

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Committee on Environmental Policy

ENVIRONMENTAL
PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

UKRAINE



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 1999

Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 6

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UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION
<i>Sales No.</i> E.00.II-E.1
ISBN 92-1-116743-4
ISSN 1020-4563

Preface

The Environmental Performance Review of Ukraine started with its preparatory mission in November 1997. This mission resulted in the agreed structure of the review. The team carrying out the review consisted of national and international experts. The national team members were made available by Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands and Switzerland. Technical advisers from Germany (on water protection technology) and Italy (on air pollution abatement, waste treatment and measurement technologies) assisted the team in their areas of competence. The Rome Division of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, UNEP and the ECE secretariat provided the international experts. The costs of participation of experts from countries in transition, as well as the travel expenses of the ECE secretariat, were covered from extrabudgetary funds provided by France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. The Netherlands also bilaterally supported the Ukrainian Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety in its tasks in the project. The successful conclusion of the project would not have been possible without the generous support from all these sources.

The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy established a special procedure for the implementation of the Ukrainian EPR. It included, for the first time, the holding of an assessment mission in Kyiv, in May 1999. The purpose of this meeting was to enable a large number of Ukrainian environmental managers from different institutions to discuss a draft of the present report. The assessment mission made it possible to familiarize these managers, in the presence of the EPR Expert Group, with the gist of the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report, as well as with their foundations. In addition, the adoption process of the EPR recommendations by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy included a ministerial round-table discussion in Geneva, on 20 September 1999. Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Slovenia and Ukraine participated in this discussion. The Committee adopted its EPR recommendations as included in the present report on 21 September 1999. Also included is a CD-ROM containing a state-of-the-environment report of Ukraine. The report was compiled and edited by the information technology group of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine in cooperation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal.

This EPR report highlights the large variety of environmental conditions in different areas of environmental management in Ukraine. They are reflected in considerable differences in environmental performance in different areas of management. The economic and social difficulties of the country in its transition to a market economy add to the challenges for environmental management. The report demonstrates the particular success of environmental management during transition in the area of nature and biodiversity management. It also highlights the great efforts made by the Ukrainian Government to ratify relevant international conventions and honour its resulting obligations. The main focus of environmental management in the near future is on the development of economic instruments in support of more environmentally friendly decisions by economic actors.

The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the ECE review team wish the Ukrainian administrations success in their challenging work, including the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.

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The preparatory mission for the project took place on 28-29 November 1997. The review mission was organized from 4 to 16 October 1998. An assessment mission to discuss a previous draft with Ukrainian environmental managers took place in Kyiv on 17-19 May 1999.

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