

# Environment and Security initiative

EASTERN EUROPE: BELARUS • MOLDOVA • UKRAINE



Regional meeting for Eastern Europe  
16-17 february 2011 • Lviv • Ukraine



## MEETING SUMMARY

The regional Coordination Meeting for Eastern Europe was attended by the broad ENVSEC community from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine: some 50 representatives of state agencies, local authorities, academia, NGOs, mass media and project teams participated. So did 25 persons from ENVSEC Partner Organizations, other international organisations and projects, and donor countries (please see the list of participants for details).

During the meeting, participants informed each other about recent ENVSEC activities and new developments in and around the environmental and security hotspots in the three countries. The discussion reconfirmed most of ENVSEC's current geographic priorities in Eastern Europe, and pointed to new hotspots including the Khotislav chalk quarry in Belarus, the Kalush potash mining complex in Ukraine, the existing and new hydro-engineering projects, a range of issues associated with nuclear power, and the environmental problems of the Black Sea coast.

Among the many topics discussed were the continuing work on the elimination of pesticides in Moldova and Belarus and of rocket fuel in Ukraine, preventing illegal logging and cross-border transport of hazardous waste, monitoring pollution in the coal-producing region of Donetsk, carrying out environmental assessments in Crimea, addressing the environmental dimensions of energy security, and cooperating in many shared basins of Eastern Europe such as the Dniester, the lower Danube, the Pripjat, the Neman and lake Drisviaty. The participants also attended the concluding session of ENVSEC's Scenario workshop on climate change and food security in Eastern Europe organised in cooperation with the European Environment Agency.

Several forthcoming ENVSEC projects were discussed, including climate change in the Neman basin, the environmental dimensions of border management between Belarus and Ukraine, and the establishment of "Aarhus centres" in Moldova-Transnistria. Part of the meeting was dedicated to revisiting and explaining the ways the Environment and Security Initiative operates, including its organisation structure, internal and external communication, and how new projects are initiated and implemented.

During the meeting UNEP launched a brochure advocating ENVSEC's "Mining for Closure" approach in the Donetsk region in Eastern Ukraine. OSCE handed over manuals ("Waste Watch cards") for border guards and customs to help prevent the illegal traffic of hazardous waste across state borders. Several ENVSEC's agencies and the media attended the inauguration of a flow monitoring station in Ukraine's Lutsk region set up by NATO as part of ENVSEC's combined efforts towards the sustainable management of water resources in the upper Pripjat river shared by Belarus and Ukraine.

A press conference attracted a range of regional media resulting in a good press and television coverage (an overview of media coverage is included below). This report and the presentations made during the meeting are available online at [www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org).

## SUMMARIES OF PROJECT DISCUSSIONS

### Water issues and environmental policy session

Facilitators Tamara Kutonova (OSCE) and Jovanka Ignatovich (The REC)

The first part of the session was devoted to activities in the transboundary watercourses: the Dniester (Moldova-Ukraine), the Pripjat (Ukraine-Belarus), the Danube delta (Ukraine-Moldova-Romania), Drisvyaty lake (Belarus-Lithuania-Latvia) and the Neman (Belarus-Lithuania). The projects work on a wide range of topics: improvement of legislation, development of management plans, EIA, installation of monitoring stations, development of GIS, field expeditions, analytical studies, publication of results and public awareness. Recent highlights have included:

- continuing active cooperation on the Dniester river with a series of meetings, joint sampling events, a study of the transboundary monitoring network, awareness activities, and the launch of the project's new flood and climate component;
- the official adoption of water allocation rules for the upper Pripjat, and the start of flood mapping and monitoring in the basin;
- planning of a new climate-related project on the Neman river, and active support to the application of the Espoo convention to address the construction of a new hydropower plant in the Belarus part of the basin;
- The initiation of ENVSEC follow-up in the Danube delta and around lake Drisvyaty.

