

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING AND REPORTING
BY ENTERPRISES**

EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS
AND CENTRAL ASIA



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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This publication results from a series of meetings organized by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment during the period from June 2005 to November 2006.

Aare Sirendi (Estonia), consultant to the UNECE secretariat prepared first draft guidelines on strengthening environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. He, Angela Bularga (secretariat of the Environmental Action Programme Task Force) and Alexey Kostine (Russian Federation) led the discussions on this document at a Workshop in September 2006. Many members of the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment provided valuable comments that helped to finalize the guidelines. Mikhail Kokine from the UNECE secretariat served as both editor and overall project manager.

Austria, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, provided financial support for the preparation of the guidelines.

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Preface

The “Environment for Europe” process, under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, has worked since 1991 to strengthen international cooperation to protect and improve the environment across Europe.

At the fifth “Environment for Europe” Conference, in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2003, environment ministers stressed the importance of environmental information and data for policy making and public awareness. For them improving environmental assessments, including reporting, especially in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, were top priorities. The ministers agreed to do this with the involvement of business and industry by encouraging the latter to improve environmental management systems and reporting on environmental issues.

To meet this goal, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, through its Working Group on Environment Monitoring and Assessment, undertook the preparation of practical recommendations to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to strengthen environmental monitoring and reporting by enterprises. The Working Group organized a series of international meetings that involved experts from environment ministries, statistical agencies, business and industry and their associations, and civil society organizations.

The present publication results from this collaborative endeavour. It contains the Guidelines for Strengthening Environmental Monitoring and Reporting by Enterprises in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia that were approved by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy in May 2007

and will be transmitted to the sixth “Environment for Europe” Conference, (Belgrade, Serbia, October 2007).

The publication is aimed at officials and experts working for government bodies at the national and subnational levels responsible for environmental policy, environmental monitoring and compliance monitoring, and statistical agencies in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries, as well as for enterprise management and environmental citizens’ organizations. It is my sincere hope that it will prove very valuable to them.



Marek Belka
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

**GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND
REPORTING BY ENTERPRISES IN
EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND
CENTRAL ASIA**

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