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Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 6:21 PM

To: SSC

Cc: liudmila@moldovapops.md; I.marduhaeva@mail.md; Katerina_Sebkova@env.cz; Victor Rezepov

Subject: proposal for nomination of the second regional centre under the SC for the CEE region

Dear Mr. Cooper,

the CEE bureau members to the COP SC would like hereby inform you that our region has completed the final round of discussion regarding requests for nomination of its regional centres to serve under the Stockholm Convention. There were two additional requests, both for BCRC centres, one of them in Bratislava, Slovakia and the other one from Moscow, Russian Federation.

The decision of the region is to put forward a nomination of the BCRC in Moscow, Russian Federation, to complement the already proposed and nominated RECETOX Centre in the Czech Republic.

Please find enclosed materials on the Centre in Moscow (4 files) and nomination letter by CEE bureau members (1 file) in electronic form, the hardcopy will follow shortly to the Secretariat's address.

Yours sincerely,

Katerina Sebkova and Liudmila Marduhaeva (p.p.),
CEE regional bureau members to COP SC

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MIZPP00HJUY1

Slovenská agentúra životného prostredia
Centrum odpadového hospodárstva
a Bazilejského dohovoru
Hanulova 5/D, 844 40 Bratislava

Banska Bystrica dňa:
October 17, 2007

Vybavuje:
RNDr. Dana Lapešová

MINISTERSTVO
ŽIVOTNÍHO PROSTŘEDÍ
750

Došlo dňa/
čas prijatí: 31-10-2007 Počet listů/
příloh:

Číslo jednact: 49429/ENV/07
2285/450/07

Dear Ms. Marduhaeva and Ms. Šebkova,

With reference to the Decision SC 3/12 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants adopted on 4th May 2007 in Dakar, Senegal let me submit the nomination of the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) located in Bratislava, Slovak Republic as the Regional Centre for the Stockholm Convention.

The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic in its decision on April 2007 supports the idea to extend the activities of the BCRC Slovakia to serve as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention for the countries in the region of the Central and Eastern Europe.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre is a part of the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA). The SEA provides professional support for the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic since 1993. The BCRC has a lot of experiences with the work in the region aimed at capacity building, transfer of technology and co-operation with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The BCRC Slovakia expects to co-ordinate and close collaborate with the Czech Republic

Attached, you can find more detail information about activities of the BCRC Slovakia.

I would highly appreciate if you could submit our nomination to other countries in the CEE region for their possible comments and endorsement.

Yours sincerely,

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Slovak Environmental Agency
Centre of Waste and Environmental Management,
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Slovak Republic

Nominated Stockholm Convention Centre
in Slovakia

(nominated SC-C in Slovakia)

Based at

Basel Convention Regional Centre Slovakia

(BCRC Slovakia)

Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA)

Bratislava, Slovak Republic September 28, 2007

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic authorised the Slovak Environmental Agency to take responsibility as the National Focal Point to the Stockholm Convention and to perform the tasks of the Regional Centre of Stockholm Convention. Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA) is a professional organisation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic with nationwide scope of powers, which focuses on the environment protection and landscape planning in accordance with principles of sustainable development.

The activities focused on the POPs issues (various national and bilateral projects) in Slovakia have been solved since 1993:

