

GREENING THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Conference

Brussels 5th, 6th December 2005.

Organised by Heinrich Böll Foundation (Hbf) and WWF
In cooperation with the European Parliament (EP).

Context

What is it?

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) aims to creating an enlarged area of political stability and prosperity, a "friendly neighbourhood", and avoid the emergence of new dividing lines as a consequence of enlargement.

The ENP applies to Neighbouring Countries (NC) in two different regions:

- 1) The Mediterranean region: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria (and, in future, Libya).
- 2) The Eastern European region, countries that were formerly part of the URSS: Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan (and, in future, Belarus).
Russia has a special status as a 'Strategic partner'.

The implementation of the ENP itself brings with it the perspective of moving beyond *cooperation* to a significant degree of *integration*, including through a stake for partner countries in the EU's Internal Market.

The main political tools are jointly agreed **Action Plans (AP)** based on common values and covering actions in key areas: political dialogue and reform; trade; justice and home affairs; energy, transport, information society, environment and research and innovation; social policy and people-to-people contacts.

The ENP **financial instrument**, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, **ENPI**, is one of the six instruments for external policies set up in the EU Financial Perspectives. It will replace all existing regulations such as MEDA (including the SMAP), Tacis, LIFE Third Countries, etc. The Commission has proposed for the ENPI up to approximately €15 billion for the period 2007-2013.

At present the Commission, the Parliament and the Council are negotiating the text of the ENPI regulation. In parallel, the Commission is actively developing with the Governments of the NC the implementing tools related to programmes at the different levels: national, regional, cross border co-operation, and thematic.

Environmental protection and governance were part of the preparatory talks on the ENP and are reflected in the text of most of the adopted Action Plans and the proposed ENPI regulation. Nevertheless they are not a priority but part of a long list of concerns due to the very broad scope of the ENP. Having environmental protection and governance within the key priorities and ensuring its effective implementation would require strengthened dialogue with the EU Institutions, awareness of the NC Governments increased capacity of local stakeholders (Government and civil society) to deal with policy issues.

Objective of the conference

Overall goal of the conference is to contribute to the mainstreaming of sustainable development, environmental protection, civil society participation and governance in the development and implementation of the ENP policy.

Specific objectives are:

- 1) To increase public awareness of the challenges and opportunities created by the ENP with regards the environment, SD and public participation in the Neighbouring countries and regions.
- 2) To promote dialogue and enhance cooperation between the stakeholders concerned by the ENP and between them and representatives of the EU Institutions

Participants

The conference is targeted to representatives of the EU Institutions (Parliament, Commission, Council), Member States and NC, regional bodies (Euromed Assembly, UNEP, etc), NGOs from the NC and the EU, and the media.

Parallel events

Two events organised after the conference on the afternoon of December 6th will provide space for dialogue and more in depth exchange about the environmental implications of the ENP at the regional level:

- 1) A workshop organised by the Mediterranean Action Plan in cooperation with Hbf and WWF to launch in Brussels the recently published Blue Plan assessment of Environment and development in the Mediterranean.
- 2) A hearing (to be confirmed) of the EP Caucasus Delegation with participation of the Regional Environment Centre (Georgia) and other relevant representatives of the civil society in the Caucasus. And a presentation by Michael Emerson from The Centre for European Policy Studies of "Ukraine planned FTA: what environmental impacts?".

Media

A press conference will be organised on December 5 or 6.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MONDAY 5th December

**First session: Status of the European
Neighbourhood Policy
(14h30 - 16h30)**

Chair: David Hammerstein, MEP, Member of the Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly

Opening by the Chair and Welcome by the organisers

European Commission

Rutger Wissels, DG External Relations, Director of the European Neighbourhood Policy Co-ordination

Soledad Blanco, DG Environment, Director for Foreign affairs

European Parliament

Lambert Van Nistelrooij*, Rapporteur ENP, Regional Development Committee

Milan Horáček, Shadow Rapporteur ENP, Foreign Affairs Committee

Gyula Hegyi*, Shadow Rapporteur ENP, Environment Committee

European Council

Sophia Moreira de Sousa*, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Next presidency Representative* (Austria)

*Mediterranean Embassy Representative**

*Eastern Europe Embassy Representative**

Debate

**2nd session: Implementing the ENP,
the environmental dimension
(16h30 - 18h30)**

Chair: Marianne Isler-Beguín, MEP, Chair of the EP Caucasus Delegation

Geographical tools, Thematic programmes

Egidio Canciani, DG External Relations, Deputy Head of European ENP Coordination Unit

* Invited

Cross border co-operation

Moray Gilland*, DG Regional Policy, Quality officer of the Territorial Cooperation Unit

Environmental integration in the ENPI tools
(DG ENV)

Debate

Closing remarks by the organisers

TUESDAY 6th December

3rd session: ENP and the Environment: Global issues and Regional threats (09h00 - 11h00)

Chair:

1. Global environmental issues

Climate Change/Energy

Anja Koehne "Energy & Climate issues in EU Foreign Policies"
WWF European Policy Office

Water

Natural resource management

Gidon Bromberg, Director Tel-Aviv Office,
Friends of the Earth Middle East

Water quality

Bettina Peifer, Europe/transatlantic cooperation,
Heinrich Böll Foundation

2. Regional environmental threats

Mediterranean

Euromed Free Trade Zone - Strategic Impact Assessment

Clive George, Senior research fellow, the University of
Manchester, Institute for Development policy and Management.

East

Key problems and threats related to infrastructure development
in Ukraine and Danube region

Pamela Stedman-Edwards*, WWF-MPO

* Invited

Caucasus

Waste management

Manana Kochladze, CEE Bankwatch Coordinator for the Caucasus.

Debate

**4th session: Past experiences and
Environmental Governance
(11h00 - 13h00)**

Chair:

*The Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy
Blue Plan**

Northern Dimension

Riitta Myller*, MEP, Environment Committee

SMAP and Euromed Platform

Anastasia Roniotes, Comite de Suivi of Mediterranean
Environmental NGOs

Eastern experience

Caucasus

Nato Kirvalidze*, Executive director of the Regional
Environment Centre for the Caucasus

Ukraine

Yury Urbansky*, National Ecological Center of Ukraine

Debate

**Conclusions and Closure
(13h00-13h30)**

Conclusions by David Hammerstein,
Closure of the Conference by Organisers

* Invited

Parallel events

Tuesday 6th December
Regional Sessions
(15h00 - 17h00)

1) **Mediterranean:**

Blue Plan study presentation

2) **Caucasus + Ukraine**

Caucasus

Ukraine planned FTA: what environmental impacts? By
Michael Emerson Senior Fellow Research, CEPS