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Forum on Strategies and Priorities for Environmental Industries









International Forum on Strategies and Priorities for Environmental Industries

organized by

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

in cooperation with the

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Bratislava, Slovakia, 12-14 June 2002

REPORT



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ADDRESSES

Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

Director-General, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to welcome you to the International Conference on the "Strategy and Priorities of Cleaner and Permanently Sustainable Development" here in Slovakia. I am very glad that you have accepted our invitation and have come here to discuss the issues surrounding environmental protection.

In countries with previous experiences of dictatorial regimes the problem of protecting nature and the countryside has taken on special significance in that inadequate environmental protection in the past has in many cases led to environmental devastation. The situation has now changed and the ambition for accession to the European Union is motivating us to bring the level of environmental protection into line with the standard found in the developed areas of Europe. Over the years Slovakia has undertaken a number of significant changes, which should lead to an elimination of the risk of environmental damage.

The public is better informed and citizens are using their right to demand that governments address the issue of permanently sustainable development. Environmental protection is the concern of us all, which is why the Government of the Slovak Republic has recommended accession to the well-known Aarhus Convention, which specifies areas relating to the provision of information to the public. The new act on waste was passed after a wide-ranging public discussion and the new act on water, which employs modern instruments of prevention and the imposition of energies to increase the effectiveness of water protection, has been in effect for only twelve days.

In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme we have approved a strategy of permanently sustainable development of which the key concept is that our country be founded upon, and governed by, the principles and criteria of permanently sustainable development as well as the conscious application of these principles in practice. However, it must be emphasized that in the context of global problems and Slovakia's international status and objectives, the concept of permanently sustainable development in the Slovak Republic may only be applied through their steady realization over the long term. The conception of permanently sustainable development throughout the society must include the permanently sustainable development of industry, which can only be ensured on the condition that along with industrial production appropriate attention is also paid to the problem of waste. This is why I highly appreciate the fact that the objective of UNIDO is to ensure cleaner and permanently sustainable industrial development and to assist countries in transition to implement legal documents relating to the environment.

For the rapid and effective achievement of this objective it is essential to strengthen the mutual partnership between countries that have found themselves in a similar starting position. I am pleased that Slovakia has initiated the development of the UNIDO regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europewith the aim of exchanging experiences and knowledge in the area of environmental impacts and protection.

I believe that this year's conference, oriented towards the handling and recycling of waste, water management and technologies for treating waste water, and the establishment of a fund for the destruction of problematical outdated stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants, will bring a great deal of new and stimulating knowledge that will contribute to the solving of problems in individual countries, whilst bringing benefits that will promote the further development of international cooperation in this area.

In conclusion, please allow me to express the hope that both this Conference and your stay in Slovakia will prove to be an enjoyable experience. Thank you very much for coming.

Mr. Carlos Magariños Director-General United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Minister, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much Mr. Prime Minister for your kind words and your presence in this Forum.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to all the high-level authorities from the large number of 15 countries that have accepted the invitation of the Government of Slovakia and UNIDO to participate in this Forum.

I very well recall and appreciate the interest of Prime Minister Dzurinda on the activities of UNIDO and the discussions we had in Vienna before. I am very pleased to see that our cooperation is ever increasing and that we are having these practical discussions in the region on how to take care of the environment as well as improve the performance of the industrial sector.

It was on the occasion of the UNIDO Ninth General Conference that I had the opportunity to discuss with Minister Miklós the idea of organizing this Forum. Indeed, UNIDO is paying increasing attention to the region of Central and Eastern Europe. I have to record here the appreciation for the work done with the help of our Regional Bureau, headed by Mr. Piskounov, that was working very hard in a number of events, such as in Budapest in October 2000, where we held a Regional Forum on Industrial Cooperation and Partnerships in Central and Eastern European States, and also the Forum we organized last year in Warsaw on Regional E-Productivity and Quality. Both forums established mechanisms of cooperation that are being developed currently together by UNIDO and the Government of Hungary and the Government of Poland.

I hope that this Forum will follow a similar path, and after the deliberations we have today and tomorrow we will be able to establish practical devices to encourage technology transfer and to strengthen the consideration of environmental topics in the treatment of the industrial policies.

A very interesting dimension of this Forum is the initiative of Minister Miklós to invite together representatives of ministries of environment and ministries of economy and industry of the countries of the region. I believe that increasingly we need to recognize the multi-dimension that should be addressed when we talk about industry, environment and the transfer of technology. For that reason we agreed to start our deliberations not with a specific discussion on environment but with the introduction of the Industrial Development Report for the year 2002 prepared by UNIDO.

I will try to share with you the initial conclusions on how the different industrial sectors in the region were performing both relatively to the others and relatively to itself along a certain period of time, and how that industrial performance relates to the level of pollution that the

different industrial sectors were producing during the last fifteen years. The relationship between industrial performance and the performance regarding pollution is extremely relevant and it will be very interesting to analyse.

Let me, Prime Minister, Minister Miklós, distinguished representatives, make just a few comments about UNIDO. In the last four years we focused all the efforts of the Agency in recuperating and improving its financial performance and de-veloping a complete new set of programmes. I am very happy to be able to report here, as I did to the Industrial Development Board, which once was chaired by Ambassador Nemethy of Slovakia not so long ago, that the financial situation of the Organization is ever improving. We have at our disposal increasing amounts of funds both from bilateral donors and multilateral donors to work in technical cooperation projects in the industrial sector, and at the same time UNIDO is increasing the level of technical cooperation delivery of its pro-grammes. In the last year we improved the level of our technical cooperation delivery by nearly 20 percent to reach already \$US 100 million a year.