- Project „Chlorinated aromatic substances in human organisms from selected model SR areas”, IPCM (1993-1995),
- Project “Biological monitoring of persistent chemicals and their impact to health of selected SR populations”, IPCM (1993-1995),
- Project “Local studies of air quality in the cities of Bratislava and Košice, national needs assessment of early signs of biological action following exposure to polyhalogenated dibenzo-p-dioxins and related substances”, IPCM (1995-1997),
- Project “Appearance of selected toxic and carcinogenic organic and inorganic substances in outdoor air of selected areas in SR”, IPCM,
- Project “Xenobiotics as potential additive in allergy development”, IPCM (1996-1998),
- Project „Environmental and human population burden in area contaminated by PCB”, Institute of Preventive and Clinical Medicine, IPCM (1997-1998),
- UNITAR/U.S. EPA project „Implementation of a National PRTR Design Project”, IPCM (1998-2001),
- Project „Physic-chemical and molecular- biological processes and their influence to food quality as a determining factor of SR population nutrition”, Food Research Institute,
- Project “Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins, dibenzofuranes, biphenyls and dioxin-like PCBs in the human population of the Slovak Republic: An analysis and health risk assessment”, IPCM,
- Projects „The 2nd round of the WHO-coordinated exposure study on the levels of PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs in human milk” and „The 3rd round of the WHO-coordinated exposure study on the levels of PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs in human milk”, IPCM (1992-1993, 2001-2002),
- EC Project “Assessment of health risk resulting from long term exposure to low doses of PCB” (2001 – 2004),
- Project GEF SLO/01/G31, „Initial Assistance to the Slovak Republic to Meet its Obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)” (2002-2004),
- USA Project “Early development of child and PCB exposure in SR” (2001 – 2006),
- DG ENV project “Dioxin emissions in Candidate Countries”,
- Project “PCB Remediate processes”, Slovak Technical University (2004),
- UNIDO/UNDP project “Global programme to Demonstrate the Viability and Removal of Barriers that Impede Adoption and Successful Implementation of Available, Non-

Combustion Technologies for Destroying Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), The Slovak Republic, First Phase” (2006 – 2012).

The SEA as a leader and/or partner participated in these national and/or bilateral projects related to POPs and chemicals:

- MATRA bilateral project “Strengthening of Institutional Basis for Safe Management of Chemicals” (2002-2003),
- Project „Inventory of equipments containing PCB in Slovakia“ (2003),
- Project “Support of information base on risks and properties of polluted chemicals under Aarhus Convention” (2004),
- Project “Institutional strengthening of management of equipments containing PCB in the Slovak Republic” (2005 – 2006).

Following projects focused on impact of increased PCB exposition to the children`s health in the district of Michalovce are at present the in preparation:

- Ear damage of children caused by polychlorinated biphenyls (2005-2007),
- Developed defects cognitive function of children through environmental exposition of polychlorinated biphenyls (2005-2008),
- Exposition effects of PCB and dioxins to the mental and psychomotor of nurslings development (2005-2008)
- Environmental exposition of PCB and development of children central nervous system (2005-2008),
- Impact of prenatal and postnatal exposition of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) to immune response (2005-2008),
- Use of GIS to analyze of PCB contamination in the area of eastern Slovakia (2005-2008).

B. INFORMATION ON EXPERTISE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Geographical location

BCRC Slovakia was established in 1995 as a unit within the Slovak Environmental Agency, Centre of Waste and Environmental Management (SEA, CWEM). The Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA) is an organisation providing a professional support to the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) of the Slovak Republic. The headquarters of the SEA are located in Banská Bystrica. The Centre is located in Bratislava. The Centre closely co-operates with the Waste Management Department (National Focal Point to the Basel Convention) and the Chemical Safety Department (National Focal Point to the Stockholm Convention) of the SAE.

Other institutional arrangement

On January 1, 2005, BCRC Bratislava became an independent Centre within the Slovak Environmental Agency. The BCRC Slovakia maintains its own bank account and its Director is responsible for it. The Centre operates independently when working on any task from the SBC. The BCRC Slovakia has a regional role defined in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The BCRC Slovakia maintains its own web side (www.sazp.sk/bcrc) which contents all relevant information about the BCRC Slovakia's activities. SEA supports the BCRC Slovakia not only through paying salaries of its employees, working place and necessary equipment, but also with professional background. In addition, SEA provides in-kind contribution during the workshops organised by the Centre, such as computer, printer, copy machine, overhead projector, etc.

The Centre's background

The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia) is one of the fourteen regional centres established across the world with the aim to assist the countries to achieve their commitments under the Basel Convention.

An integral part of implementing the Basel Convention is building the capability to manage and dispose of hazardous waste. To this end, the Basel Convention has established Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRCs).

