



SPEECH BY

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Introducing remarks

At the beginning of the 21st century the focus of all modern states is a satisfied, free and responsible individual with a high level of personal, legal, social and health security. The key development principle which is the basis for realization of such objective is the sustainable development concept, which starts from the presupposition that only balanced activity may enable management of natural resources, economic growth, avoidance of inequality which endangers social side of the society, justice and security. This will also ensure integration into global society, keeping own identity at the same time, and on the other hand, such activity will not jeopardize ecosystems which are basis for entire life quality of present and future generations.

Modern environmental protection policy tends to have integral approach in solving problems of environmental protection. Interest and care about the environment, as well as rising pressure from the public and implementation of legal regulations make preconditions for continual changes in economy and society on the global level, causing changes in types and levels of environmental impacts.

To this end, monitoring activities have been in implementation in regard to the environmental issues in order to collect information about its state. This represents surely the key component for assessing conditions and trends in the environment, but should also be seen as a support for policy-making process in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development and implementation of the multilateral environmental assessment in the UNECE region. Besides, by establishing the system for information and data collection, while applying the set of indicators as a harmonized method for summing-up a large number of measurements and data relating to the environment into limited most substantial pieces of information in the area, it is possible to contribute to significant increase in efficiency and effectiveness in applying national environmental protection policy.

During the previous decade, within several regional organizations, particularly United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, European Environmental Agency, OECD, but also within many other international organizations, a lot of work has been done in relation to

monitoring system development and strengthening, but also strengthening the general framework of environmental monitoring through creation of harmonized methods of data collection, indicator application and reporting in order to increase the level of international comparability of environmental information. An exceptional example of this kind of approach is the preparation of the Indicator Based Environmental Assessment Report on the Pan-European level. Beside the other things, it is important to stress the development of polluters' self-monitoring system, the concept which enables realization of a unique partner relationship between state authorities and industry in order to reach sustainable development goals.

Each member of the European Environmental Agency, but also those States which are about to become members such are Southeastern European states, should respect rules and recommendations for establishment of their own monitoring systems, data collection and reporting in order to increase the level of international comparability of environmental information, thus helping achievement of more precise overview of general environmental status. In such way, decision and policy makers in the area of environmental protection may have good basis for making right and primarily efficient decisions.

Finally, it should be emphasized that for all the aforementioned objectives it is necessary to establish adequate institutional and legislative framework which can enable achievement of such objectives. Establishment of international collaboration, exchange of acquired knowledge, communication and activities under the umbrella of regional, European and world organizations will create the necessary conditions for making step forward in the field of environmental protection in Pan-European region. Creation of the reliable information, based on the up-to-date environmental data, using the concept of the policy relevant indicators available to large public is our common obligation and goal.

Concluding remarks

Increase the impact of data acquired using environmental monitoring and assessment in environmental policymaking on the national and international level. Preparation of indicator based environmental assessment report on the state level can be seen as a key instrument targeting the harmonization of the environmental data collecting systems and enhancement of the comparability of national assessment in the region.

Establishment of the new set of clear and realistic environmental targets while keeping in mind development and implementation of monitoring progress tools and indicators.

Strengthening governmental support to the education, public participation and rise awareness targeting at the set of sustainable development objectives.

Assessment of patterns of sustainable production and consumption, which become more prominent on the policy agendas, based on indicators at the Pan-European level.

Continuation of the efforts on the implementation of existing environmental agreements and the establishment of new bilateral and multilateral agreements focusing at the improvement of the state of environment in Europe.

Building of the shared environmental information system as a base for continuous assessment of the state of environment in pan-European region.