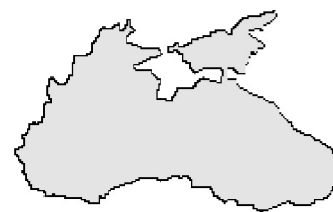


Black Sea Shared

Regional environmental NGO newsletter for the Black Sea



Issue 36-2003

May/June

On the eve of Kyiv-2003

The Environment for Europe process launched in 1991 in Dobris, former Czechoslovakia has been successful in establishing dialogue among all environmental stakeholders and involving them in all its activities and initiatives. Twelve years later Europe is much more one continent than it used to be at the end of the cold war. The movement was very successful in promoting environmental policy reforms and capacity building in the economies in transition.

The Fifth Pan-European Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" Kyiv, Ukraine, 21-23 May 2003 will notably address the following issues: three protocols to be signed on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Civil Liability and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers; a "Kyiv Assessment" on the state of the pan-European environment; signature on recognition of several sub-regional initiatives, in particular the post-Johannesburg EU Water Initiative for the NIS, the EU Energy Initiative, the Carpathian Mountains Convention, the Central Asian Mountain Charter and the Dnipro River Convention. Additionally, the future of the Environment for Europe process after Kyiv will be discussed.

NGO Conference

Over 200 representatives of environmental NGOs came together in Kyiv, 17-19 May at the 4th Ukrainian Conference of the Environmental Community inaugurated by B. Shevchuk, environmental minister. The participants discussed the documents of the 5th Ministerial Conference, draft Declaration of the ministers of environment of European countries, Carpathian Convention, resolution on biodiversity, appeal of the ministers for educational activity for sustainable development, etc. The NGO representatives shared experience on cooperation and joint activities with state authority. Finally the conference had a joint session with ECO-Forum to present the experience of Ukrainian NGOs on preparation of the report "Public Assessment of Ecological Policy in Ukraine". (UA office)

Ukrainian support for BSC

The Ukrainian cabinet has approved the bill for ratification of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities for the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (BSC). It provides a mechanism for support of the BSC, the

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In Memoriam

Sergiy V. Shapovalov, distinguished Ukrainian environmentalist and NGO activist, as well as founder of the BSNN died on 14 May 2003, Institute of Ecology, South Branch, Mykolaiv announced. The regional NGO community lost a prominent public figure and stalwart supporter of environmental protection, a scientist, colleague and friend. An enthusiastic yachtsman he sailed extensively in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean that he knew and loved very much. We all deeply grieve for him. (BSNN)

implementing organ of the Bucharest Convention ratified by the Verhovna Rada of Ukraine in February 1994. So far Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania have ratified such agreements. Ukraine is joining them on the eve of Environment for Europe Meeting thus demonstrating goodwill and greater involvement in international cooperation on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution. (UA office)

EBRD criticised again

Several Russian environmental NGOs in a continued campaign supported by public figures from the seaport of Azov, Rostov Region issued an appeal to the president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) urging him to suspend financing for the construction of facilities for handling liquid chemical cargoes in Azov. EBRD has been financing the construction of the methanol terminal since 2000 but the public insists environmental impact assessment was faulty and part of the blame lied with the bank environmental policy and procedures. The opposition to the construction has been very significant. People living in the area have not been properly informed of the project implications in a densely populated and environmentally sensitive area. NGOs claim there have been serious violations of the law both at design and construction stages. The campaign for more transparency started in January

2003. At the EBRD annual meeting in Tashkent on 3 - 4 May representative of the Independent Environmental Service for the North Caucasus (IES) personally presented the NGO view of the real situation in the coastal area to the bank leaders.

