



Task Force for Implementation of the
Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme
for South Eastern Europe
(REReP Task Force)

Fourth meeting
April 19th 2002, Brussels, Belgium

Report of the Fourth REReP Task Force meeting
including Meeting agenda



These activities have been completed with the financial assistance of the European Community. The views expressed herein are those of REReP Task Force, and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Community.

**4th meeting of the
REReP Task Force, Brussels, Belgium
April 19th, 2002.**

Draft Meeting report

Co- chairs Mr. Jean-François Verstryngue (European Commission)
 Mr. Mehmed Cero (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The Task Force for Implementation of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP) held its fourth meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on April 19th 2001. Governmental and NGO representatives of all SEE countries, high officials of the European Commission, Stability Pact for SEE, donor country agencies, international organisations and financing institutions took part in the event. (see List of Participants)

1-2 Opening

Participants of the meeting were welcomed by the opening speech of **European Commissioner for Environment Margot Wallström** who outlined the environmental policies and the European Commissions view on recent environmental initiatives in SEE region.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the importance of coupling efforts to provide a safe and protected environment with economic development and reconstruction activities in the Balkans. She recognised REReP as an important vehicle helping address environmental concerns in South Eastern Europe and emphasised the following points:

- SEE transition is following the path taken by candidate countries. Ms Wallström highlighted similarities in the environmental path being followed by the SEE countries and that taken by the candidate countries some years earlier and invited them to draw on the experience of the candidate countries.
- The, Stabilisation and Association Process backed by the EU CARDS assistance programme as well as the Environment for Europe Process are backing up these efforts.
- The approximation to the European Union is now a priority recognised by countries themselves. REReP supports the Stabilisation and Association Process obligation for regional cooperation.
- Importance of civil society in creating pressures for environmental protection and urged governments to co-operate with civil society groups.

The Commissioner expressed appreciation for the work done within the REReP process especially in promoting regional cooperation, which had positive effect in attracting funding. Commissioner Wallström reconfirmed the commitment of the European Commission to the Programme and urged SEE countries to use REReP as a tool for demonstrating regional cooperation to the international community.

In the discussion that followed participants expressed their readiness to continue cooperation, strengthening efforts to mainstream environment into reconstruction activities in the SEE region. Several countries expressed their wish to establish close cooperation and co-ordination with EU institutions particularly European Environmental Agency.

In the continuation of the meeting, the participants were addressed by co-chairs of the Task Force, Mr. Jean François Verstryngue and Mr. Mehmed Cero, who summarised the REReP achievements, congratulating countries on their commitment and encouraging the continuation of ongoing work for solving the environmental problems.

3. Adoption of Draft agenda for the 4th meeting of the REReP Task Force

The Task Force adopted the Draft Annotated Agenda of the Fourth Meeting (see document attached Annex I REReP/TF/4/a) with addition of the reports by GTZ and UNEP who requested time to present the REReP projects they implement. The Task Force agreed to allocate time for the reports after agenda point 7.

4. Adoption of Meeting report from the 3rd meeting of the REReP Task Force

The members of REReP TF adopted the Meeting report from the 3rd meeting of the REReP Task Force, held on September 7th 2001 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (REReP/TF/4/b)

5. Major developments since the 3rd REReP Task Force meeting

Brief presentations were made on major developments in REReP process since the 3rd meeting of the REReP Task Force in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 7th September 2001.

A statement from the European Commission on financial assistance from the CARDS programme was given by Mr. Andrew Murphy, who presented the following estimated figures for the EC financial assistance to SEE countries for the period until 2004:

Albania	11 million EUR
Bosnia and Herzegovina	27 million EUR
Croatia	9 million EUR
FYROM	7.25 million EUR
FRY	39.7 million EUR
Regional projects	8.5 million EUR

The assistance will largely be managed through EC country delegations, therefore countries are to reflect the needs in environmental reconstruction in their country submissions.