The important thing to say in this gathering is for the first time in 2001 more than 50 per cent of our activities of technical cooperation were related to environment, related to the implementation of international protocols and the transfer of clean technologies. This is a fundamental change that I wanted to share with you because I consider it of high importance. An agency specializing in industrial development and delivering technical cooperation has a focus of more than 50 percent in the area of environment.

Why is this so? This is the thought I wanted to share with you, because it is very much related to our reforms. The reforms we introduced in UNIDO since the last four years were not only related to the financial field or to the field of administration or personnel or the programmes. There was a philosophical adaptation of UNIDO's role. UNIDO is not pursuing industrialization per se; it is not pursuing the development of the industrial sector as an objective in itself. UNIDO is trying to help developing and emerging economies to use the industrial sector to increase productivity that we see at the core of a process of growth, while at the same time it is at the core of the capacity of improving living conditions of the people.

This is precisely why we introduced all those changes. Nobody can pretend anymore to use industry alone or in an isolated way to increase the living standards of a population. But we can certainly say that industry is a sector where innovation takes place, where learning takes place and where productivity can best be tried by the national economies. This is the very reason why the environment is at the heart of our agenda and why it is so important and has already taken 50 percent of our technical cooperation delivery.

When we talk of productivity, we generally think of economists' definitions as referred to patterns of utilization of physical and financial capital, and how effectively human resources are used in a particular endeavour. But we need to remember that these are not the only forms of capital at our disposal. We have all around us a natural capital provided by the biological resources and environment networks without which we cannot live. And yet, our careless or inconsiderate actions that devalue the natural capital not only damage our quality of life but also threaten the very economic activity on which our social systems are based.

Indeed, we are finding already that with the consistency of a world in decline, human progress is starting to be limited by the fish in the sea; not our boats and nets are the limit for the progress, but the availability of fish. Our progress is limited by forests, not chain saws; by

fertile land and water, not ploughs and irrigation pumps. And let me recall that the last time, when progress was really limited by the shortage of something, was a quarter of a millennium ago when the shortage of, for example, weavers in England limited the supply of affordable clothes for most people. At that time the notion of increased labour productivity was unknown and yet when profit maximizing capital was teamed up with technological innovators, soon a Lancashire spin did the unthinkable thing and could produce as much clothes as 200 weavers altogether. And as it spread throughout the economy, of course, it created affordable mass goods, which were just in power of a middle class, and everything we call industrial revolution.

This is precisely what we think will happen now when we are challenged with the need to increase resource productivity. We do believe that this Forum and similar gatherings are to help this cross-cutting fertilization of different disciplines and have to be focused on how to use the different mechanisms at our disposal, like multilateral funds and bilateral cooperation, in order to improve the transfer of technology that will allow countries to increase the productivity extracted from each unit of energy or soil we are using in our productive system.

For this reason, the roundtables you will have later this afternoon and tomorrow will focus precisely on identifying how we can develop practical devices to finance the activities related to the disposal of obsolete stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants, how we can work better in the field of international water management and waste water treatment related technologies, and how we can improve technology transfer and knowledge related to waste management, recycling schemes and related technologies.

That is why we are so grateful for this initiative of the Government of Slovakia, the presence of the Prime Minister, and all of you in the Forum. We do hope this will allow us to find practical mechanisms to develop interventions that will help to achieve concrete solutions for our daily problems. UNIDO will certainly not only co-sponsor this Forum but also invest the necessary financial and human resources to finance the development of these mechanisms and to start up with the activities that will ensure a stronger transfer of technologies in these fields, particularly in the wake of the accession to the European Union as Prime Minister Dzurinda mentioned. We think that this will be a critical topic of negotiations for the accession and for that reason it is very important to think in regional terms.

Thank you very much for hosting this Forum and we wish that at the end of our deliberations practical proposals can be found and developed.

Mr. László Miklós

Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are in the year Rio+10. In Rio de Janeiro we defined what is sustainable development and we defined it as a shared responsibility. In this common responsibility the main players are the sectors of industry and environment. Therefore, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic have agreed to launch a new initiative in the Central and Eastern European region, that will bring to one table representatives of Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Economy at the ministerial level, to discuss the main issues of sustainable development.

It is therefore a great pleasure for us that we can share here today in this Forum the presence of the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Carlos Magarińos, who is at the same time the co-host of this Forum, and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda.

As you know, just a few days ago we had a very important preparatory committee meeting preparing for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, which took place in Bali. The main issues of the preparatory meeting were the commitments, the shared responsibility, the issue of poverty, and the issues of partnership. Unfortunately, the session was not considered the most successful one due to differences in opinion of the various regional groups and parties.

However, the meeting in Bali showed very clearly that discussions between the environmental sector and the industrial sector are inevitable because most problems arise from an incomplete understanding between these two sectors. Of course, not only industry but also all other economical sectors are addressed. Therefore, it has been agreed in Bali that we need at least two types of discussions and agreements: one between the governments of different States, and the other between the governments and other organizations. This Forum actually is concerned with both types and hopefully promotes these discussions. In this way I hope that through this Forum we will be able at least to contribute to the success of the World Summit of Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Concerning our region, I would like to underline again our intention emanating from the General Conference of UNIDO last December, which had sustainable development as its main theme, that in order to achieve sustainable development it is important to develop good partnerships in the Central and Eastern European countries and to exchange opinions to arrive at common positions. This was shown also in the Bali meeting where the EU and the candidate countries had almost unified positions.

This Forum under the umbrella of UNIDO will contribute to promote good partnerships in our region. Likewise, I would like also to stress the function and importance of the EU in our joint efforts, since the EU countries without any doubt promote the dialogue between environmental and industrial sectors.