Several common features admitted for these ENVSEC projects are that they:

- tend to deliver substantial results with relatively little funds;
- consistently facilitate a dialogue among various governmental, non-governmental and scientific organizations;
- are able to find niches based on the real yet unmet demand, thus complementing rather than duplicating activities of other international and national organizations in specific geographical areas;
- are dedicated to clear communication of the results to the stakeholders as well as to the broad public.

The afternoon part of the session discussed issues of general environmental policy on the interface with security, such as illegal logging in Ukraine, the application of Strategic Environmental Assessment on the district level in Crimea, the assessment of the evolving state of Crimea's environment, support to public awareness and mass media in Belarus and Ukraine, and the idea of opening "Aarhus centres" in Moldova including in its Transnistrian region. Some of the conclusions of the discussions were that

- projects achieve their targets with tangible outcomes, yet needs remain in translating them into policy and enforcement measures and increasing capacities for that;
- further support is needed in applying common assessment and monitoring approaches and involving all relevant stakeholders in the discussion;
- ENVSEC work on awareness-raising and with mass media receives good response from all targeted groups, further actions should focus on improved communication between officials and the media;
- the proposed establishment of "Aarhus centres" in Moldova-Transnistria is seen as a good example of how to enhance access to information and public participation in environmental decision-making.

## **Waste, pollution and industry session**

Facilitators Susanne Michaelis (NATO), Raul Daussa and Tamara Kutonova (OSCE)

Overall in the area of waste, pollution and industry ENVSEC focuses on a range of specific security-related problems for which it has developed capacities to offer practical solutions. Evidently the value of such interventions is well recognised. At the same time ENVSEC sees itself as a catalyst rather a source of support for major (re-)construction work, those remain in the hands of national authorities, development banks and similar mechanisms.

Several ENVSEC projects focus on reducing the risks associated with the depots on obsolete pesticides in near-border locations and transboundary basins. Moldova's Ministry of Defence gave an overview of the situation in the country: after the destruction of about 1300 tonnes under the World Bank / GEF project in 2006-8, another 1300 tonnes are waiting for NATO funds to be destroyed and an additional 4000 tonnes were buried in long-term storages. OSCE estimated the amount of pesticides stocked in the Transnistrian region and not covered by the previous project at below 100 tonnes; an inventory would be an essential first step for ENVSEC's action, and the OSCE is in a dialogue with Transnistrian authorities. Under NATO's project on pesticide destruction in Belarus, an experimental plasma reactor was completed; if it indeed can be scaled up, Belarus could take a leading role in the region in destroying persistent organic pollutants. Meanwhile Belarus with ENVSEC's help continues field studies of pollution at two depots of obsolete pesticides in the south and the west of the country.

OSCE is leading the destruction of 16,200 tonnes of toxic oxidiser of rocket fuel (mélange) in Ukraine. The project was initiated through a NATO/OSCE workshop in 2005 under ENVSEC umbrella. From there it has been taken up by OSCE which raised over €13 million for the transport of mélange and its destruction in Russia.

A number of ENVSEC projects are active in the field of industrial pollution and energy. State Environment Protection Department of the Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, presented work on monitoring environmental pollution, especially in water and air, and the dissemination of the obtained data via the Internet. (Other ENVSEC activities in the region focussed on training journalists, assisting the authorities in producing and publishing updated state-of-the-environment reports, and a detailed assessment and inventory of environmental risks from Donetsk coal mining and its waste.) Following ENVSEC's energy-environment workshop in 2009, the Energy Institute of Belarus Academy of Science is working on environmental scenarios to support the National Energy Security Strategy. A NATO-supported project in the exclusion zone of Chernobyl in Belarus continues to study the distribution of radioactive elements in soil, water, animal and plant species. Ukraine spoke about the issues of managing its radioactive waste, where recommendations to improve the state of the art could lead to a joint activity with NATO / ENVSEC.

In the area of managing state borders, ENVSEC aims at raising capacities to detect illegal traffic of hazardous waste. The first batch of "Waste(s) Watch" cards\* was handed by OSCE to the representatives from the region. Belarus's Border Guard Authority suggested that ENVSEC supports the demarcation of the state border with Ukraine contaminated after the Chernobyl accident: specifically, assistance is needed in measuring and mapping radioactive contamination to ensure the efficiency and safety of demarcating work.

