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Preface

A first Environmental Performance Review of Estonia was undertaken in 1995 as a pilot project by UNECE. In September 2000, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy agreed to the Estonian request for a second review. Preparations for the second review began immediately thereafter.

During the pre-mission in March 2001, final decisions were reached on both the structure and the organizational details of the project, taking into account the results of the first EPR of Estonia as well as the considerable changes that had meanwhile occurred.

The review mission to Estonia took place in April 2001. The review team included national experts from Denmark, Finland, France and Hungary, together with the UNECE secretariat. The draft of the EPR report was finalized and assessed by the EPR Expert Group (19 September 2001) and submitted to a peer review by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its annual session in Geneva on 25-26 September 2001. The Committee approved the recommendations as they are set out in this report. A delegation from Estonia, led by the Minister of Environment, assisted the Committee in its deliberations.

Since this is a second review, it follows a different approach from other environmental performance review projects. The focus is placed on three themes: a broad overview of developments since the first review, an assessment of problems encountered and solutions sought with regard to five priorities for Estonian environmental management, and an evaluation of the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the first review.

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the UNECE review team wish the Estonian Government success in their important future tasks, including the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present report.

UNECE would also like to express its deep appreciation to the Governments of Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for their support to this Environmental Performance Review.

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The preparatory mission for the project took place from 15 to 16 March 2001. The review mission was organized from 18 to 26 April 2001. The Peer review was held on 26-27 September 2001 in Geneva. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the recommendations set out in this publication.

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