One of the roundtable themes of the Forum deals with the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Slovakia has ratified the Stockholm Convention on POPs and has banned the production, import and use of these substances. However, the treatment of obsolete stockpiles of POPs is for us the difficult part of the Convention. We therefore have launched a GEF project, which will enable Slovakia to meet the obligations of the Convention. One of the outcomes of the project should be an inventory of obsolete stocks of POPs and a strategy on how to deal with them. We rely quite a lot on this project, but at the same time we are aware that the elimination of stockpiles and wastes will need substantial financial contribution from the government side. This is the weakest point of the POPs strategy, and I dare say, not only in Slovakia. That is why we should try here at this Forum to discuss ways and means to overcome also this particular barrier.

International water management is another topic we want to discuss. The activities in the Danube river basin are a good example of development and implementation of policies and strategies focusing on pollution reduction, including pollution from industry, on a regional basis.

The Danube Protection Convention came into force with the objective to improve the water quality in the Danube river basin and the Black Sea through the implementation of the polluter pays principle, the precautionary principle, and the best available techniques (BAT) principle. In the frame of this Convention an inventory of municipal and industrial hot spots has been prepared and is regularly updated. Based on the inventory and on the results of the UNDP Danube Pollution Reduction Programme, recommendations concerning waste water discharge for four kind of industries have been elaborate and disseminated in the whole Danube region.

UNIDO has joined forces with UNEP in a global venture to promote cleaner production strategies in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. These strategies operate within industrial production cycles and reduce pollution to generate substantial cuts in raw material, water and energy consumption with concomitant reduction in operating costs. Cleaner Production Centres have been established in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Croatia.

A UNIDO project on Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) has been started in five Danube river basin countries. The implementation of this project is the challenge to effectively demonstrate to the industries concerned in the Danubian countries that it is possible to respect environmental standards and still maintain or even enhance competitive positions.

The harmonization of environmental policies and objectives in the region with principles and provisions included in the EU legislation is a positive signal for future steps leading to a reduction of eliminations of industrial pollution based on common strategies and priorities for environmental industries.

With regard to waste management the legislation in Slovakia will be fully harmonized with the EU in the year 2003. A fund was set up to support the recovery of waste for recycling. Exporters and producers will contribute to this fund to be used for establishing of recycling facilities. Slovakia is implementing waste management programmes that aim at reducing waste production, minimizing toxic wastes, recycling of waste and reducing landfills.

The construction of all facilities for the handling of wastes, like landfills, incinerators and waste recovery facilities, are subject to an environment impact assessment, in which public, civil associations and NGOs are participating.

The Basel Convention preventing uncontrolled movement of wastes was adopted by Slovakia, and a related training centre for Central and Eastern Europe was established in Bratislava.

I believe that many countries participating in this Forum can present similar experiences. We are now here to share this experience and to define common issues, and hopefully to propose some possible joint activities addressing the topics of the Forum. I wish you successful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Bratislava.

Mr. Mirko Malik Director-General Department for European Integration Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This month, 10 years will have elapsed since the UN Conference on Environment and Development was organized in Rio de Janeiro. This anniversary provides an opportunity to think about and to review the progress made by the Slovak Republic in implementing the Declaration accepted in Rio de Janeiro, the document "Agenda for 21st Century" and other significant documents of the Conference and to evaluate the measures taken to achieve these goals.

When the Slovak Government approved the proposal for implementation of AGENDA 21 and evaluation of indicators of sustainable development five years ago through Resolution No. 655, it determined that the Ministry of Economy prepare eight chapters of AGENDA 21 and collaborate on three others.

The Ministry of Economy also participated in the creation of the document "Strategy, Principles and Priorities of the State Environmental Policy", which was approved by the Slovak Government and the Slovak Parliament in 1993 and in the formation of the first National Environmental Action Programme approved in 1996 and subsequently updated in 1999.

The environmental policy of the Slovak Republic is to a great extent in conformity with principles of the OECD and EU environmental policy and follows the principles of prevention and acceptable level of ecological risk, the principle of the best techniques and technologies available and the so called "polluter pays" principle. The implementation of the aforementioned policy in the industry sectors, as well as in the areas of support for small and medium enterprises, strategy of creation and support of business environment, domestic and foreign trade, travel and tourism and consumer's protection are based on these principles. All these sectors fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy.

Sustainable development has become one of the priorities and an integral part of the programme declared by the Slovak Government. The fulfillment of this goal requires an initiative and voluntary participation of business entities in environmental protection and creation, and a voluntary implementation of marketoriented tools in the area of environmental policy. These tools will incorporate market forces into the process of environmental care improvement as they relate to production, production processes and services.

It is important to emphasize that the implementation of this programme is an inevitable condition for the entry of Slovakia into the European and transatlantic structures. A gradual improvement of the position of Slovakia in the world, membership and some activities in international organizations can be considered as a success of the decade-long process of directing the Slovak Republic on the track to sustainable development.

The process of accepting the environmental "acquis" is also a positive indicator. Slovakia preliminarily closed the demanding Chapter on Environment in November 2001.

Environmental management systems are effective tools of sustainable development. The implementation of a good environmental management system will ensure a gradual and continuous improvement in the environmental behaviour of enterprises, and an adherence to legal norms.

The business entity itself will begin to control those areas, which have a negative impact on the quality and composition of the environment and thus achieve a profit of economic, social and environmental dimensions without restricting its growth.

In respect to the economic dimension, these actions will result in reduction, and eventual elimination of costs associated with fees and fines. In addition, the business entity will benefit from waste minimizing, waste recycling, potential use of waste as a secondary material, and from rational use of basic raw materials and energy. Therefore, environmental management systems are effective instruments for environmental protection and creation.

The Slovak Republic attempts to fulfil the UN requirement "to concretize a new model for development of society, including the change of the current consumption patterns" by elaborating and updating various conceptual materials. The framework of a new model for economic and social development of Slovakia, which influences the change in consumption models, is comprehensively defined in the Strategy for Long-term Programme of Transformation of the Slovak Economy in the Areas of Economic and Social Development. The intent of the programme of structural economic reforms is to achieve an overall consolidation of the economy, including the consolidation of the business sector, where the quality and the level of the business climate are fundamental priorities.