The role of the Centres is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within their own region, through capacity-building for environmentally sound management, to achieve the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention. Through training and technology transfer, developing countries and countries with economies in transition gain the skills and tools necessary to properly manage their hazardous wastes.

The Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia was established as a unit within the Slovak Environmental Agency in 1995 based on a feasibility study prepared by Finland. It covers the geographical area of Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. The Centre serves following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Ukraine. All the 17 countries served by the Centre are Parties to the Basel Convention. The BCRC Slovakia started up its activities in June 1997.

The Centre has a specific position, because eight countries from the group covered by BCRC activity joined the EU on May 1, 2004 and next two on January 1, 2007.

During that time the Centre has successfully organized 17 training workshops for CEE countries on various technical, information and legal aspects of the Basel Convention (BC) and has carried out a number of waste management activities related to the priority areas.

1. Regional workshop aimed on waste from electric and electronic equipments with presentation of the Basel Convention guidelines on ESM of end-of-life mobile phones, Slovakia, Bratislava, June 25-26, 2007
2. The Regional Workshop on Illegal Traffic, Bratislava, Slovakia, October 2006
3. The Workshop on Waste Lubricating Oil Management, Bratislava, the Slovak Republic, April 2006,
4. The Regional Workshop aimed at Promoting Ratification of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Warsaw, Poland, January 2006,
5. Preparation of a regional approach for the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes in selected Central and Eastern countries, Bratislava, May 2004,
6. Strengthening of co-operation based on chemicals and hazardous wastes conventions, Prague, March 2004,
7. Training on implementation of waste minimisation, Bratislava, November 2003,
8. Comparative analysis of international wastes lists and control systems, Bratislava, June 2002,
9. Implementation of Basel Ban Amendment, Bratislava, March 2000,
10. Control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, Bratislava, May 1999,
11. Methods of waste disposal with focus on incineration, Bratislava, November 1998,
12. Cleaner production and waste minimisation, Bratislava, September 1998,
13. Public Awareness Programmes, Bratislava and Banská Bystrica, June 1998,
14. Enforcement of the Basel Convention Principles, Bratislava, March 1998,
15. The Information management system on wastes, Bratislava. December 1997,
16. Identification of hazardous waste, Bratislava, October 1997,
17. Implementation of the Basel Convention into national legislation, Bratislava, June 1997.

In Progress: Workshop on waste and health care waste management, October 23-24, 2007.

Finalised long-terms projects

- Legal assistance for the elaboration and adaptation of national legislation for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention in Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro,
- Background analysis for development and establishment of a lubricating oil management system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Projects in progress:

- The environmentally sound management of Basel Convention priority waste streams: Biomedical and healthcare wastes,
- Development of institutional framework, implementation schedule and guidelines for environmentally sound management of waste oils in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Projects in preparation

- Strategy on the Management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) from Households (9 CEE countries,

- Technical Guidelines for Establishment of Environmentally Sound Management in Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (Serbia and FYR Macedonia).

The Centre actively participated in the following activities:

- Open-Ended Working Group 6, Geneva, September 2007,
- Conference of parties (COP3) to the Stockholm Convention, Dakar, April/May 2007,
- Central and Eastern Europe regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Riga , December 2006,
- Conference of Parties (COP8) to the Basel Convention, Nairobi, November 2006,
- EU-JUSSCANNZ Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management(SAICM), Barcelona, November 2006,
- Workshop on PCB waste management, Skopje 2006,
- Transboundary shipment of dangerous chemicals, Bucharest, July 2006,
- Open-Ended Working Group 5, Geneva, April 2006,
- Workshop on the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Kishinev, Republic of Moldova, November 2005,
- Central and Eastern European Regional Consultation on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), Vienna, Austria, September 2005,
- Open-Ended Working Group 4, Geneva, July 2005,
- Central and Eastern European regional consultation on the strategic approach to international chemicals management, Ljubljana, May 2005,
- The 16th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, on Substances that deplete the Ozone layer, Prague, Czech Republic, November 2004/Conference to the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, Prague, November 2004.,
- Conference of Parties (COP7) to the Basel Convention, Geneva, October 2004,
- Open-Ended Working Group 3, Geneva, April 2004,
- Regional Workshop on the Co-ordinated Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions held in Riga, April, 2004,
- WTO Regional Seminar on Trade and Environment for CEE held in Budapest, December 2003,
- Regional Training Workshop on the Monitoring and Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the context of the Basel Convention in the Balkans held in Sarajevo, October 2003,
- Open-Ended Working Group 2, Geneva, October 2003,
- IMPEL Conference, Prague, June 2003,
- 7th International HCH Pesticides Forum in Kiev, June 2003, which worked out the Declaration on the establishment of the programme action for the environmentally sound management of obsolete pesticides and other stocks of unwanted persistent organic pollutants for ECA countries,
- Open-Ended Working Group 1, Geneva, April 2003,
- Regional Workshop for the Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Kiev, Ukraine, November 2002.

