



Ministry of the Environment  
EU Funds Department

Ref. No.: 307/330/10  
4451/ENV/10

## **M i n u t e s**

### ***of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Monitoring Committee Operational Programme Environment held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2009 at Iris hotel in Prague***

Present: See the Presence Sheet attached

Meeting chaired by: Ing. Rut Bízková, Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment, Deputy Minister and the Director General of the Economics and Environmental Policy Directorate at the Ministry of Environment

#### Agenda for the meeting:

1. Introduction – introduction by the Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment and approval of the agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment
2. Report on the progress of implementation of the OP Environment
3. Discussion and approval of the changes to the Status of the MC of the OP Environment
4. Discussion and approval of the changes to the Programming Document of the OP Environment
5. Discussion and approval of the changes to the Implementation Document of the OP Environment
6. Discussion and approval of the drawdown plan for the 2010 OP Environment Technical Assistance; information on the drawdown and projects so far
7. Information on the Indicative Evaluation Plan of the OP Environment for 2010
8. Information on the implementation of the Communication Plan of the OP Environment and on the annual communication activities plan for 2010
9. Miscellaneous
10. Conclusion

#### **Ad 1) Introduction – introduction by the Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment and approval of the agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment**

The meeting was opened by the Chair, who welcomed all participants. The 35 present members of the Committee constituted a quorum. The Chair introduced the main points on



the agenda of the meeting and informed the attendees about a formal change which placed the “Report on the progress of implementation of the OP Environment” immediately after the “Introduction.” The agenda of the meeting was consensually approved by the present members.

*The Chair* then gave the floor to the guest attendees – the Minister of Environment and the representative of the European Commission.

## **Ad 2) Report on the progress of implementation of the OP Environment**

*Ing. Kříž (Ministry of the Environment – ME)* summed up the progress in the implementation of the Operational Programme over the last half year and stated the priorities for the near future.

*Dr. Štěpánek (State Environmental Fund – SEF)* focused his presentation on the administration of the Operational Programme by its Managing Authority (hereinafter the “MA”) and the Intermediate Body of the subject (hereinafter the “IB”) focusing on the period between April 1 and September 30, 2009, for which the Report on the progress of implementation of the OP Environment (hereinafter the “Report”) had been prepared.

*The Chair* thanked the speaker for the presentation and recapitulated the tasks and their implementation since the last, that is the 5<sup>th</sup>, meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment held on May 28, 2009. She stated that all tasks had been completed.

A discussion followed with questions by the guest attendees and the individual MC members.

*Mr. Engwegen (European Commission)* called, in connection with the associated risks as specified in the Report (Section 2.7 page 13 [16 in English Translation – transl. note]), for a thorough analysis and evaluation of the risks, including absorption capacity, to be conducted by the MA and IB before the next Monitoring Committee (MC) meeting and for any problems to be resolved in the best way possible. The Chair promised to prepare for the next MC meeting a presentation covering risk analysis and to focus on what are (1) the needs, (2) the aims of the Ministry in environment protection, and (3) how funds will be disbursed.

*Ing. Kužel (ME)* addressed the insufficient drawdown of funds under Priority Axis 2 (hereinafter “PA2”), specifically for “the Improvement of air quality and reduction of emissions.” He proposed, as the guarantor of PA2 content, to prepare a presentation for the next MC meeting analysing PA2 with focus on the (1) *status quo* in the Czech Republic, (2) an analysis of the main problems, and (3) proposal for the use of the allocated funds. The Chair and Mr. Engwegen, the representative of the European Commission (hereinafter the “EC”), welcomed this proposal.

*The Chair* then welcomed Ing. Martin Plachý, the First Deputy Minister for Regional Development, who took the floor.

*Ing. Kropáček (Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations)* raised a question why the 14<sup>th</sup> Call of PA7 was restricted with respect to prospective applicants so that only organizational units of the state could apply. This prevented non-governmental non-profit organisations, civic associations and similar organizations from applying for support. The Chair promised to send an explanation with the final version of the Minutes of this meeting.



*Ms. Břízová (EC)* spoke about financial engineering instruments and raised several questions with regard to PA4 on the financing of incineration plants and the SEA of the Waste Management Plan of the Czech Republic / Programming Document. An extensive discussion followed.

*Mr. Engwegen (EC)* pointed out the existence of significant differences between individual Czech regions revealed by the presentation slide showing a graph of the amount of approved support and the total costs of projects implemented under Operational Programme Environment. He proposed that a more detailed analysis be made of the reasons for such differences, taking into account the population size, priority axes and areas of action. The Chair seconded this proposal.

### **Ad 3) Discussion and approval of the changes to the Status of the MC of the OP Environment**

*Ing. Novák (ME)* outlined the proposed changes to the Status of the MC of the OP Environment to the attending members. The first change is the extension of the MC membership from 42 to 44, through the inclusion of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Managing Authority for Operational Programmes Education for Competitiveness and Research and Development for Innovations) and of Prague City Hall (Managing Authority for Operational Programmes Prague Adaptability and Prague Competitiveness). The second change concerns the inclusion of a representative of the Ministry for Regional Development (hereinafter the “MRD”), National Coordination Authority (hereinafter the “NCA”) as a full member of the MC of the OP Environment, replacing the current MRD representative. Prior to this change the NCA representative played only an advisory role.