The campaign spread to involve over 85 NGOs from Russia, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. They appealed to the Executive Director of the EBRD Jean Lemierre for real transparency asking specifically for more information on projects at the earliest stages of preparation and the timely release of significant environmental information on medium-impact projects. (IES, *Bluelink*, *CENN*)



Threat remains

The Ukrainian Ministry of Transport has resumed plans to build a deep-water canal through the Danube Biosphere Reserve. Environmental NGOs warn that some of the documents for the reserve establishment have been falsified to withdraw estuaries from its territory and go ahead with the construction without even discussing an alternative route. For over a year now the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences together with environmental NGOs resist the attempts of the transport ministry to construct a deep-water ship canal through d

Bistro Estuary within strictly protected zone of Danube Biosphere reserve. The world scientific and environmental community has also appealed to the Ukrainian authorities to revise plans or cancel construction in the protected zone. In December 2002 more than 300 organisations from 64 countries sent their letters to the President of Ukraine for the sake of the reserve. The campaign was repeated in the first ten days of April. There are speculations that the issue will be suspended again because of the Kyiv Conference. (SEU)

EUROSOLAR in Turkey

EUROSOLAR Turkey held its very successful kick-off meeting in Istanbul on April 15 to involve environmental experts, public administrations, local municipalities, the industrial sector, universities and NGOs in a very lively discussion on the wider use of renewable energies in Turkey. The European association was set up in an effort to increase the share of renewable energy resources in the energy mix and increase public awareness on energy issues. The participants discussed the aims of the organisation and the international situation as well as possible routes of action. (KADOS)

Alternative view

In Tbilisi, Georgia, the Caucasus Sub-regional NGO Network held a working meeting of NGOs

concerning the BTC pipeline. Twenty-five environmental NGO representatives, experts and specially invited guests from Georgia International Oil Corporation attended the meeting. It provided an alternative view on the construction of the pipeline. Participants emphasised that they are supportive of the BTC project and they denounced the campaign of some international NGOs to represent that Georgia's entire NGO community is against construction of the BTC pipeline. Ketii Dgebuadze, head of the Network, said that the NGOs public monitoring role should most importantly focus on extra mitigation measures. Dgebuadze provided a letter to the International Finance Corporation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which was prepared by 16 experts regarding the BTC project and signed by 63 NGOs. Dgebuadze voiced intention to share different opinions expressed by various NGO representatives and experts in the future. (CENN)

Focus on the Black Sea

BSNN is starting a new free electronic email news service 'Focus on the Black Sea' to widen outreach and provide better information coverage on environmental and regional issues related to the Black Sea and sustainable development. News items and short comments for it can be submitted at the BSNN regional office. The service is intended to supplement the

regional newsletter 'Black Sea Shared' and monthly topical items published on the BSNN website. (BSNN)

BSERP small grants Phase II

The call for proposals within the BSERP Small Grants Program Phase II with focus on biodiversity conservation and international waters will be formally announced in June 2003. More is available on the project website at www.blacksea-environment.org



in the Public Participation section, Small Grants Programme. Application form is also available there, as well as information about current project implementation. The first research cruise for monitoring the state of the Black Sea waters will take place in September and the BSNN promotion campaigns will be timed accordingly. At the second meeting of the project steering committee in Istanbul on 5-6 May, 2003 Mr Nick Remple, GEF regional coordinator announced further funding was available for the second phase of BSERP to build on achievements so far. (BSNN)