Co-operation with other multilateral conventions

The Centre closely co-operates with the Slovak Cleaner Production Centre (SCPC) with the seat in Bratislava. SCPC was founded by UNIDO in 1994. Nowadays it is independent

organisation with the status of Ltd. The Centre organised in close co-operation with SCPC training on Cleaner production and waste minimization in 2004.

The Centre organised the Sub-regional workshop for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent organic pollutants for Central and Eastern European Countries in April 2002.

The Centre actively participated at the Sub-regional workshop for the implementation of Rotterdam Convention on PIC procedure organised by UNEP/Chemicals in Kiev, November 2002.

The Centre actively participated at the Regional workshop on the co-ordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention in Riga, April 2004. The workshop was organised by GEN.

The Centre actively participated at the workshop on the implementation of the MEAs in Chisinau, organised by GEN in November 2005.

The Centre actively participated at the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals management (SAICM) activities.

The Centre organised the Regional workshop aimed at strengthening of co-operation among chemicals and hazardous wastes conventions in Prague in March 2004. The workshop was organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

The Centre has closely co-operated also with the Eco-toxicological Centre in preparation of the regional workshop aimed at Preparation of a regional approach of the environmentally sound management of POPs wastes in May 2004.

C. OBJECTIVES

Overall objectives

Identified areas of technical assistance and technology transfer needs

The activities of the regional and sub regional centre of the Stockholm Convention will be focused on the specific requirements related to priorities identified in a particular region in accordance with the Decision SC1/15.

- assistance and realisation of the long-term and short-term (workshops) regional projects,
- identification of the regional priorities,
- providing technical assistance and dissemination of information,
- co-operation with others SCRC, MEAs,
- co-operation with regional NGOs,
- preparation and submission of requested documents – professional and financial -- based on COP SC decisions or donor institutions,
- co-ordination of projects.

Specific objectives

Specific objectives will be defined based on the requirements of CEE (Central and Eastern European) region countries. Preliminary potential needs were identified in compliance with the priority of the Implementation Plan of CEE region countries.

Country Priority I	Action
Elimination of unintentional production and use of POPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoking of requirements for using BAT/ BEP for new and existing sources and mainly in sectors producing iron and non-iron metal, chemical industry, paper industry and incineration of waste. - Support of non-thermo mechanic processes and separation of recycling metals, - Propose the system of trainings and education of employees from companies, in which unintentional emissions of POPs are produced.
Phase-out and disposal of PCB equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preserve stocktaking of PCB equipment - Disposal of PCB equipment (using BAT/BET) - Decontamination of polluted areas - Limitation of getting PCB to food chain - Increase of public awareness and education
Elimination of import and export of POPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist to implement related legislation for ensuring elimination of import and export of POPs.
Prevention and control of the production and using of new chemicals with the POPs characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal strengthening of competent authority for assessment of new chemicals with POPs characteristics by requirements of Stockholm Convention, - Award an effective monitoring system of using chemicals with POPs characteristics, - Ensure monitoring and reporting of data on chemicals with POPs characteristic in Annex of the Stockholm Convention as well new POPs.
Reduction of total releases from unintentional production POPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using BAT for new and existing stationary source - Limits of emissions by Annex IV and V for new and existing stationary source - Effective precautions to decrease emissions from mobile sources, Annex VII
Identification and environmentally sound management of stockpiles, articles in use and wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of funding POPs pesticides and funding PCB with the aim of their safe storage and consequential disposal by environmentally appropriate way - Environmentally appropriate disposal of POPs pesticides, using BAT/BEP - Selecting very effective technology of disposal wastes including PCB - Prepare and realize informing campaign for increasing public awareness, training of employees checking old funding pesticides and wastes in agriculture
Identification and remediation of contaminated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological study of areas identified by stocktaking - Strategy of remediation of contaminated sites - Realization of remediation
Public information, awareness and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focused on citizens of contaminated areas, inspectors and customs, employees of factories, public and schools.

