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NOTE

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Preface

The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy launched the Environmental Performance Review of Slovenia in January 1996. Two months later, the preparatory mission for the project was organized, and a team of both national and ECE experts was formed to carry out the review. The Governments of Albania, Hungary, Israel, Norway, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland made national experts available for the task. The Bilthoven Division of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health contributed its expertise and resources for the preparation of the review of environmental health issues. The travel expenses of experts from countries in transition and from the ECE secretariat were covered by extra-budgetary funds, which had been provided by Austria, Finland, France, Netherlands and Norway. The successful conclusion of the project would not have been possible without the generous support from all these sources.

The review team prepared a report on the environmental performance of Slovenia before, during and after the review mission in Ljubljana in November 1996. The Slovene partners in discussion with the review team did not spare time or effort in responding to the queries and requests made. The review mission could therefore benefit from optimal cooperation with Slovene institutions. The report by the review team, including draft recommendations for the solution of existing problems in national environmental policy and management, was submitted for evaluation by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its fourth annual session in Geneva, on 26 May 1997. A high-level delegation from Slovenia attended this session. It was headed by the Minister of the Environment and also included the State Secretaries for Agriculture, Forest and Food, Economic Affairs, Environment, Physical Planning, Transport and Communications, and other delegates. The evaluation by the Committee was based on the in-depth preparation by two reviewing countries, the Netherlands and Poland. At the end of its evaluation, the Committee agreed on a final set of recommendations, replacing the draft recommendations of the review team for inclusion in this publication.

The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the ECE review team wish the Slovene environmental managers success in implementing and following up the policy recommendations in this review.

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The preparatory mission for the project took place on 25-26 March 1996. The review mission was organized from 17 to 27 November, 1996, and the peer review was held in Geneva on 26 May 1997. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the recommendations as set out in this publication.

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