



PROGRAMME
FOR SPECIAL SESSION BETWEEN MINISTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs
ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INTEGRATION
AT KIEV MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
May 22nd, 2003 pm

Working document as of May 5th, 2003

ORGANISATION:

European ECO-Forum, delegating practical work to the European Environmental Bureau/EEB

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

- an informal and frank discussion between environmental NGOs and Ministers about the nature of the bottlenecks for integration of environmental requirements into relevant sectoral and horizontal policies;
- discuss good examples of environmental policies and their integration into sectors and horizontal policies in the UN/ECE region, look at their potential and discuss ways to promote these;
- discuss and clarify roles of governments and environmentalists and their complementarity.
- The session should NOT negotiate a common declaration, as that would change the character of the event too much.

PARTICIPANTS:

Ministers and environmentalists, representing environmental citizens' organisations, and persons with other backgrounds invited by the ECO-Forum, relevant to the issues in the programme [see below].

The important criteria for selection of participants will be experience in the discussed items and regional balance of the UNECE.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

SESSION WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR. Bedrich MOLDAN (former Czech Minister for the Environment) (confirmed)

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY John HONTELEZ (Secretary General European Environmental Bureau)

TOPICS (3 blocks):

1. Let the market work for the environment:

Questions for introductions/discussions:

- how can prices really reflect the environmental impacts; taxation etc.
- subsidy policies, environmental liability and green public procurement: direct influence of administrations.
- consumers choice: labelling, education, information, support for NGO work in this field, regulate advertisement.
- How to solve the (social) dilemma that several uses of energy can be seen as basic needs, but on the other hand internalisation of costs in its price is necessary to promote demand management and efficiency improvements?
- Which policies in Pan-Europe stand out as positive, what can we learn from them?

Introductions will be made by:

Mr. Yannis PALEOKRASSAS (Elliniki Etairia/Greece) - Environmental Fiscal Reform: a concrete proposal for Greece

Mrs. Margaret BECKETT (Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs/United Kingdom) - invited – UK experience in using market instruments: climate change levy

Mr. Andrzej KASENBERG (Institute for Sustainable Development/Poland) - the impact of financial instruments on environment, 10 years experience in Poland

Mr. Vasyl SHEVCHUK (Ukrainian Minister) – invited – limitations to the use of economic instruments in a low income country

Mr. Borge BRENDE (Norwegian Minister) – practising consumers rights to know, eco-labelling, green procurement

2. An example of Sectoral Policy integration:

The time permits to discuss one example of sectoral policy at the session in Kiev. On the basis of input both from environmental organisations and government officials we have chosen for:

Agriculture

Questions for introductions/discussions

- What are the basic functions the agricultural sector needs to fulfil for society?

- Does multi-functionality and our global responsibilities require a re-localisation of agriculture in Europe (attention should be focussed on sub-regional and common problems and solutions, e.g. EU, non-EU, accession, non-accession countries and the NIS)?
- What role consumers can play in shifting agricultural practise?
- What needs to change in agricultural policies (at national sub-regional and regional level, e.g. EU, non-EU, accession, non-accession countries and the NIS)?

Introductions will be made by:

Mr. David BALDOCK (IEEP, UK) - An introduction on the concept of "cross-compliance" as developed in the European Union

Mr. Josef PRÖLL (Austrian Minister) - integrating environmental interests into Austrian's agricultural policy and practise

Mrs. Nino CHKHOBADZE (Georgian Minister) - integrating environmental interests into Georgia's agricultural policy and practise

Ms. Svetla NIKOLOVA (Agrolink NGO, Bulgaria) – relationship between environment, agriculture and biodiversity in some of the Central European Countries

Mr. Fikret JAFAROV (Azerbaijan NGO) - agrarian reform in a country in transition and impact on its environment

3. How to overcome the institutional weaknesses that prevent integration:

Questions for introductions/discussions:

- the need for leadership and clear objectives, targets and timetables;
- institutional integration: at national and local levels;
- the role of civil society in bringing together different schools of thought;
- the potential of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Introductions will be made by:

Mr. Gennadyi MARUSHEVSKY (Ukrainian NOC) - "partnerships between civil society and government" – theme will be defined later

Mr. Laszlo MIKLOS (Slovak Minister) - on Environmental Policy Integration via the National Strategy for Sustainable Development: the organisation of the implementation on the governmental level"

Mr. Bart MARTENS (Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen/Belgium) - what difference has the establishment of a State Secretariat on (Energy and) Sustainable Development made in terms of environmental policy integration

Mrs. Lena SOMMESTAD (Swedish Minister) - Local Agenda 21: tool for environmental policy integration: the institutional arrangements

Mrs. Vesna SMAKA-KINCL (Environmental Protection Agency, Municipality of Maribor) – Local Agenda 21 in Slovenia