*The above changes to the Status of the MC of the OP Environment were approved by consensus.*

*Mrs. Břízová (EC)* proposed that the EC members be informed by copying them on the e-mails during the “*per rollam*” procedure. The rules of procedure of the MC of the OP Environment were amended accordingly.

*The above change to the rules of procedure of the MC of the OP Environment was approved by consensus.*

### **Ad 4) Discussion and approval of the changes to the Programming Document of the OP Environment**

*Ing. Novák (ME)* presented the proposed changes to the Programming Document of the OP Environment (hereinafter the “OPE PD”).

*The Chair* stated that in the spring of 2010 there will be a discussion on more changes to the Programming Document, which will be more significant, and which will be submitted to the EC later during 2010.

A discussion followed with comments and questions raised by the guests and attending members.



*Mrs. Břízová (EC)* pointed out that all requests / applications to the EC should be entered into the SFC system and substantiated by thorough analyses and evaluations.

*Ing. Matoušková (NCA MRD)* reminded the members of the procedure with respect to the implementation of the changes to Operational Programmes under Article 33 Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006. It is necessary that MAs consult the contemplated changes with NCA representatives prior to submitting them to the Monitoring Committee.

*Ing. Kropáček (Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations)* proposed to include, among the indicators in PO4, an indicator assessing the degree of material recovery from municipal waste and to think about the target share of recovered municipal waste. A discussion followed, after which the Chair decided to put this proposal as a point on the agenda and a task for the next Monitoring Committee, stating that the inclusion of the indicator required a thorough analysis, and that the indicator should be included only if this detailed analysis deems an inclusion feasible and realistic. *Ing. Bartoš (Czech Chamber of Commerce)* noted that it would not be possible to implement the proposed indicator before 2010 due to the lack of time.

*Ing. Matoušková (NCA, MRD)* requested that any discussion of the changes of indicators be also attended by a representative and expert of the NCA.

*Ing. Kropáček (Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations)* stated that the initial value of the “Volume of municipal waste (production)” indicator had been set to 4 million tonnes per year and the target value to 5 million tonnes per year. He called attention to the fact that the increase was actually higher, which resulted in deterioration. The Chair promised to address this topic (and the issues related to waste in general) at the next Monitoring Committee meeting.

*The Chair then called for a vote on the proposed changes to the Programming Document of the Operational Programme Environment. The above specified changes were approved by a 35 : 0 : 0 vote (for : against : abstained).*

#### **Ad 5) Discussion and approval of the changes to the Implementation Document of the OP Environment**

*Ing. Valdman (State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic)* presented the proposed changes to the Implementation Document of the OP Environment (hereinafter the “OPE ID”). The first type of submitted changes directly relates to the changes of the OPE PD. The second type of implemented changes had arisen from the administration of the Operational Programme Environment so far and their aim was to remove barriers affecting prospective applicants and beneficiaries. The third type of proposed changes was of formal nature. The fourth type of changes represented changes which were not included in the material sent to the MC members.

Following the question raised by *Mr. Engwegen (EC)* regarding the administrative capacity of the State Environmental Fund and Intermediate Bodies in general, *Dr. Štěpánek (State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic)* held a presentation comparing the three Intermediate Bodies involved in the implementation of the Operational Programmes.

A discussion followed with comments and questions raised by the guests and attending members.



*The Chair* proposed to divide the discussion of the submitted changes to OPE ID in two parts. Changes not linked to waste and the related Call and changes were discussed first; the remaining changes next.

Mgr. Viktora (Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO)) proposed that the potential compensatory measures related to the preservation or creation of habitats of specially protected species at buildings for which thermal insulation had been planned be defined as eligible expenditure. The Chair requested that this proposal be submitted in writing including the list of expenses, following which it would be further addressed.

*The Chair than called for a vote on the submitted changes, which were not linked to the issue of waste and the related Call and other changes to the OPE ID. The changes were approved by a 35 : 0 : 0 vote (for : against : abstained).*

An extensive discussion followed, focusing on the changes to the OPE ID related to the issues of waste in Section 3.2.4.2 (Area of Action 2.2), Section 3.4.4.1 (Area of Action 4.1), parts of Section 8.1 (State Aid) and the related Call and other changes.

*The Chair than called for a vote on the submitted changes related to waste, the related Call, and other changes to the OPE ID. The changes were approved by a 34 : 0 : 1 vote (for : against : abstained).*

#### **Ad 6) Discussion and approval of the drawdown plan for the 2010 OP Environment Technical Assistance; information on the drawdown and projects so far**

*Mgr. Kristiánová (ME)* gave a presentation on the Technical Assistance of the Operational Programme Environment (hereinafter the “TA OPE”).