Report on the Stability Pact (SP) Working Table II activities, presented by Mr. Laslo Glatz, reflected on the main focus within WT II – private sector involvement, energy infrastructure projects, free trade agreements, cooperation in Sava and Danube basin.

Mr. Glatz expressed the wish of the Stability Pact to assist in sustaining the growth of the REReP initiative. He emphasised the link between the Stability Pact activities and the Stabilisation and Association Process, identifying REReP as important mechanism for achieving the environmental improvements in the region.

Among the ongoing programmes of Stability Pact WT II, Sava Basin Initiative was emphasised as the one concentrating on the preserving and protecting the environment, biodiversity and

aquatic condition of Sava Basin. The related activities complement the efforts within REReP Programme. The next meeting of SP WT II is scheduled for 21st of June in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Report on the NGO meetings and activities was presented by Mr. Toni Vidan, from South Eastern European Environmental NGO network. He informed the meeting of the outcome from the 1st Regional Meeting of the SEEENN held in February 2002 in Croatia. The NGOs from the region called for joint transparent and productive work on environmental reconstruction and protection in the region. The NGOs expressed their commitment to taking responsibility for development of civil society themselves, not purely as grant recipients, but as recognised partners in implementation of projects and development of further strategy for SEE region.

6. Review of the environmental reconstruction, development and cooperation in the region

Representatives from each SEE country briefly presented new developments in the environmental reconstruction, development and cooperation in the region. As at the previous Task Force meeting they reported on establishment of new or strengthening of existing environmental institutions, drafting and adoption of new laws, new cross-border cooperation initiatives, exchange of experience with more advanced CEE countries, development or update of National Environmental Action Plans, common problems and needs especially in environmental investments, cooperation with civil society, etc.

In statements that followed, the co-chairs of the meeting congratulated the country efforts to implement the commitments taken in REReP. The progress achieved since the previous TF meeting was an indication of the growing capacity of SEE countries to manage the process of environmental reconstruction of the region.

The commitment of the European Commission to the Programme was reconfirmed, as well as the necessity to strengthen the links between the REReP and the Stabilisation and Association process in view of the developing political framework.

7. Progress to date in the REReP implementation

The members of REReP Task Force took a note of the update presented by REReP Secretariat Mr. Toni Popovski (The Regional Environmental Centre for CEE) reported on the major developments as well as statistical overview of the programme. The REReP database project progress fiches have been introduced to the Task Force members as a meeting document (REReP/TF/4(d))

The Co-Chairs and the Task Force members discussed the progress in ongoing projects and expressed satisfaction with the level of donor support, which currently exceeds 100 M EUR, implemented in 92 projects.

This was followed by presentations made by SEE countries on the major accomplishments in REReP projects they provide leadership to, introducing other significant results achieved within REReP Programme, as well.

- As it was concluded by number of country reporters, implementation of the different REReP projects vary in pace, however the overall contribution to environmental reforms and reconstruction is significant and shows positive developments in implementation of REReP objectives, strengthening of the regional cooperation and networking.
- It was decided that another effort would be made to bring new donors aboard. [Co-chairs will send letters to Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Sweden and the United

Kingdom for possible contribution to REReP projects]. The Task Force strongly encouraged other donors to support the projects yet without funding and advised further finance to be provided through IFI loans, bi-lateral programmes or community instruments such as ISPA, CARDS, and LIFE -Third Countries etc.

- With the Quick start phase now at an end, the need for continuous support of the networks established within REReP was particularly emphasised in order to achieve sustainability of the activities. This support will have to be backed up with increasing commitment of SEE countries to maintaining the networks if they are to have a long-term future.
- The SEE countries expressed their commitment to the implementation of the obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Process, work closely with acquis Communautaire and different regional initiatives such as Danube Basin Initiative.

United Nations Environment Programme and German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) presented details on the progress of those REReP projects for which they serve as implementing agencies.