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\* Waste(s) Watch cards are a set of quick-reference cards with practical information on waste and its transboundary transportation. They were designed a tool to raise capacity of border authorities to better detect and prevent illegal transboundary transportation of waste.

# MEETING AGENDA

15 february 2011 [wednesday]

16:00 **DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE AND SECURITY SCENARIOS FOR EASTERN EUROPE\***  
**Joint concluding session** (lead by OSCE and EEA)

Goals and approach  
Findings, results and conclusions

17:00 **ENVSEC REGIONAL MEETING FOR EASTERN EUROPE**

**Introduction**

Greetings (OSCE, UNEP, UNECE, UNDP, The REC, NATO, country representatives)  
Introduction of participants (all)  
Environment and Security initiative: introduction and the objectives of the meeting (UNEP)

17 february 2011 [thursday]

9:00 **ENVSEC REGIONAL MEETING FOR EASTERN EUROPE** (continued)

**Approach and priorities**

Environment and Security initiative: principles of defining priorities (UNEP)  
Eastern Europe *five years after*: mapping the issues (all)

**ENVSEC work programme**

Introduction into the work programme (UNEP)

11:30 Work in parallel sessions: discussion of on-going, recently completed and forthcoming ENVSEC projects. Projects are to be introduced by the representatives of project teams from the countries and/or country presences of ENVSEC partner organisations, everyone is encouraged to take part in the discussion, keeping in mind time limitations (15 to 20 minutes per project depending on its scope). The discussions will be co-facilitated by ENVSEC partner organisations.

<b>Water issues and environmental policy</b>	<b>Waste, pollution, industry</b>
Dniester III including climate change	Pesticides in Moldova
Pripyat including flood monitoring	Pesticides in Transnistria (RM)
Danube delta	Pesticides in Belarus
lake Drisviaty	Rocket fuel in Ukraine
Neman EIA and climate change	Donetsk coal and information
Illegal logging	Waste trafficking
Crimea SEA and monitoring	Energy security and the environment
Awareness and mass media	Study of the Chernobyl zone in Belarus
Aarhus centres in Moldova	Disposal of radioactive waste
	Environmental aspects of border demarcation

16:00 **Further development of the Initiative**

Developing ENVSEC projects: balance among issues, interests and possibilities (UNEP, OSCE)  
Science for Peace and Security programme as a project implementation vehicle (NATO)

Levels of ENVSEC coordination:

- international organisations-partners of the initiative
- regional coordination
- coordination within the countries

ENVSEC vs. cooperation priorities (donor countries and international organisations)  
Discussion, questions, answers (all)  
Conclusion of the meeting

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Євроінтеграція – Екологія

7-minute trailer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4pZwwK0Oow>

full version [http://dev.envsec.org/movies/lvivTV\\_envsecmeeting\\_feb2011\\_UKR.mpeg](http://dev.envsec.org/movies/lvivTV_envsecmeeting_feb2011_UKR.mpeg)

[http://www.envsec.org/movies/lvivTV\\_envsecmeeting\\_feb2011\\_UKR.mpeg](http://www.envsec.org/movies/lvivTV_envsecmeeting_feb2011_UKR.mpeg)

У Львові обговорять екологічну безпеку Східної Європи

<http://zaxid.net/newsua/2011/2/16/102022/>

<http://news.join.ua/read/14/22/93/82/>

[http://izmail-forever.my1.ru/news/vo\\_lvove\\_obsudjat\\_ekologicheskiju\\_bezopasnost\\_vostochnoj\\_evropy/2011-02-16-3013](http://izmail-forever.my1.ru/news/vo_lvove_obsudjat_ekologicheskiju_bezopasnost_vostochnoj_evropy/2011-02-16-3013)

