY, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary

Discussion, conclusions, recommendations

Facilitator: Mr. Istvan FARKAS, National Society of Conservationists, Hungary

Day 2 (Apr 28) – Official Conference

Agenda

9.00-9.30 Opening by Mr. John HONTELEZ, Secretary-General of the European Environmental Bureau/EEB, Belgium

Addressing by Dr. Maria KÓRÓDI, Minister for Environment and Waters, Hungary

9.30-10.45

Member State NGO experiences on public participation

Ms. Karin DUBSKY, Coastwatch, Ireland

Conclusions of the project “Partnerships for Sustainable Development” in Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland (the “Visegrad” group)

Mr. Petr PELCL, Center for Community Organising/CCO, Czech Republic

Facilitator: Ms. Ruta BUBNIENE, Center for Environmental Policy, Lithuania

10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-11.30 The role of civil society in the implementation and monitoring of SF assistance

Ms. Klara DOBREV, Deputy State Secretary of Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office

11.30-13.00 Panel discussion on role of environmental NGOs in Structural Funds’ implementation

Participants:

Mr. Tapani VEISTOLA, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Finland

Mr. Tomas NEJDL, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic

Mr. Richard FILCAK, Center for Environmental Public Advocacy, Slovakia

Mr. Valdis BISTERS, Ministry of Environment, Latvia

Chaired by: Mr. John HONTELEZ, EEB, Belgium

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

Press Conference

14.00-15.15

Environment and sustainable development in the Structural Funds operation – member state experiences

Mr. John HONTELEZ, EEB, Belgium

Study on nature conservation in NDPs

Ms. Klara HAJDU, CEE WEB, Hungary

Lessons learned from pre-accession funds
Mr. Peep Mardiste, FoE-Estonia/CEE Bankwatch

Chaired by Mr. Piotr HANDAREK, European Environmental Center, Poland

15.15-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 Roundtable on Integration of Environmental Aspects to Structural Funds

Participants:

Mr. Charles-Michel GEURTS, Counsellor, Head of Political, Economic and Pre-Accession Unit, Delegation of the European Commission to Hungary

Ms. Rachel LEE, RSPB, United Kingdom

Ms. Erzsebet BELICZAY, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary

Ms. Lenka KAROVA, Department of Integrated Financing and Structural Funds, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic

Ms. Alexandra MALARZ, Head of the Project Preparation Unit, Department of European Integration, Ministry of Environment, Poland

Chaired by Ms. Erzsebet SCHMUCK, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environment Hungary

17.00-17.30 Conclusion and closing

Mr. Istvan FARKAS, National Society of Conservationists, Hungary