Analysis of the business environment indicates that entrepreneurship is facing obstacles in many areas. In this respect, I would like to point out the fact that the Slovak Government accepted the European Charter on Small Enterprises during its sitting in April 2002. This confirms the integration intent of the Slovak Republic. It has also strengthened the position of the preliminarily closed chapters on Industrial Policy and on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

The framework of the competitiveness of individual industry sectors with ecological and sustainable development was elaborated in 2001 and 2002.

In respect to the integrated process in areas of planning and utilization of country's resources, I would like to mention the programme "Wood–Raw Material of the 21st Century" approved by the Slovak Government in the year 1999. Wood is an important, renewable source of raw material for the Slovak economy, which is being used and depleted to a lesser extent than in the developed EU countries. One of the aims of this programme is to harmonize the strategies of forestry, wood-processing industry and cellulose-paper industry by the year 2005 and thereby increase their efficiency. A future potential lies also in an increased use of biomass for energy purposes. Wood products are suitable for recycling, which increases the value of their useful life and their competitiveness on the foreign markets of countries with strict environmental legislation.

The concept of cleaner production is related to the concept of sustainable development and the subsequent actions in this area. Industry enterprises investing in so called "end of pipe" technologies could significantly reduce not only these investments, but also the operating costs of these technologies by integrating innovative measures of cleaner production into the production technologies. This represents a preventive approach to the problems of

waste and pollution of all environmental sectors. This approach is also a so-called "winwin" solution that is advantageous to all interested parties.

Opportunities for broadening the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy in the area of environment can be seen through the Act on Integrated Prevention and Pollution Control, which, at present, is being completed at the Ministry of Environment. According to the proposed law, this jurisdiction refers to the process of monitoring the best techniques that are available and outlined in documents of the European Union. It also refers to the collaboration in developing and evaluating the application of the best techniques available in the Slovak Republic for equipment categories that are prepared by the Ministry of Economy.

The amendment of the existing legislative norms and the approval of new ones set new environmental obligations for industry sectors and thus create certain barriers as well. Business entities, in their operations, are required to implement and to ensure the implementation of approved laws by given deadlines.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that through combined efforts we will be able to recognize the associated risks and dangers, to use the experiences of the developed EU states and the rest of the world and to create a stable and competitive economic environment in Slovakia; an environment with successful and healthy business entities. This way, which began by the approval of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development by the Slovak Government and the Slovak Parliament, leads to the achievement of progress on the path to sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention.

SUMMARY OF ROUNDTABLES

High-level Roundtable on Innovation and Industrialization in the New Global Setting

The High-Level Roundtable on Innovation and Industrialization in the New Global Setting opened a series of four roundtable discussions organized under the International Forum on Strategies and Priorities for Environmental Industries. Chairing the roundtable, Mr. Carlos Magarinos, Director-General of UNIDO, in his introductory presentation focused on the UNIDO Industrial Development Report 2002. The Report shows how the industrial performance of countries or groups of countries has evolved over the time. The UNIDO experts assembled a very innovative set of indicators on manufacture and technology whose application resulted in a new Competitive Industrial Performance Index. This index enables countries to assess their industrial performance in relation to other countries and over time. Furthermore, it shows also the relationship between the relative level of industrial development and the relative contribution to pollution. Since most developed countries are not ranked among the highest polluters, the necessity to transfer high technology to developing countries or those in transition is obvious. Consequently, this industrial upgrading will permit the developing countries not only to improve their environment but also their industrial performance. In this respect, UNIDO is ready to use its expertise in the Central and Eastern European countries to cooperate with the countries to improve the competitive position of their industries, whilst stressing the need to promote efficiency throughout the economy and deference to environmental concerns.

Mr. Frédéric Richard, Director of UNIDO's Strategic Research and Economy Branch, presented a detailed overview of the Industrial Performance Report. He pointed out that the Report was designed to serve as an effective tool to policy makers and other private or public stakeholders involved in formulating decisions or programmes to enhance competitiveness and improve sustainable industrial development. In a global setting, the only way to compete while achieving sustainable development, productivity growth and sustainable envi-ronment is to compete through innovation and learning. This means not only to import new technologies but, in particular, to develop capacities and skills to use them. The difficult learning process driven by companies must be supported by governmental policies and institutions. To conclude, Mr. Richard emphasized that for improving industrial performance it is necessary to achieve macroeconomic stability, reform institutional infrastructure and upgrade capabilities of enterprises for innovation and learning. In this regard, the respective strategies have to be formulated and implemented.

During the discussions, Mr. Paulus Brouwer from the EU Environment Directorate-General, stated that improvement of environmental performance in industry is a concept supported also by EU. He raised the question whether environmental regulation in a global setting could have a positive effect on the development of high technologies. In response, Mr. Magarinos explained that UNIDO has launched research work to explain how the process of EU accession would affect policies, performance, employment and prices in two selected sectors of industries in five candidate countries. The results indicate that the countries which invested in developing technologies to allow more efficient handling of the waste and pollution must also establish standards and regulations to protect the investments made by their private sector as well as the consumers behaviour, preferences and needs. It is therefore necessary for those countries, which are aspiring to enter an expanded economic area like the EU to invest in achieving a certain degree of technology upgrading in order to ensure that their products will be able to access the market.

For Central and Eastern Europe UNIDO is pursuing the approach of upgrading certain technologies, and therefore the programme of Cleaner Production Centres, developed jointly with UNEP, will no more be a programme to assess environmental performance and pollution in a country but it will become a sector specific programme where UNIDO will ensure the actual transfer of technology. This means to intensify cooperation between CEE countries and multilateral partners and to develop mechanisms for financing the import of these technologies. To start with, it is necessary to enhance a low degree of interaction among governmental bodies.

