

## **Report on the steps taken by Armenia to address Mr.Skrylnikov's recommendations**

1. Mr. D. Skrilnikov's suggestions on making changes and addendum in the RA Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment" were reviewed and discussed in the Ministry of Nature Protection of the RA. All suggestions, in particular those, referring to the new articles, regulating the processes of transboundary impact assessment, as well as to the replacement of the time-terms fixed in acting Law by more optimal time terms, and to the specifications of some definitions, are principally acceptable for us. At present we are elaborating the draft of the law "On making changes and addendum in the Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment". This Draft will be submitted for adoption.

2. The issues on development and improvement of the state ecological expertise system, environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment are among State priorities. This is reflected in the fundamental documents of the State which determine the policy and strategy in different spheres.

Such documents are the "Measures ensuring implementation of the RA-EU ENP Action Plan for 2009-2011" approved by the RA President's decree of 6 May, 2009 (N NK -68-A) (para 143) and "The Second Environmental National Programme of the RA" approved by the RA Government Protocol decision of 14 August 2008, in which the following measures are included:

- Elaboration of the Draft new law "On Ecological Expertise" and Draft by-laws ensuring its implementation
- Ensuring the approximation to the EU directives demands – elaboration of program package for the strengthening of the state ecological expertise system, EIA and SEA.

In the framework of the approximation of the RA actions/activities, norms and demands to the EU directives demands, the "Twinning" program on "development and strengthening the capacities of the State ecological expertise, EIA and SEA" is presented to the EU Armenian office in November, 2009 for receiving a corresponding support.

By support of the EU member countries and with direct participation of the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA, institutional reforms will be made which are necessary for implementation the state ecological expertise processes, EIA and SEA will be implemented in RA in the framework of the mentioned "Twinning" program.

The institutional reforms will include the elaboration and adoption of the legislative acts (creation of legal instruments and mechanisms), as well as development of the cadres potential (creation or perfection of the appropriate structures, improvement the managing systems and informational structures, training and retraining of state and private sector's specialists, and representatives of public, etc.)

As to the pilot project or preparation of bilateral agreement, we would like to elaborate a bilateral agreement between Armenia and Georgia. However during the Bucharest meeting the Georgia didn't give its consent in this regard. Unfortunately, at present Armenia can't make such agreement with another neighbour country.