

**Chair's Summary of the
ninth informal meeting between representatives of the governing bodies of the
ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Committee of Environmental Policy**

held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 13 November 2017

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Natasa Djurasinovic, Chair of the Protocol on Water and Health.

The key objectives of this meeting were to: (a) share experiences on challenges and opportunities for ratification and implementation of the respective MEAs, with a particular focus on Central Asia, and (b) share information on efforts to define the roles of the MEAs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1. Opening

The Chair welcomed the participants (see annex I for the list of participants). The UNECE Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the MEAs for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She informed participants that the informal meeting between representatives of the governing bodies served as a model for a meeting of Chairs of the UNECE sectoral committees on the margins of the UNECE Commission Session (26-27 April 2017), which discussed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She also emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation with numerous partners in the UNECE region.

2. Challenges and opportunities for ratification and implementation of MEAs - Roundtable discussion

Participants discussed challenges and opportunities in working with Central Asian countries on ratification and implementation of the MEAs. They agreed that Central Asia is an important political subregion in the UNECE for further work on MEAs. All MEAs have undertaken significant efforts in providing technical assistance, trainings, advisory services, awareness raising missions, and national policy dialogues, among others. The experiences and outcomes have been different. In order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of capacity building activities, participants agreed that the secretariat looks into possibilities of adjusting approaches, including the introduction of new techniques, e.g. e-learning.

The MEA Chairs also noted that, although a considerable effort to support the Central Asian countries had been made, the progress achieved by the Central Asian countries towards implementation and ratification of UNECE MEAs was rather weak. Participants agreed that the awareness, ownership and political commitment needed for the effective ratification and implementation of the MEAs is currently not sufficient and needs to be enhanced. Therefore, raising public and political awareness about the benefits of implementing MEAs, including as tools to reach national SDG targets needs to be undertaken. Political awareness of the usefulness of MEAs should be raised, especially at the highest political level. This could, for example, be undertaken jointly by the MEAs together with the UNECE management. Also, external partners, such as EU delegations, IFIs, and others could help in this regard. Participants discussed the role of the CEP in awareness raising, including through national focal points and decided to return to this topic at their next informal meeting.

Speaking about the subregion, the Executive Secretary drew the Chairs' attention to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). Further information about SPECA can be found at <https://www.unece.org/speca/about.html>. Participants were invited to familiarize themselves with this information and share possible comments/suggestions with the secretariat.

3. MEAs activities and the 2030 Agenda

Participants shared information on efforts to define the roles of the MEAs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was agreed that the SDGs provide a unique entry point to promote the MEAs, which should be further exploited. It was also agreed that awareness of the role of the MEAs play in assisting countries in achieving their commitments under Agenda 2030 should be raised in political forums, such as the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

4. Election of next Chair of the informal meeting

The Chair of the Protocol on Water and Health, Natasa Djurasinovic, was elected as the chair of the informal meeting between representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Committee of Environmental Policy.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held back to back with the 24th session of the CEP, in January 2019.

Annex I: List of participants



9th Informal Meeting of Representatives of Governing Bodies of MEAs and CEP

Monday, November 13, 2017

Participants: 23

Mr. Peter KOVACS

Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection
Department, Chair of the UNECE Water Convention
Department of River Basin Management and Water Protection
Ministry of Interior

József Attila utca 2-4
1051 Budapest
Hungary

Phone: +36 1441 1376 **Mobile:** +36 30 919 3821

Fax: +36 1 441 1698

Email: peter.kovacs@bm.gov.hu

Ms. Nicoletta BOUMAN

Senior Policy Adviser
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Vice chair
of the Convention on Access to Information, Public
Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in
Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

P.O. box 20901
2500 EX The Hague
Netherlands

Phone: +31 70 4568273

Email: Nicolette.bouman@minienm.nl

Ms. Elisabete QUINTAS DA SILVA

Adviser, Office for International Relations; Chair, Committee
on Environmental Policy
Ministry of Environment, Land Use Planning and Regional
Development