¹ NIP priorities of the CEE region countries.

D. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Background:

- existing professional background of BCRCs, requested synergy,
- practical experiences with the work in the region,
- realisation of the long-term and short-term (workshops) regional projects,
- be fully equipped with the necessary personal computers, with installed updated software, and must have installed and operational communication facilities including telephone and fax lines and reliable internet connections,
- highly qualified technical personnel,
- separate bank account,
- institutional background,
- to be able to identify the regional priorities,
- to declare the efficiency and effectiveness in the field of capacity building and technology transfer,
- to be able to provide technical assistance and dissemination of information,
- preparation and submission of requested documents – professional and financial – based on COP SC decisions or donor institutions,
- projects co-ordination.

The office of the Centre is located in Bratislava in the same a building as the Waste Management department and the Chemical Risk department. The current address of the Centre is:

Hanulova 5/D
844 40 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

Furnished office space – 50m²

Meeting room – capacity 20 and 50 participants

Office equipment: ... computers with printers, photocopier.

Telecommunications equipment and services: telephones, telex

Audiovisual equipment: LCD Projector, Overhead, etc

Maintenance of the office space and equipment

Language skills

The working language of the Centre is English.

Legal status

The Centre is a part within the organisational structure of the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA). The Director of the Centre and others are employees of the SEA.

E. FUNDING OF ACTIVITIES

The activities of regional centre should be funded according the decision of secretary of the Stockholm Convention on the meetings Conference of the Parties.

The strengthening of personal and technical capacity building of the regional centre should be funded through the financial fund of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Other financial sources are intended to be allocated through the National, European and International Projects Programmes (e.g. CIP, SLOVAK AID and EUROPA AID etc.).

F. REPORTS

Regional centre will provide reports and financial reports to ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties on the activities which were undertaken to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition.



Slovak Environmental Agency
Basel Convention Regional Centre Bratislava
Hanulova 5/D, 844 40 Bratislava

The Slovak proposal on establishment of the Stockholm Regional Centre is based on the requested synergy among the following three main environmental agreements: The Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. A close co-operation and coordination of activities with National POPs Centre in Brno (Czech Republic) is expected as discussed with Mr. Ivan Holoubek at a meeting in Bratislava in February 2007 (before COP3, Dakar).

It is assumed that the BCRC Slovakia will focus its activities preferentially on long-term and short term projects aimed at capacity building and environmentally sound management of wastes containing POPs. The BCRC Slovakia activities are in compliance with its position as the Regional Centre for Basel Convention. Its core functions have been approved by COP decision VI/3 on the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional Centres for training and technology transfer as follows:

- training
- technology transfer
- dissemination of information
- consultation
- awareness raising

The national priorities specified in the National implementation Plans of the served countries will be realized through the core functions mentioned above.

Individual projects are to be aimed at the following topics:

- assistance in legislation preparation and its harmonisation with relevant EU legislation in countries requiring such an assistance
- inventory of equipment with low amount of PCB (less than 5 dm³)
- capacity building of institutions dealing with POPs management
- environmentally sound management of obsolete pesticide stocks in the agriculture
- public awareness raising and education of stakeholders
- illegal transboundary movement of products and wastes containing POPs
- categorisation of POPs wastes

Dana Lapešová
Bratislava, January 10, 2008