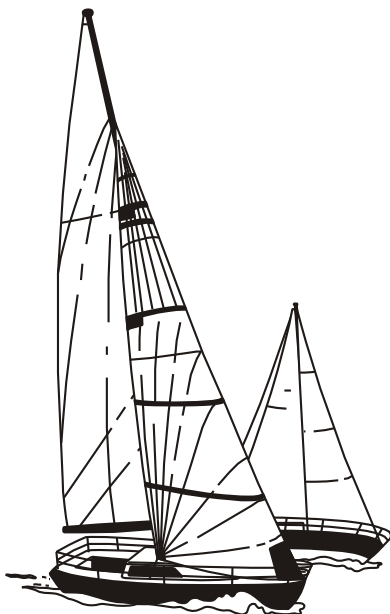
Phoenix project

Computer technology among other things has brought about the ease of producing long texts with minimum effort and waste of a lot of A4 format office paper for printouts. The Phoenix Project of Mayday Foundation, Bulgaria intends to promote a good practice not too common in the region: stimulation of administrations and educational institutions to economize on A4 paper, collect it separately for recycling and use some quantities of recycled paper for daily office needs. The introduction of this sustainable pattern transcends by far the time span and means of the one year project funded by a Phare-Access'2000 grant. The establishment of the new type of consumer behaviour and networking with administrations and businesses is the real challenge, Mr Doychin Karshovsky, Mayday chairman says. It is a small step towards sustainability. He believes that the regional audience will benefit from learning and promotion of methods used in the US and Western Europe. Many American offices re-use scrap paper for drafts and collect it for recycling. Besides they put a special emphasis on this type of activity by making public the charter and list of employees who subscribe to it, irrespective of rank and position. So boss and employees appear side by side on the list vowing to use paper sparingly so that a smaller number of trees should be felled to produce new paper. The Mayday Foundation has involved in its project several municipalities

and educational institutions, not only in the coastal area but in other cities as well. Part of the campaign is implemented in the capital and has strong media support. A crucial point for its success was getting a business involved, in this case the ComTrad Company, importer of paper and office supplies. It helped make the campaign a reality by importing some recycled office paper and getting involved in the introduction of the new practice. (*Mayday*)

Festival highlight

The Greener Bourgas foundation is implementing a project on the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices in the Bulgarian coastal area financed under BSERP small grants. The project places an emphasis on organic farming explaining the benefits of chemical-free agriculture, apiculture and organic farming. Traditional Earth Day celebrations have been used as an



tions have been used as an occasion to give publicity to the project activities. On the eve of Easter a fair of agricultural produce was held in the village of Dolno Ezerovo. Producers of honey from the region met there and displayed goods readily welcomed by consumers in many foreign countries. Educational materials were distributed to the farmers and the general public. The scientific module of the project is under preparation and will be introduced later in May. Project activities will involve farmers and experts from the Northern Bulgarian coast as well. Greener Bourgas has established tradition of partnership projects with Mare Nostrum of Constanta, Romania. The two NGOs implemented a joint Cleaner Beaches campaign in 2001 and currently cooperate on nutrient reduction. The newly launched website of Greener Bourgas is www.greenbourgas.org (*Greener Bourgas*)

Environmental readings

The Sailing Academy of Taganrog, Russia took active part in the spring environmental readings of students in the city hosted by School No 4 on 18 April. The NGO provided support to the practical monitoring and research programme of young environmentalists from the Marine Ecology section. The section presented an impressive number of reports focusing on monitoring of water quality and discharges in the Taganrog Bay and the condi-

tion of the adjacent territories. The students took part in charting and video filming of discharges and pollution; they also took samples of the water and performed chemical analysis. These activities form the first stage of a project on the control of eutrophication and dangerous substances associated with the improvement of the Black Sea ecosystem, funded by BSERP. A paper on the chemical analysis of municipal wastewater discharges from the city into the bay was given first prize; another prize was granted to the presentation identifying sources of marine pollution in the city. Sailing Academy president Vladimir Nazarenko lays great store on publicity and the involvement of local administration and the media. Television in Taganrog covered the readings and will probably continue cooperation with Sailing Academy. Next item on the agenda will be a round table with the administration to develop a programme for the rehabilitation of the Taganrog Bay and the mechanisms of its implementation. (*Sailing Academy*)

Newsletter of the Black Sea NGO Network

Editorial team: Emma Gileva, Ralitsa Zhekova, Lauren Lezell, Aleksandar Shivarov

Contact information:
Black Sea NGO Network
Regional Office
12 Sheinovo St, P.O.Box 91
BG-9000 Varna, Bulgaria
tel.: +359 52 615 856
e-mail: office@bseanetwork.org
reg_off@bseanetwork.org