According to Mr. László Miklós, Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, the development of cooperation between industry and environment implies three basic components: the technology of production, where the main role is given to the development of clean technologies; the change in patterns of production and consumption; and the avoidance of negative consequences of production, such as waste production, pollution, short life cycle of products, etc.

The discussion was closed by Mr. Zoltán Csizér, Director of Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Branch of UNIDO, who stated that the question as whether to follow regulatory or voluntary environmental measures is quite a difficult one. In practice, introduced voluntary measures become later regulatory measures in some sectors and, on the other hand, regulatory measures introduced in one sector can often result in voluntary measures adopted by other sectors.

Roundtable I

Regional Initiative: Establishment of a Fund for the Disposal of Obsolete Stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

The introductory presentation by Mr. Csizér, UNIDO, opened the session. He described the general situation regarding the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and informed on numerous activities lead by UNIDO on the disposal of POPs. These included the enabling activities projects in a great number of countries, including China, the Africa Stockpile Programme, and the demonstration project on non-combustion technologies carried out in Slovakia and the Philippines. He stressed the necessity to include stockpiles with or without polluted sites in POPs inventories. The issue of obsolete stockpiles is of great concern for countries in Central and Eastern Europe, with an estimated amount of several hundred thousand tonnes of POPs. Governmental decisions and commitments are required to further develop the concept of a fund for the disposal of obsolete stockpiles in CEE and NIS countries. It is necessary to join forces in efforts to clean up the region.

Mr. Miertus from the UNIDO International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS) presented the activities of this Centre regarding POPs. The Centre with its expertise could assist when governments should decide which technology is suitable for cleaning polluted sites. Availability of sound and suitable decontamination technologies, together with proper environmental planning, is one of the priorities for CEE countries in future years. ICS is promoting the establishment of a CEE Forum on Remediation, which would focus on technical issues related to environmental recovery activities.

During the discussion, several participants expressed their concern on POPs issue and supported the early ratification of the Stockholm Convention. They welcomed the idea of establishing the basis for a common approach to contaminated sites remediation and disposal of obsolete stocks within the CEE region. Partnership between governments and the industry in environmental protection is becoming increasingly important in many countries. Inventories are considered an important but difficult issue. The approach to inventories should be knowledge-based but not too detail demanding in this situation. The availability of data is more important now than the quality of data. Even with inventories not completed, some projects and activities with practical impact (destroying known stockpiles) could be implemented. For decision-making, the estimates could serve until more concrete and specific data are available.

Old-industries-based technologies are the cause of heavy pollution. The production is costly; however, due to social reasons it is very difficult to close such plants. Some former factories for pesticides production are now "hot spots". Therefore, there is a need to orientate future technologies towards environmentally friendly technologies and best available techniques (BAT). In some countries institutional and legislative framework is rather young, and sharing information and efforts for cleaning-up the region is strongly welcome by these countries.

Mr. LaRoche from UNIDO noted that no country knows what to do with POPs. Therefore, collaboration could be only a benefit. A regionally based approach could discover issues otherwise not discussed, and could develop new solutions and ideas proven in one country, which are advantageous regarding access to financial sources.

Mr. Brouwer from European Union agreed that inventory data are an important issue, as reflected also in the 6th Environmental programme of EU. In preparing inventories, a knowledge-based approach is preferred. Even the POPs are regulated for long and there is a substantial portion of data, especially on PCB, but gaps to be filled still exist. The European Union is committed to ratify the Stockholm Convention prior to the Johannesburg Summit. Most regulations directly or indirectly related to POPs (IPPC, Water Framework Directive, waste legislation etc.) are in place. What is missing according to the Stockholm Convention is a ban of production, an export ban to third countries, a recovery ban on POPs waste, and the issue of obligatory identification of POPs stockpiles is now under the discussion. Regarding financial assistance from EU, the current practice is based on projects in individual countries, not for regions. However, if countries are able to cluster similar projects, this approach could save efforts and gain from exchange of experience and knowledge. EU is aware that the CEE countries feel the lack of capacities and experience in preparation of good project proposals on regional bases, for example for ISPA funding.

Some speakers stressed the necessity of a preventive approach, and not to wait that some catastrophe occurs before the allocation of resources. CEE countries, UNIDO, GEF, EU and other international organizations should join forces to-wards a regional strategy. Problems related to POPs are very similar in developed parts of the world, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. Cement production, incineration of waste, metallurgy and chemical industries are major producers of POPs in every country.

Participants agreed to keep communication with the EU Environment Directorate-General, GEF, NGOs and UN organizations to pursue this issue.

Roundtable II

International Water Management and Waste Water Treatment Related Technologies

Ms. Roberta de Palma from UNIDO opened the session with her presentation describing the UNIDO Programme on Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) for the Danube River Basin countries. The Programme is focused on three key issues: barriers and challenges in transfer of environmentally sound technologies (EST), compliance with the integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive of the EU, and regional demonstration projects concerning TEST.

Regarding the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in Central and Eastern Europe the following barriers and challenges have been identified: the process of political and economical transformation, the need of integrated services for industry to pursue the simultaneous objectives of competitiveness enhancement, the social responsibility and environmental compliance, and, as key factors, demonstration and necessity of mechanisms for the dissemination of results.

The IPPC Directive provides a system of permits requiring both operators and regulators to take an integrated, overall look at the polluting and consuming potential of the installation, and promotes the introduction and use of "Best Available Techniques" (BAT) to minimize waste at source in the industrial sector. The Directives consists of the following main principles: subsidiarity, integrated approach, greater cooperation between the actors concerned, and non-accumulation and non-restriction. Transposition and implementation of the IPPC Directive in pre-accession countries requires an assessment of the costs for its implementation, identification of local BATs based on an open dialogue with the industry sector, and design of national implementation scheme for integrated permitting systems. This process requires the negotiation of deadlines as well.