The donor countries generally voiced satisfaction with the way the REReP activities are implemented, as well as with the results achieved to date. Norway has expressed interest for contributing to REReP with the amount of 3 million Norwegian crowns, from the 2002 budget. Other donor countries were strongly encouraged by the Task Force to support those projects yet without funding.

8. REReP and Environment for Europe process:

The forthcoming "Environment for Europe" Ministerial conference that will be held in Kiev in May 2003 offers a useful opportunity to publicise the REReP approach and use it in considering the options for the future.

- Delegates agreed to the European Commission producing a paper publicising the REReP approach and use it in considering the options for the future. The paper should be circulated to REReP participants who will be invited to discuss ways in which the REReP can be reported to the forthcoming ministerial conference in Kiev as a positive example of successful regional cooperation.

9. Any other business. Date of the next meeting.

- The next REReP Task Force meeting will take place on 30-31st January 2003. in Tirana, Albania.
- Croatia will nominate a candidate for new co-chair who would take over at the next Task Force meeting.



Task Force for Implementation of the
Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme
for South Eastern Europe under the Stability Pact
(REReP Task Force)

Forth meeting
April 19th 2002, Brussels, Belgium

Meeting Agenda

Description: This document is the annotated agenda for the third REReP Task Force meeting, which will begin at 9.30 on Friday 19th April 2002, at in the Borschette Conference Centre 36, rue Froissart Brussels_(Room 0/C) with the afternoon session in the Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi 170 (Room S4).

Action Required: The delegates will be invited to review this document for adoption.



The Activities of the REReP Task Force are supported by the EU Obnova/Phare Programme

Fourth Meeting of Task Force for Implementation of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe (REReP Task Force)

**April 19th 2002.
DRAFT AGENDA**

Note: The morning session will be held in the Borschette Conference Centre , 36, rue Froissart Brussels (Room 0/C) with the afternoon session in the Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi 170 (Room S4)

April 19th 2002 (Friday)

Donor meeting will be organized at the same venue as the morning session from 08⁴⁵-09¹⁵ hrs

Representatives of donor countries are invited to join the meeting.

08:30-09:30 REGISTRATION

Agenda item 1

09:30 Opening of the 4th REReP Task Force meeting by European Commissioner for Environment Margot Wallström

Open discussion with **European Commissioner for Environment Margot Wallström** who will outline the environmental policies of the European Union and the European Commission view on recent environmental initiatives effecting the region.

Agenda items 2-4

Opening remarks

Adoption of the draft agenda

Adoption of Meeting report from the 3rd meeting of the REReP Task Force

11:00 – 11.30

Agenda item 5

Major developments since the 3rd REReP Task Force meeting

- Statement from the European Commission on financial assistance from the CARDS programme.
- Report on the Stability Pact Working Table II activities
- Report on the South Eastern European Environmental NGO Network meetings and activities

11.30 - 13.00

Agenda item 6

Reports of accomplishments and reforms in environmental policy and reconstruction, development and cooperation in the region. *Head of each SEE delegation to report on steps towards meeting the REReP objectives, namely:*

- *Creation of functioning environmental institutions and the development of a sound, effectively enforced environmental legal and policy framework that is approximating with that of the European Union.*
- *Strengthened civil society, in which the public has access to environmental information, participates in environmental decision making and environmental awareness is enhanced.*
- *Measurably reduced levels of environmental pollution with the corresponding health benefits that will follow.*
- *environmental regional cooperation on cross border issues that meets the obligations of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

according to the template to be sent to the SEE Ministries

13:00-14:30 Buffet Lunch in Charlemagne Building

Afternoon Session April 19th 2002

14:30- 16:00

Agenda item 7

Overall status of REReP implementation – Progress reports

- presentation by REReP Secretariat
- presentations from SEE countries
- presentation from implementing agencies

16.00 – 17:00

Agenda item 8

REReP and Environment for Europe process :

Introduction to the discussion by the European Commission

The meeting will be invited to discuss ways in which the REReP can be reported to the forthcoming ministerial conference in Kiev as an example of successful regional cooperation. Delegates will be invited to express their views on how best to proceed.