Про екологічну безпеку Східної Європи говоритимуть у Львові

<http://www.edu-mns.org.ua/ukr/news/?id=2137>

[http://www.ldu.mns.gov.ua/index.php?id=56&tx\\_ttnews\[pS\]=1268138237&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=574&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=56&tx\\_ttnews\[pointer\]=2&cHash=180ba90856](http://www.ldu.mns.gov.ua/index.php?id=56&tx_ttnews[pS]=1268138237&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=574&tx_ttnews[backPid]=56&tx_ttnews[pointer]=2&cHash=180ba90856)

[http://www.ldu.mns.gov.ua/index.php?id=56&tx\\_ttnews\[pS\]=1268138237&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=574&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=56&tx\\_ttnews\[pointer\]=2&cHash=180ba90856](http://www.ldu.mns.gov.ua/index.php?id=56&tx_ttnews[pS]=1268138237&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=574&tx_ttnews[backPid]=56&tx_ttnews[pointer]=2&cHash=180ba90856)

Ініціатива «Навколишнє середовище та безпека»

<http://www.ids.org.ua/ukr/news/print.php?id=14016>

<http://www.mediastar.net.ua/top/9108-17-lyutogo.html>

<http://vgolos.com.ua/anonsy/index.html?day=17&month=2&year=2011>

В Україну завозять небезпечні відходи під виглядом гуманітарної допомоги

<http://galinfo.com.ua/news/83408.html>

<http://news.ukrhome.net/content/1827808/>

Відходи під виглядом “гуманітарки”

<http://www.e2.expres.ua/nomer/5614>

Митники та прикордонники отримують картки з описом небезпечних відходів

<http://zaxid.net/newsua/2011/2/18/90017/>

<http://www.vsinovyny.com/2823561>

<http://www.glavport.net.ua/lastnews/?id=2051473&>

[http://www.ukr.net/news/mitniki\\_ta\\_prikordonniki\\_otrimajut\\_kartki\\_z\\_opisom\\_nebezpechnih\\_v\\_dhod\\_v-5356714-1.html](http://www.ukr.net/news/mitniki_ta_prikordonniki_otrimajut_kartki_z_opisom_nebezpechnih_v_dhod_v-5356714-1.html)

З території України вивезено понад 3,5 тис. т рідкого ракетного палива

<http://zik.com.ua/ua/news/2011/02/21/273370>

У березні митників навчатимуть не допускати на територію держави ввезення відходів

<http://eko.portal.lviv.ua/news/2011/02/18/093427.html>

[http://www.zelenysvit.org.ua/?page=news\\_view&cat=1&id=38650](http://www.zelenysvit.org.ua/?page=news_view&cat=1&id=38650)

<http://ua.greensua.org/news/2011/02/21/125655.html>

До весни Львівщину планують очистити від меланжу

<http://eko.portal.lviv.ua/news/2011/02/18/083437.html>

<http://epl.org.ua/novini/backPid/1/article/3698/>

<http://ua.greensua.org/news/2011/02/18/121046.html>

<http://news.meta.ua/themes/71627/>

НАТО профінансувало протипаводкову станцію моніторингу на річці Дністер

<http://zaxid.net/newsua/2011/2/17/185024/>

Нова гідрометеорологічна станція у Луцьку за 33 тис. євро запобігатиме паводкам

<http://zik.com.ua/ua/news/2011/02/18/273214>

<http://vip.volyn.ua/news/nova-g-drometeorolog-chna-stants-ya-u-lutsku-za-33-tisyach-vro-zapob-gatime-pavodkam-ta-povenya>

НАТО спонсорує нову систему моніторингу ризику повеней в Україні і Білорусі

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-69762261-905A1FB9/natolive/news\\_70692.htm?selectedLocale=uk](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-69762261-905A1FB9/natolive/news_70692.htm?selectedLocale=uk)