In the framework of the UNDP/GEF Danube Pollution Reduction Programme 130 major hot spots were identified, which are contributing to transboundary pollution. Based on this fact, the UNIDO TEST project was designed to address a number of these medium-large industrial polluters in CEE countries.

In April 2001 UNIDO started the implementation of the TEST project taking the challenge of effectively demonstrating to the industries concerned in Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia that it is possible to respect environmental standards and still maintain or even enhance their competitive position. The Programme concentrates on building capacity in industrial service institutions to undertake new integrated approaches for transferring environmentally sound technologies in countries with economies in transition, including identifying the least costly option for environmental compliance. Different environmental management tools are applied, including cleaner production, environmental management systems and accounting, and environmentally sound technology assessment and investment appraisal preparation.

The sustainability of the TEST project will be assured by building national capacity in providing environmental services that will be made available to enterprises on how to implement the TEST approach, and by developing the demand for environmental services at enterprise level through peer pressure as a result of successful demonstration projects.

IReplicability of the lessons learned will be assured through the "train the trainers" mechanism put in place during the TEST project implementation. The experience gained by the local institutions will be made available to other industries within the same hot spot, to other hot spots in the country and to other CEE countries. To promote and support the replicability of the project, a UNIDO-based global support system will be developed for continued information dissemination and for facilitating deployment of EST technologies in other parts of the region. National governments can support the transfer of EST by policy, incentives and financing mechanisms.

Mr. Sándor Kerekes, Director of the Hungarian Cleaner Production Centre, in his presentation focused on the experience concerning obstacles of the cleaner technology transfer.

Ms. Martina Motlová, Deputy Minister of the Environment in the Czech Republic, noted that all countries in the region should apply the EU Directive and the use of BAT should become standard. The problem of financing could be solved with the assistance of international institutions. In the Czech Republic the law on IPPC will come into force by January 2003; its implementation is carried out in close cooperation with industry and the related implementation agency is being established.

Mr. Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Environment of Hungary, informed that IPPC and other EU Directives on waste water discharges were implemented into national legislation, but a problem exists with its enforcement, because companies hesitate to apply this legislation in practice. Therefore training is organized for governmental authorities, companies and other stakeholders. The limit on waste water discharges are based on BAT. Four Hungarian companies are involved in the UNIDO TEST project. Another UNIDO project concentrates on the Tisza river basin. Hungary appreciates very good cooperation with UNIDO.

The Minister of Environment of Croatia, Mr. Božo Kovačevič, expressed high satisfaction regarding the cooperation with UNIDO. Croatia has many water management experts, but increase of public environmental awareness is still needed.

The Representative of Romania informed about the transposition of the IPPC Directive in Romania and about the necessity to prepare a real database to create a system of information. Until now only pilot projects exist. For the solution of environmental problems in big enterprises good programmes and financial sources are needed.

The Representative of Malta presented the situation in his country. Malta is faced with a lack of natural drinking water. To improve the situation a 10 year programme for waste water treatment, based on EU legislation, is being implemented.

Mr László Miklós, Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic, raised the issue of administrative capacity concerning EU legislation at the national level. In the countries there is an effort to decrease these capacities, but the EU legislation requires increasing the capacity.

Participants recommended that the industry should be included in the dialogue on environmental issues. This Forum provides a good experience. It would be useful to continue such activities regularly. Such forums should be at a highlevel between UNIDO and governments.

Roundtable III

Waste Management, Recycling Schemes and Related Technologies

Economic transition, political and social changes, integration into the European Union, NATO and OECD are the main challenges for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. These challenges are accompanied at the enterprise level by the increasing competitive pressure of a market economy, shortage of capital, tougher environmental legislation, and limited access to information; and, the national level, by brain drain, past environmental problems, emerging social problems, like unemployment, and other problems. In such an environment one of the challenges is to use national resources together with the support of technology related development with the aim to best utilize the country's strengths and to deploy resources in areas where they can make the greatest impact. This general scheme can be used by the countries of the region as a tool for development and commercialization of technologies aimed at cleaner production and resulting, among others, in less waste generation using the know-how of the National Cleaner Production Centres which were created with the help of UNIDO in Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Croatia for the promotion of national strategies on cleaner production.

Prevention of waste generation as a first priority employed in waste management systems is followed by the reuse, recycling and recovery of produced waste, to the greatest possible extent. Waste produced in the municipal area, by its amount as well as by its composition offers opportunities for a more sophisticated treatment. This aim can be achieved by a consistent employment of methods like separate collection, sorting, home composting, reuse and recycling technologies, energy recovery, and usage of landfill gas, with the support of institutional strengthening, laws and regulations for recycling systems and industries, monitoring and creation of statistical databases, technology transfer, proper hazardous and hospital waste management, and management and finance systems at the municipal level.

To reach the levels set by European Union legislation in the area of solid waste management and recycling schemes in the Balkan region under post-conflict conditions is financially very demanding. Under these conditions the help of international institutions like the World Bank could be enlisted to reach goals close to the levels set by the European Union.