17:00 – 18:00

Agenda item 9

Any other business. Date of the next meeting.

**Fourth Meeting of Task Force for Implementation of the Regional Environmental
Reconstruction Programme
for South Eastern Europe (REReP Task Force)**

**April 19 2002.
ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**Note: The morning session will be held in the Borschette Conference Centre , 36, rue
Froissart Brussels (Room 0/C) with the afternoon session in the Charlemagne
building,
Rue de la Loi 170 (Room S4)**

April 19th 2002 (Friday)

***Donor meeting will be organized at the same venue as the morning session from 08⁴⁵-
09¹⁵hrs.***

Representatives of donor countries are invited to join the meeting.

08:30-09:30 REGISTRATION

Agenda item 1

09:30

**Opening of the 4th REReP Task Force meeting by European Commissioner for
Environment Margot Wallström**

Open discussion with **European Commissioner for Environment Margot Wallström** who will outline the environmental policies of the European Union and the European Commission view on recent environmental initiatives effecting the region.

Agenda item 2

The opening remarks are expected from co-chairs of the meeting,

**Mr. Mehmed Cero, Deputy Minister, Federal Minister for Physical Planning and
Environment, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mr. Jean-Francois Verstrynge, Deputy Director General, DG Environment;

Agenda item 3

Adoption of the draft agenda

Delegates will be invited to adopt the draft agenda as set out in: REReP/TF/4(a)

Agenda item 4.

Adoption of Meeting report from the 3rd meeting of the REReP Task Force

Task Force members will be invited to adopt the Meeting report from 3rd REReP Task
Force meeting held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, September 7th 2001,
REReP/TF/4(b)

11:00 –11.30

Agenda item 5

Brief presentations will be made on major developments in REReP process since 3rd meeting of the REReP Task Force in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina September 7th 2001

Presentations will include:

- **Statement from the European Commission on financial assistance from the CARDS programme.**
Mr Andrew Murphy, Desk Officer DG Environment
- **Report on the Stability Pact Working Table II activities**

Mr. Laszlo Glatz, Stability Pact, Working Table II

- **Report on the SEENN Network meetings and activities**
*Mr. Toni Vidan, South Eastern European Environmental NGO Network
document REReP/TF/3(c)*

Delegates will be invited to take note of this information.

11.30 - 13.00

Agenda item 6

Reports of accomplishments and reforms in environmental policy and reconstruction, development and cooperation in the region. *Head of each SEE delegation to report on steps towards meeting the REReP objectives, namely:*

- *Creation of functioning environmental institutions and the development of a sound, effectively enforced environmental legal and policy framework that is approximating with that of the European Union.*
- *Strengthened civil society, in which the public has access to environmental information, participates in environmental decision-making and environmental awareness is enhanced.*
- *Measurably reduced levels of environmental pollution with the corresponding health benefits that will follow.*
- *Environmental regional cooperation on cross border issues that meets the obligations of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

13:00-14:30 Buffet Lunch in Charlemagne Building

Afternoon Session April 19th 2002

14:30- 16:00

Agenda item 7**Overall status of REReP implementation – Progress reports**

SEE countries are invited to report on the implementation and achievements of the projects to which they are providing leadership and political guidance, based on the information provided by the implementation agencies.

Implementing agencies are invited to complement the countries reports.

The Task Force members may wish to discuss the progress in ongoing projects and provide guidance for the further implementation of the REReP.

- presentation by REReP Secretariat
- presentations from SEE countries

16.00 – 17:00

Agenda item 8

REReP and Environment for Europe process:

Introduction to the discussion by Mr. Andrew Murphy, Desk Officer DG Environment

The meeting will be invited to discuss ways in which the REReP can be reported to the forthcoming ministerial conference in Kiev as an example of successful regional cooperation. Delegates will be invited to express their views on how best to proceed.

17:00 – 18:00

Agenda item 9

Any other business. Date of the next meeting.