

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1 PRINCIPLES

Closer EU-Russia co-operation in the environmental field is essential in order to move ahead with concrete steps to implement the objectives and priorities of the EU-Russia Common Economic Space Road-map, agreed by the EU-Russia Summit in Moscow, 10 May 2005. These include respect for the environment, commitment to international environmental agreements, fostering sustainable development, and integrating environmental issues into all sectoral policies. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission have therefore agreed to establish a dialogue on environment, according to the following principles:

- The dialogue should enhance co-operation and the exchange of information on common environmental concerns, convergence of environmental policies and standards, and best environmental practices.
- The dialogue should implement the priorities of section 6 'Environment' of the Russia-EU Common Economic Space road-map and take account of the relevant provisions of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement signed on 24 June 1994¹.
- The dialogue should address issues of common interest to both parties. This includes horizontal issues as well as sector-specific matters. It should take account of existing environmental co-operation within bilateral and multilateral frameworks.
- There should be effective coordination of environmentally-related matters between this dialogue and others under the Common Economic Space Road Map.
- The dialogue will be concerned with environmental relations between the Russian Federation and the European Union; it will not deal with matters more appropriate to bilateral dialogues on environment issues between the Russian Federation and Member States.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this dialogue are:

- To cooperate effectively on all objectives and priorities reflected in the Section 6 'Environment' of the Road-map on the Russia-EU Common Economic Space;
- To promote common approaches to environmental policy and management, including convergence of legislation and standards;
- To strengthen co-operation on trans-boundary environmental matters and the resolution of problems;
- To facilitate co-operation within multilateral environmental forums and the implementation of international environmental agreements;
- To collaborate in the analysis of common environmental concerns, to share information, to raise public awareness of environmental issues, and to promote environmental training.

¹ Subject to its replacement by a new legal framework

- To promote the development and implementation of programmes, projects and research of mutual interest in the field of environmental protection.

3 WORKING GROUP, SUBGROUPS AND CONTACT POINTS

The two parties agree to establish a Working Group and Subgroups in specific sectors and on general/horizontal issues reflecting all agreed priority areas of cooperation. Annex 1 contains a list of the Subgroups.

Decisions on establishing more Subgroups, and decisions on continuing, stopping, or re-organising any of the Subgroups can be taken at any time, provided both parties indicate their agreement via an exchange of letters between the Co-chairs of the Working Group. Each Subgroup is responsible for its own mandate and work-plan in agreement with the Working Group and for reporting on progress to the Working Group.

The two parties agree to set up a single contact point on each side as well as a single contact point on each side for each of the Subgroups for the fast exchange of information.

4 WORKING METHODS

The two parties agree to hold the meetings of the Working Group at least once a year to discuss key issues relating to the dialogue, to consider reports from Subgroups, to agree priorities and when appropriate to provide guidance to the Subgroups. The Working Group will be headed by two co-chairpersons, one nominated by each side. The working languages are Russian and English. Meetings are to be held alternatively in Russia and the EU.

When necessary and appropriate, meetings at a political (Minister-Commissioner) level are to be organised, including in the format of the Permanent Partnership Council on Environment.

If matters under discussion are relevant to the responsibilities of other services, the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation should endeavour respectively to consult the EU or Russian service(s) concerned and/or their representatives could participate in meetings as appropriate.

If mutually agreed by the two sides, representatives of other interested parties may be invited to attend the meetings, as appropriate.

Details of the composition and functioning of the Working Group and Subgroups are given in Annex 2.

5 COSTS

The two parties agree to share the costs incurred by the above activities as follows: each party will cover its own costs, including travelling and accommodation costs.

6 REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS

The two parties may agree to revise or add to the Terms of Reference.

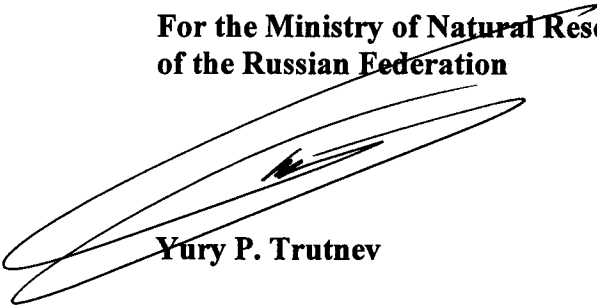
7 LEGAL STATUS

These Terms of Reference are not intended to create international obligations binding on the European Communities and the Russian Federation and do not constitute an agreement under international law.

Done in Helsinki, 10 October 2006, in duplicate, in both Russian and English.

Signed

**For the Ministry of Natural Resources
of the Russian Federation**



Yury P. Trutnev

Minister

For the European Commission



Stavros Dimas

Commissioner for Environment

Annex 1

The Dialogue on Environment between the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission

List of Subgroups

- 1 Convergence of Environmental Policies²
- 2 Climate Change
- 3 Water and Marine Issues
- 4 Biodiversity and Nature Protection
- 5 Environmental Impact Assessment
- 6 Forestry Law Enforcement, Governance and Conservation
- 7 Cleaner Production and Pollution Prevention

² This would serve as a forum for the exchange of views on matters of common concern where no specific subgroup exists