33 тисячі євро – на запобігання паводкам та повеням на Волині

<http://perec.in.ua/news/6259/>

NATO sponsors new flood risk monitoring system in Ukraine and Belarus

<http://democraticbelarus.eu/node/11606>

<http://www.usw.com.ua/forum/topics/nato-sponsors-new-flood-risk>

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Title / organisation	Contacts
Laura Rio	ENVSEC Senior Programme Manager, UNEP Regional Office for Europe	laura.rio@unep.org, +41 22 917 8207
Nickolai Denisov	ENVSEC Regional Desk Officer for Eastern Europe, UNEP Regional Office for Europe	nickolai.denisov@unep.org, +41 22 917 8281
Alena Stralchenia	ENVSEC Administrative Assistant, UNEP Regional Office for Europe	alena.stralchenia@unep.org, +41 22 917 8736
Rene Bebeau	Senior Project Manager in the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	rene.bebeau@osce.org, +380 44 492 03 82
Raul Daussa	Environmental Programme Officer, OSCE	raul.daussa@osce.org, +431 514 366237
Tamara Kutonova	National Project Officer, OSCE	tamara.kutonova@osce.org, +380 44 492 0382
Hanna Plotnykova	Project Assistant, OSCE	hanna.plotnykova@osce.org, +380 44 492 0382
Brinda Wachs	Environment Affairs Officer, UNECE	brinda.wachs@unece.org, +41 22 917 2452
Otto Szabo	Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, REC	oszabo@rec.org, +36 26 504 000
Jovanka Ignjatovic	Project Manager and Water Management Topic Area Leader, REC	jignjatovic@rec.org, +36 26 504 000
Cecile Claude Monnier	Project Manager, REC	CMonnier@rec.org, +36 26 504 000
Anna Forsgren	Swedish Environment Protection Agency	Anna.Forsgren@naturvardsverket.se, +46 10 698 11 18,
Susanne Michaelis	Officer, Emerging Security Challenges Division, Energy Security Section, NATO	michaelis.susanne@hq.nato.int, +322 707 4520,
Barbara Hessel	Swedish Environment Protection Agency	barbara.hessel@naturvardsverket.se
Volodymyr Tykhyy	Environment Specialist, Canadian International Development Agency	voltykhyy@gmail.com
Anna Malinen	ENVSEC Desk Officer, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland	anna.malinen@formin.fi, +358 9 1605 5605
Elena Santer	Strategic Futures, European Environment Agency	Elena.Santer@eea.europa.eu, +45 3336 7189
John Vijgen	Key Expert on Civil Protection, EU Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Man-Made and Natural Disasters in the ENPI East Region (PPRD-East)	john.vijgen@ihpa.info
Jaroslav Slobodnik	Environmental Institute, Slovak Republic	slobodnik@ei.sk
Svetlana Katkova	First Secretary, Humanitarian Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus	tclo@mfa.gov.by, +375 17 227 83 13
Irina Rudko	Deputy Head of International Relations Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus	icd@minpriroda.by, climate.belarus@tut.by +375 17 200 90 47
Saweliy Kuzmin	Head of Environment Monitoring Unit, Scientific Research Centre "Ecology", Belarus	saweliy@mail.ru
Alexander Pakhomov	Senior Researcher, Central Scientific and Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resource, Belarus	aliaksandr.pakhomau@cricuwr.by
Konstantin Titov	Researcher, Water Monitoring and Cadastre Laboratory, Central Scientific and Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources, Belarus	ktsitou@yandex.ru
Oleg Fedotov	Head of Non-Tariff Measures, Export and Currency Control Unit, State Customs Committee, Belarus	gtk_uotk@mail.ru
Mikhail Naumenko	Head of Unit, State Border Guards Committee, Belarus	naumenko.mn@gmail.com, +375 17 216 27 06
Yury Marchenko	Head of Radiation and Environment Monitoring Unit, Polesie State Radiation and Environmental Reserve, Belarus	umd66@yandex.ru, +375 2346 92132
Sergei Nikitsin	Senior Researcher, Energy Institute of the National Science Academy of Belarus	nikitsin@hotmail.com
Denis Rimko	Head of Laboratory a.i., Energy Institute of the National Science Academy of Belarus	rima1982@mail.ru

