



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Final document of meeting of the Working Group on the Environment of EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

March 28, Prague

Meeting of the Working group on the Environment was held at the founding conference of EU-Russia Civil Society Forum in Prague on March 28th, 2011. There were 16 participants and observers at the meeting (9 – from Russia, 4 – from Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Finland, 3 – from international organizations/networks) which represented 10 organizations from Russia, 5 – from EU countries and 4 – international organizations/networks.

Russia:

1. Ernest Mezak, Committee for the Salvation of Pechora, ernest.mezak@gmail.com, Syktyvkar
2. Ivan Blokov, Greenpeace Russia, ivan.blokov@greenpeace.org, Moscow
3. Yaroslav Nikitenlo, Ecological protection of Moscow and Its Environs, ecmoru@gmail.com, Khimki
4. Sergey Shapkhayev, Buryat Regional Baikal Movement, shapsg@gmail.com, Ulan-Ude
5. Elvira Nikolenko, Siberian Environmental Center, elnik2007@yandex.ru, Novosibirsk
6. Suren Gazaryan, North Caucasus Ecological Watch, s-gazaryan@yandex.ru, Krasnodar

EU:

1. Girts Strazdins, Latvian Fund of Nature, girts.strazdins@ldf.lv, Latvia
2. Katya Tolkachyova, Global Nature Fund, tolkachyova@globalnature.org, Germany

International organizations and networks:

1. Vojtech Kotecky, Friends of the Earth CZ, vojtech.kotecky@hnutiduha.cz
2. David Murphy, Environmental Partnership Association, david.murphy@nap.cz
3. Sergey Simak, International Socio-Ecological Union, Samara Socio-Ecological Union, sergey-simak@ya.ru

Observers

1. Heidi Hautala, European Parliament, heidi.hautala@europarl.europa.eu, Finland
2. Ilka Dege, MEP Werner Schulz Office, eu-rus@werner-schulz-europa.eu

It is assumed that other participants will join the working group (those who could not attend the Forum). Also organizations–members of Forum can delegate other persons to the Working group.

This brief protocol is sent to all members of the Working group and also is distributed among networks of environmental groups of Russia and EU where the Working group members participate.



Program/Platform of the Working group on the Environment of EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

Goal: to facilitate transition EU and Russia to environmentally sustainable development and biodiversity protection.

Forms of activities

1. Cooperation between NGOs of Russia and EU (joint projects, mutual support, exchange and replication of experience, carrying on joint campaigns etc.)
2. Influencing decision making of the authorities, business and financial structures within Russia and EU (harmonization of environmental standards, forcing to comply with environmental legislation, stimulation environmental responsibility of investors etc.)
3. Development of joint positions of civil society and influence on EU-Russia intergovernmental dialogue on problems important for both sides with NGO participation from both sides.

Directions of the Working group activities

- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Preservation of Biodiversity
- Environment and Health
- Natural Resources and Waste
- Environmental Human Rights

Description of problems within the directions of work

Climate Change and Adaptation:

- Cutting down greenhouse gases emissions
- Energy Saving
- Transport
- Industry
- Ecological culture and ecological education
- Protecting the climate regulation functions of the natural ecosystems

Preservation of Biodiversity

- Nature and Biodiversity Conservation
- Technological and natural disasters
- Forests
- Waterways

Environment and Human Health

- Dangerous chemical substances
- GMO
- Environment in cities
- Quality of air and water



Natural Resources and Waste

- Minimization of usage of non-renewable natural resources; mining and extraction of natural resources (oil, gas)
- Minimization of negative influence on the environment while using natural resources
- Reducing waste production
- Reprocessing of waste

Environmental Human Rights

- Right for the favorable environment
- Right for compensation of ecological damage
- Participation of local communities
- Supporting of Traditional Land Use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Organizational principles of the Group

1. Coordinators are members of the CSF Program Committee.
2. Coordinators ensure realization of the Working group policy via the Program Committee and interaction with the Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum.
3. The Group issues rapid response to urgent environmental conflicts and problems.
4. Decisions of the group are worked out and agreed at the working meetings or via communication networks.
5. Decisions are adopted by simple majority of votes of the Group members.
6. Group organizes thematic meetings of the Civil Society Forum members on the priority directions of work.

Work plan for 2011/12

1. Formulation of position and preparation of action plans on thematic directions by the Working group members according to their interests and specialization.
2. Distribution of information about activities of the Group and attracting partners.
3. Organization of two working meetings of the Group on establishing cooperation between EU and Russian NGOs on the problems of climate change and biodiversity.
4. Activities on development and control of the situation with UNESCO natural World Heritage sites.

Working group elected coordinators:

From EU – David Murphy

From Russia – Sergey Simak

However, at the next plenary session in Prague Sergey Simak was elected to the Steering Committee of the Forum and, according to the provisions of the Charter of the CSF, cannot be a group coordinator at the same time. At the same time in the weeks following the founding conference in Prague, David Murphy could not take the role of the coordinator of the Group. Therefore, both positions of the coordinators of the Group remain vacant and need to be filled in as soon as possible.

List of e-mails of members of the group:

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