

European Commission, Brussels

**Dioxins & PCBs: Environmental Levels and Human Exposure in
Candidate Countries**

REFERENCE: ENV.C.2/SER/2002/0085

INCEPTION REPORT

29 January 2003

ELICC

Consortium: Environmental levels in Candidate Countries

Inception report related to the kick-off meeting for the project

“Dioxins & PCBs: Environmental Levels and Human Exposure in Candidate Countries”

At Brussels, DG Environment on 28 January 2003

Participants

- ▣ Ms. Birgit van Tongelen, DG Environment
- ▣ Mr. Bostjan Paradiz, JRC Ispra
- ▣ Mr. Frans Verstraete, DG Sanco
- ▣ Mr. Ivan Holoubek, TOCOEN
- ▣ Mr. Reinhhard Joas, BiPRO
- ▣ Mr. Alexander Potrykus, BiPRO

1 Formalities

- End of contract: 20 February 2004
- The inception report on the kick off meeting will be delivered at the latest on 7 February 2003
- The first progress report will be delivered in March 2003
- An interim report will be delivered and an interim presentation will be held at Brussels in June 2003
- Presentation in November 2003 (will be carried out jointly with the Workshop at Brno – see below)
- Against the end of the project running time it will be decided on whether the final presentation will be an internal presentation within the Commission or organised as a public workshop around February 2004

2 General remarks

A workshop on the regionally based assessment of POPs in particular on the regional report from Region III-Europe will be held at Brno, Czech Republic, in November 2003. This workshop shall be taken as an opportunity to organise a discussion with the relevant involved parties on the already available results of the present project.

The results of the present project shall be incorporated and linked to the parallel project on dioxin emissions in candidate countries (contractor: TNO, Netherlands). A communication between the project teams from TNO and ELICC has already been established. The results of the present project will be presented at the final TNO workshop at the end of 2004.

Ms. van Tongelen reported briefly on Helcom activities (and the involvement of the EC in these activities) in 9 Baltic countries (4 Candidate Countries, 4 Member States and Russia) and related integrated monitoring in these countries aiming at the exemplary linkage of environmental levels and levels in fish to human health. The Helcom activities are currently at a very early stage. Ms. van Tongelen will provide already collected data to the project team in order to receive from the project team eventually available additionally data as soon as possible.

The project team expressed its interest to become involved in future meetings related to the Helcom activities. Generally the linkage between environmental levels and human health effects shall be an important issue of the present project.

3 Project approach

Mr. Joas and Mr. Holoubek presented the methodological approach to achieve the project objectives and some already collected specific data that are in particular related to the Czech Republic (see presentation material for the meeting).

The meeting participants approved the presented methodological project approach.

With respect to several points that have been discussed it can be stated that not only published data will be used as information basis. Data will be collected in a parallel approach:

1. official data from Governments and competent authorities
2. data from a network of scientists throughout the Candidate Countries including published and unpublished data

For the official data the project team will formulate a proposal for an endorsement letter that shall facilitate the data provision by Government institutions and competent authorities. The proposal will be sent to Ms. van Tongelen before 7 February 2003.

The presented data structure will not only include environmental media (air, water, soil) but also the ecosystem as a whole. **In order to facilitate source identification/differentiation the congener/homologue profile of levels in environment will be presented and discussed, where available and relevant.**

The final report will include a separate chapter giving an overview on the existing capacities in Candidate Countries according to point 3.4 of the technical annex.

Ms. van Tongelen will try to find out information on a study that is currently realised at the European Parliament related to pesticides, dioxins and PCBs in drinking water.

Enclosures

- Material for the kick of meeting (power point presentation)