Av. 5 de outubro, 153
1050-053 Lisbon

Phone: +351 218 814 090

Email: Elisabete.Quintas@adcoesao.pt

Ms. Natasa DJURASINOVIC

International Cooperation Group Manager; Chair of the
Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health
Ministry of Health

Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Belgrade
Serbia

Phone: +381112656553 **Mobile:** +381658774757

Email: natasa.djurasinovic@zdravlje.gov.rs

Ms. Jasmina KARBA

Chair of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of
Industrial Accidents
Secretary
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Dunajska Cesta 48
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Phone: +386 1 4787 248

Fax: +386 147 87420

Email: jasmina.karba@gov.si

Ms. Tina SKÅRMAN

Chairperson- MOP to the Protocol on Pollutants Release and Transfer Registers
Senior Adviser
IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute

Box 530 21
SE-400 14 Göteborg
Sweden

Phone: +46-10-788 67 70 (direct)
Email: tina.skarman@ivl.se
Website: www.ivl.se

Mr. George KREMLIS

Chair of the general segment
Head of Unit
DG Environment
European Commission

Avenue de Beaulieu 9
Office 02/173
1160 Brussels
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 296 6526 **Mobile:** +32498966526
Fax: +32 2 299 5809
Email: georges.kremlis@ec.europa.eu

UNECE Secretariat**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe****Ms. Olga ALGAYEROVA**

Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Mr. Marco KEINER

Director
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2370 **Mobile:** +41 79 27 93612
Fax: +41 22 917 0041
Email: marco.keiner@unece.org

Mr. Sergiusz LUDWICZAK

Deputy Director, Chief Transboundary Cooperation Section
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 3174
Fax: +41 22 917 0107
Email: sergiusz.ludwiczak@unece.org

Ms. Sarangoo RADNAARAGCHAA

Regional Adviser
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2452
Fax: +41 22 917 0041
Email: sarangoo.radnaaragchaa@unece.org

Mr. Zaal LOMTADZE

Chief
Environment for Europe and Sustainable Development
Section
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2388
Email: zaal.lomtadze@unece.org, zaallomtadze@gmail.com
Website: www.unece.org

Ms. Ella BEHLYAROVA

Secretary to the Aarhus Convention
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2376
Fax: +41 22 917 0107
Email: ella.behlyarova@unece.org

Ms. Tea AULAVUO

Secretary to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 1723
Fax: +41 22 917 0621
Email: tea.aulavuo@unece.org

Ms. Franziska HIRSCH

Secretary to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of
Industrial Accidents
Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix 8-14
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 24 80
Email: franziska.hirsch@unece.org

Ms. Francesca BERNARDINI

Secretary to the Water Convention
Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 1032
Email: francesca.bernardini@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>

Ms. Albena KARADJOVA

Secretary to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary
Air Pollution
Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations,
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2345
Fax: +41 22 917 01 07
Email: albena.karadjova@unece.org

Mr. Kristof DOUCOT

Environmental Affairs Officer
Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 1390
Fax: +41 22 917 0107
Email: kristof.doucot@unece.org

Ms. Sonja KOEPPPEL

Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention
Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
8-14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 1218
Email: sonja.koepfel@unece.org

Mr. Krzysztof OLENDZYNSKI

Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution
Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations,
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2722
Fax: +41 22 917 0107
Email: krzysztof.olendzynski@unece.org

Ms. Angela SOCHIRCA

Environmental Affairs Officer
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2064
Email: angela.sochirca@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org/env>

Ms. Maike CHRISTIANSEN

Environmental Affairs Officer,
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in
Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental
Matters and to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer
Registers
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 6073
Email: maike.christiansen@unece.org

Ms. Carolin SANZ NORIEGA

Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on
Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Phone: 0041229173922 **Mobile:** 0041763583965
Email: carolin.sanznoriega@unece.org