In order to achieve a better reuse of waste generated together with the existing recycling capacities, the implementation of the polluter pays principle and the motivation for waste separation are required to build up awareness, develop new technologies and implement regional waste management programmes. Administrative reforms would be necessary to divide and change responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations of the Forum

The Forum recommends that Governments of the countries in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe:

- Strengthen the Bratislava Initiative the dialogue between sectors of industry and environmentand – undertake immediate actions to find effective tools and mechanisms to implement, enforce and control the shared responsibility for:
 - change of the existing polluting technologies for cleaner technologies;
 - change of the production and consumption patterns;
 - promotion of end-of-pipe policies, tools, mechanisms and best available techniques
 (BAT);
- Become parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in order to benefit from assistance offered by the interim financial mechanism of the convention;
- Exchange regional experience being gained with UNIDO and other agencies in order to facilitate the Development of National Implementation Plans (NIPs), which set out the priorities and action plans to meet their obligations under the convention;
- Support cooperation of countries in the region in order to better use available knowledge, human resources and funds to clean-up the region in more cost-effective way;
- Operate towards the development of the CEE Forum on Remediation of Polluted Sites, being promoted by the UNIDO International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS) as a platform of exchange of information and knowledge related to remediation;
- Continue in efforts aiming to establishment of Fund for the Disposal of Obsolete Stockpiles
 of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Central and Eastern European Countries and in Newly
 Independent States. In this connection, governments should keep communication with
 EU, GEF, UNIDO, and other relevant organizations on this issue;
- Bear in mind that availability of inventory data is a prerequisite for rationale decisionmaking, however, early specific actions resulting in destroying known obsolete stocks would bring benefit to the environment and also to building public confidence to governmental activities;
- Build alliances with UNIDO, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the European Union with the aim to combine information, technical and financial resources for the disposal of obsolete stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants in Central and Eastern Europe;
- Cooperate with UNIDO to encourage due consideration of market based mechanisms to promote precautionary activities such as the Transfer of Environmentally sound Technologies (TEST) for other international water systems in the region, given UNIDO's experience in the implementation of regional projects for the Danube, Tisza and Dnieper river basins;

- Support the National Cleaner Production Centres, which have been created with the help of UNIDO in Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Croatia, as a tool to promote national strategies on cleaner technologies an promote the extension of the NCPC network to other countries of the region;
- Cooperate in building awareness, developing new technologies and implementing regional programmes related to international water management, waste water treatment, solid waste treatment, and waste minimization, reuse and recycling schemes.

PROGRAMME

International Forum on Strategies and Priorities for Environmental Industries

Bratislava, Slovakia 12-14 June 2002

Programme

12 June 2002 (Wednesday)

09:00-13:00 Registration of participants

Foyer Ambassador

13:00-14:00 **Opening session**

Forum Hall

Chair: Mr. László Miklós

Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

1. Opening of the Forum by the Slovak Minister of Environment, Mr. László Miklós

2. Welcome address to the participants by Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda

3. Welcome address to the participants by Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Carlos Magarińos

4. Introduction by Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Mr. László Miklós

5. Introduction by Director-General, Department of European Integration, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Mirko Malik

14:00-16:00 High-level Roundtable on Innovation and Industrialization in the New Global Setting

Forum Hall

Chair: Mr. Carlos Magarinos

Director-General of UNIDO

Introductory presentation: Mr. Carlos Magarinos

Director-General of UNIDO

Ministers and Heads of Delegations are welcome to roundtable discussion

Resource person:

Mr. Frédéric Richard

(discussion facilitator) Director, Strategic Research and Economy

Branch, UNIDO

16:30-18:30 Roundtable I. Regional Initiative—Establishment of a Fund for the Disposal of Obsolete Stockpiles of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

Forum Hall

Chair: Mr. László Miklós

Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Introductory presentations: Mr. Zoltán Csizér

Director, Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Branch,

UNIDO

Mr. Stanislav Miertus

Area Director, International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS),

UNIDO

Open floor/roundtable discussions of participants

Resource persons:

(discussion facilitator)

Mr. Paulus Brouwer

Assistant to the Director General,

Directorate General on Environment,

European Commission

Mr. David LaRoche

Senior Regional Adviser on POPs Enabling Activities in CEE, UNIDO

19:30-21:30 Reception hosted by Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Senator Room

13 June 2002 (Thursday)

10:00-12:00 Roundtable II. International Water Management and **Waste Water Treatment Related Technologies**

Congress Hall

Chair: Ms. Martina Motlová

Deputy Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic

Introductory presentation:

Ms. Roberta de Palma

Cleaner Production and

Environmental Management Branch,

UNIDO

Open floor/roundtable discussions of the participants

Resource person:

Mr. Sándor Kerekes

(discussion facilitator)

Director, Hungarian Cleaner

Production Centre

Congress Hall

12:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 Roundtable III. Waste Management, Recycling Schemes and Related Technologies

Congress Hall

Chair: Mr. Božo Kovačevič

Minister of Environment of the Republic of Croatia

Introductory presentation: Ms. Viera Feckova

Director, Slovak Cleaner Production Center

Open floor/roundtable discussions of the participants

Resource person:

Mr. David Piper

(discussion facilitator)