*The Chair than called for a vote on the TA OPE ME and TA OPE SEF drawdown plan. The plan was approved by a 35 : 0 : 0 vote (for : against : abstained).*

#### **Ad 7) Information on the Indicative Evaluation Plan of the OP Environment for 2010**

*Dr. Domasová (ME)* gave a presentation on the Evaluation Plan of the OP Environment including the evaluation activities realized in 2009. The presentation was followed by questions by the attending guests and members.

#### **Ad 8) Information on the implementation of the Communication Plan of the OP Environment and on the annual communication activities plan for 2010**

*Ing. Richtrová (ME)* gave a presentation on the Communication Plan of the OP Environment between 1.4.2009 and 30.9.2009 and answered the questions raised by the attending guests and members.

#### **Ad 9) Miscellaneous**

*The Chair* proposed a preliminary date for the next MC meeting to be held on June 3, 2010. The MC members noted this date and the final date will be confirmed following consultations with NCA.



Ing. Tluková, representing the Ministry of Finance, asked whether OPE would be willing to share its expertise related to the organization of large projects with other Operational Programmes. The NCA representative, Ing. Matoušková promised to pass this proposal on and to inform on the potential organization of a seminar.

A discussion took place on the materials sent to the Managing Authority of the Operational Programme Environment by the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic regarding the “Proposal for changes in support to energy savings” (amendment of the Green Light to Savings programme). Ing. Bartoš, representing the Czech Chamber of Commerce, proposed to organize a round table on the above topic. The Chair welcomed this proposal and promised her attendance.

## Ad 10) Conclusion

*The Chair* thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting

### Summary of the tasks and recommendations tabled by the European Commission at the 6<sup>th</sup> MC OPE held on December 3, 2009:

TASKS			
No.	Task	Responsible Body	Completion Date
<b>I. Report on the progress of implementation OPE:</b>			
1.	Upon recommendation of the EC related to the list of risks (Section 2.7 page 13 [16]), the MA and IB should thoroughly analyse and evaluate risks including the absorption capacity. A presentation is to be prepared focusing on the (1) needs, (2) aims of the Ministry in environment protection, and (3) method of disbursement of funds.	ME/SEF	Next MC meeting
2.	Upon the proposal of the guarantor of PO2 content, the Department of Air Protection should prepare presentation on the PO2 analysis focusing on the (1) <i>status quo</i> in the Czech Republic, (2) analysis of main problems, and (3) proposal for the use of allocated funds.	ME (Director Kužel)	Next MC meeting
3.	Submit explanation regarding the restriction of prospective applicants to organizational units of the state in PO7, 14 <sup>th</sup> Call. <u>Explanation provided in internal communication 7/340/10 (698/ENV/10):</u> The reason for such a restriction was the effort to first create an umbrella	ME (Director Kaźmierski)	20/1/2010 (date on which final Minutes are to be sent out)



	portal, which would contain verified and certified data on the environment.		
4.	Upon the recommendation of the EC, a more detailed analysis of the reasons for the differences between individual regions in terms of the approved amount of support and total expenditure for OPE projects should be carried out (taking into account, for instance, the size of population, priority axes and areas of action).	SEF/ME	Next MC meeting
<b>II. Status of the MC of the OP Environment</b>			
1.	Amended Status of the OPE MC issued by the order of the Minister to be sent to MC members.	ME	Next MC meeting
<b>III. Rules of procedure of the OPE MC</b>			
1.	Amended Rules of Procedure of the OPE MC to be sent to MC members.	ME	20/1/2010 (date on which final Minutes are to be sent out)
<b>IV. Programming Document OPE</b>			
1.	On the basis of an analysis, inclusion of an indicator evaluating the degree of material recovery from municipal waste among PO4 indicators and a revision of the target share of recovered municipal waste should be considered.	ME/SEF	Next MC meeting
2.	The “Volume of municipal waste (production)” indicator should be analysed.	ME/SEF	Next MC meeting
3.	Send out the amended version of the OPE PD .	ME	20/1/2010 (date on which final Minutes are to be sent out)
<b>V. Implementing Document OPE</b>			
1.	Prepare the final version of the OPE ID according to the comments by the MC members and to send it out.	ME/SEF	20/1/2010 (date on which final Minutes are to be sent out)
<b>VI. Miscellaneous</b>			
1.	Prepare a round table on energy and thermal insulation.	ME (Head of Department Bernt)	31/1/2010



**Proposed date for the next MC meeting:**

**Date: 3/6/2010**

**Attachments:**

1. Rules of Procedure of the MC OPE (approved by members on 3.12.2009)
2. Programming Documents OPE (approved by members on 3.12.2009)
3. Implementing Document (approved by members on 3.12.2009)
4. Attendance list
5. Distribution list (updated name list of the OPE MC members)

Recorded by: Simona Dušková  
EU Funds Dept., ME

Verified by: Petr Novák  
EU Funds Dept., ME

Approved by: Rut Bízková  
Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the OP Environment, Deputy Minister  
and the Director General of the Economics and Environmental Policy  
Directorate at the Ministry of Environment