Yuliya Yablonskaya	NGO "Ecoproject", Minsk, Belarus	yulia.yablonskaia@ecoproject.by
Igor Tchoulba	Programme Officer, UNDP Belarus	igar.tchoulba@undp.org, +375 17 227 48 76
Elena Varta	First Secretary, OSCE and International Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Moldova	elena.varta@mfa.md, +373 22 578 268
Veronika Lopotenco	Consultant, Department of Analysis, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Moldova	lopotenco@mediu.gov.md
Mariana Grama	Head of Ecology and Environment Protection Unit, Ministry of Defense, Moldova	mariana.grama@gmail.com +373 79430748, +373 22252407
Ilya Trombitsky	Eco-TIRAS International Environment Assosiation of Dniester River Keepers, Moldova	ecotiras@mtc.md, +373 22 225615; +373 22 550953
Tatiana Siniaeva	Eco-TIRAS International Environment Assosiation of Dniester River Keepers, Moldova	ecotiras@mtc.md, +373 22 225615; +373 22 550953
Ivan Ignatiev	NGO "Ecospektr", Moldova	ecospectrum@gmail.com
Mihail Tcaciuc	Project Officer, OSCE Mission in Chisinau	Mihail.Tcaciuc@osce.org
Kenneth Pickles	Political-Military Adviser, OSCE Mission in Chisinau	kenneth.pickles@osce.org
Silvia Pana-Carp	Programme Associate, UNDP Moldova	silvia.pana-carp@undp.org
Vadim Pozharsky	Director of the International Cooperation and European Integration Department, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine	pozhar@menr.gov.ua
Igor Markelov	Advisor of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine	i.markelov@menr.gov.ua
Ludmila Kalitka	Senior Specialist, Water Ecosystems and Resources Department, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine	gds@menr.gov.ua
Dmitriy Averin	Head of Monitoring, Environment Protection Department of the Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine	averin@cs.dgtu.donetsk.ua
Valery Babchuk	Head of Rivers and Water Protection Unit, State Agency of Water Resources, Ukraine	voda_resurs@ukr.net, +380 44 234 30 91
Alexander Sapogov	Senior Specialist, Radioactive Waste Management Policy Unit, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ukraine	asapogov@ic-chernobyl.kiev.ua +380 50 3857492, +380 44 2473160
Maria Burtseva	Chief Expert, Department of International Co-operation, State Committee on Science, Innovations and Informatization, Ukraine	m_burtseva@dknii.gov.ua, +38 044 246 39 02
Innesa Medvedenko	Head of Environmental, Scientific and Technical Security Department, National Security and Defense Council, Ukraine	miv@rainbow.gov.ua
Sergei Karpenko	Taurida National University, Ukraine	s_karpenko@rambler.ru
Oleg Listopad	Independent Expert, Ukraine	lystopad2007@ukr.net
Gennadiy Averin	Head of Department, Donetsk National Technical University, Ukraine	averindg@yandex.ru
Natalia Zakorchevna	Independent Expert, Ukraine	nzakor@hotmail.com, +38 044 223 74 04
Andrey Artov	NGO "Ecomir", Ukraine	ekomir06@list.ru
Oleg Diakov	Centre for Regional Studies, Odesa, Ukraine	utsc@te.net.ua
Lesya Nikolayeva	Zoï environment network, Yaremche, Ukraine	lesya.nikolayeva@zoinet.org
Anatoliy Pavelko	Bureau of Environmental Investigations, Lviv, Ukraine	anatoliy_pavelko@yahoo.com
Dmytro Skrylnikov	Bureau of Environmental Investigations, Lviv, Ukraine	DSkrylnikov@mail.lviv.ua
Olga Melen-Zabramnaya	Head of Legal Unit, NGO "Ecology-Law-Human", Lviv, Ukraine	molya@uoregon.edu
Hanna Khomechko	Project Officer, NGO "Ecology-Law-Human" Lviv, Ukraine	hkhomech@uoregon.edu, +380 322 433888