UNIDO, Cleaner Production and Environmental

Management Branch

15:30-16:30 Conclusions and Recommendations of the Forum

Congress Hall

Chairs: Ms. Gabriela Fischerova

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Mr. Dmitri Piskounov

UNIDO, Director, Europe & NIS Bureau

Presentation of Recommendations

Chairs

Discussion

Participants of the Forum

Adoption of Recommendations

Participants of the Forum

16:30 Closure of Forum

Mr. László Miklós

Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

14 June 2002 (Friday)

9:00-14:00 Danube River Excursion – bilateral meetings and informal

discussions

PARTICIPANTS

Countries	Participants	
Albania	Mr. Lufter Xhuveli Ms. Mejtime Xhuveli Ms. Aferdita Ponari	Minister, Ministry of Environment Ministry of Environment Officer, Legal and International Relations, Ministry of Environment
	Ms. Nereida Zoto	First Secretary, Embassy of Albania in Prague
Belgium	Ms. Sandra Kelleners	Consul, Embassy of the Belgium Kingdom in Bratislava
	Ms. Isabella Profeta	Trade and Economy Attaché of the Walloon Region, Embassy of the Belgium Kingdom in Bratislava
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Amir Hadziomeragic	Economic Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
Bulgaria	Mr. Vladimir Danchev	Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Bratislava
Croatia	Mr. Bozo Kovačevič	Minister, Environmental Protection and Physical Planning
	Ms. Andrea Gustović Ercegovac	Ambassador, Embassy of Croatia in Ercegovac Bratislava
	Mr. Mario Nobilo	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of
٠.	Ms. Ivana Halle	Croatia to UNIDO in Vienna Head of Department, Ministry of Economy
	Mr. Krešimir Kopčic	Third Secretary, Embassy of Croatia in Bratislava
•	Ms. Sandra Rajšic	Minister's Cabinet, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning
Cyprus	Mr. Ioannis Economides	Assistant Industrial Extension Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Czech Republic	Ms. Martina Motlová Mr. Pavel Vacek	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to UNIDO in Vienna
	Mr. Jan Peroutka	First Secretary, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bratislava

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Hungary	Mr. Zoltán Kis	Political State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water
	Mr. Sándor Kerekes	Director, Hungarian Cleaner
	Ms. Beatrix Kiss	Production Centre Head of Section, Ministry of
ŕ	24 D 4 46 6	Environment and Water
	Mr. Peter Kovács	Deputy Head of Department IPC, Ministry of Environment and
	***	Water
<u>.</u>	Ms. Louise Lakos	Head, Department of International Relations, Ministry of Environment and Water
	Ms. Erika Szomor	Interpreter, Ministry of Environment and Water
٠.	Mr. Attila Zsigmond	First Secretary, Permanent Mission
	Mr. Lajos Zsirai	of Hungary in Vienna First Secretary, Embassy of the
·		Republic of Hungary in Bratislava
Malta	Mr. Joseph Gauci	Land Use Planer, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Environment
Poland	Ms. Krystyna Zydorowicz	Acting Deputy Director, Department of Investments and Technology Development, Ministry of Environment
Romania	Mr. Adrian Dumitru Tantáu	Senior Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection
	Mr. Taiatu Laurentiu	Economic Counsellor, Embassy of Romania in Bratislava
	Ms. Cristina Loredana	Expert, Ministry of Waters and
	Iosub Caras	Environmental Protection, Economic Policy Unit
	Mr. Dan-Nicolae	Third Secretary, Permanent Mission Constantin of Romania in Vienna
Slovakia	Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda	Prime Minister
	Mr. László Miklós	Minister of Environment
· .	Mr. Alojz Némethy	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic
	Mr. Tibor Bráz	to UNIDO in Vienna
	IVII. I IDOI BIAZ	Director, Ministry Secretariat, Ministry of Environment

Countries	Participants	
Slovakia	Mr. Tibor Bráz	Director, Ministry Secretariat,
	Mr. Jozef Chovan	Ministry of Environment
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		International Organisations
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	Mr. Miloslav Čubrík	Director, European Integration and
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•		Ministry of Environment
	Ms. Viera Fecková	Director, Sloyak Cleaner Production
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	Ms. Gabriela Fisherová	Air Protection Department, Ministry
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	Mr. Peter Gallovič	Director, Waste Management
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	Ms. L'ubica Mikulášková	International Cooperation Department,
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	Ms. Dagmar Rajčanová	Director, Centre of Environmental
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I I		Slovak Environmental Agency
	Ms. Marta Ruzičková	Director, OECD and International
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	Ms. Nora Šeptáková	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Ms. Stanislava Suchá	Advisor, Strategy Division, Ministry
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		Representative of the Slovak Republic
		to UNIDO in Vienna
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	•	
	· ·	

Countries	Participants	
FYR Macedonia	Mr. Aleksandar Tavciovski	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent
	Mr. Nenad Kolev	Representative of the FYR of Macedonia to the UNIDO, Vienna Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the FYR of Macedonia in Vienna
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•	Mr. Branislav Milinkovic	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to UNIDO in Vienna
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UNIDO	Mr. Carlos Magarińos	Director-General
	Ms. Eudes Brophy	Assistant to the Special Advisor to the DG, Communication and Public Information
•	Mr. Zoltan Csizer	Director, Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Branch
	Ms. Roberta De Palma	Expert, Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Branch
	Mr. David LaRoche	Senior Regional Advisor on POPs Enabling Activities in CEE, UNIDO
	Mr. Stanislav Miertus	ICS-UNIDO Area Director, International Centre for Science and High Technology, Trieste/Italy
	Mr. David Piper	Senior Technical Adviser, Cleaner Production and Environmental Management Branch

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Deputy Director, European

Ms. Mária Boďová Ms. Katarína Lipovská Mr. Marián Ondriska Ms. Blažena Orešková **Public Relations Department Public Relations Department** Department of European

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Mr. Emil Zálepa

Department of Environmental

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	Mr. Paul Wiedemann	Deputy Director, Europe and NIS Bureau
	Mr. Hans Rosnitschek	Field Operations Officer, Europe and NIS Bureau
	Ms. Kwai-Chin Kopecky	Senior Secretary to Director, Europe and NIS Bureau
•	Ms. Helga Dungl	Senior Secretary, Europe and NIS Bureau
	Ms. Ekaterina	Intern, Europe and NIS Bureau

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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Documents presented at the Forum

The documents presented at the Forum are available on the UNIDO website: www.unido.org/doc/351427.htmls

UNIDO Programmes on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Zoltán Csizér—UNIDO

Initiative on Remediation of Contaminated Sites in Central and Eastern European Countries
Stanislav Miertus—UNIDO International Centre for Science and High Technology

UNIDO Programme on Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies in CEE and NIS
Roberta de Palma—UNIDO

National Strategies for Cleaner Technology Transfer Viera Fecková—Slovak Cleaner Production Centre