

environment e)planning



Morje potrebuje naš glas
The sea deserves our voice

editorial

The Sea is Priceless to Us Living by It

We are a nation that looks at the world over the vastness of the sea. Our ancestors found a source of life here, we looked for work here and we are looking for inspiration now. Some of the most characteristic Slovene natural assets, cultural and historical masterpieces and culinary achievements come from these places located between the sea and wind. Slovene identity was forged here and we know that the sea is priceless.

And as the sea is timeless, so our concern for it should be limitless. We feel special affection for the sea and therefore we responsibly aim at adequate management of marine resources. We are aware that the marine environment becomes more polluted each day and we look for partners and allies with whom we could start and follow-up joint and coordinated activities among Mediterranean and other countries which aim at responsible implementation of sustainable development objectives.

Slovenia begins the bi-annual presidency of the Mediterranean Action Plan with an emphasis on reinforcement of connections and stimulation of cooperation between the EU Mediterranean Process and the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). We wish to upgrade those contents which currently overlap into active, efficient synergies!

The 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean and the Protocols that will be held on November 8-11 in Portorož is therefore of extraordinary importance. "Ambassadors of the sea" will come together, all of us that have taken on a responsible mission. In the name of the sea we are going to issue an appeal to a change in consumer mentality and stimulation of development that considers marine ecosystems.

It is to be expected that the Portorož meeting will be "a beginning of a new era in the cooperation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the EU" as part of a reinforced European-Mediterranean partnership. This partnership will be based on the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development, which the Parties will adopt formally at the Portorož anniversary meeting.

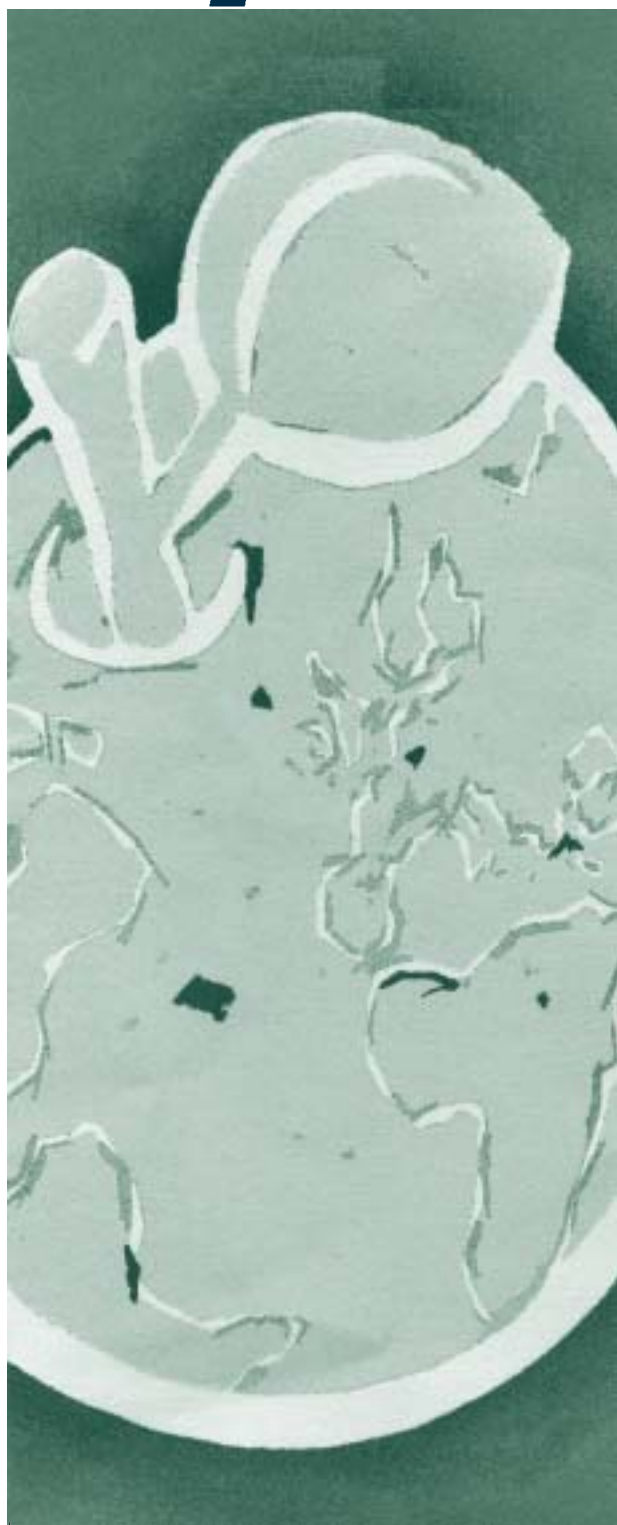
The Strategy is based on necessary changes in production and consumption in order to introduce sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean eco-region. It stimulates those economic developments that reduce pressure on natural resources. Local cultures, traditional techniques and skills will be considered, promoted and maintained. Special attention is paid to renewable energy resources, clean technologies, adequate infrastructure, specific environments and sustainable mobility (public transport). The Strategy will comply with global, regional and sub-regional agreements, in particular with the UN Convention on Maritime Law that represents, along with the Agenda 21, the principal framework for responsible management of marine resources.

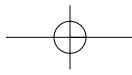
At the 14th Conference of the Parties it is planned to sign the sub-regional agreement between Slovenia, Italy and Croatia on coordinated action in case of pollution caused by accidents at sea. The principal emphasis of the agreement is on orientation towards prevention, i.e. adoption and implementation of preventive measures so that accidents would not occur; however, the agreement also regulates coordinated action in extreme situations.

The Slovene Presidency will add most value by good action - action that will contribute to the introduction of a strategy of sustainable development in the Adriatic eco-region and also in the Mediterranean.

Janez Podobnik,
Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning

J. Podobnik





Government

On September 15 the Government Adopted an Action Programme on National Emission Ceilings for Atmospheric Pollutants

On October 23 2001 the European Parliament and the Council adopted a Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants.

The principal requirements contained in this Directive are as follows:

- By the year 2010 at the latest, Member States shall limit their annual national emissions of the pollutants sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia. Emission ceilings for Slovenia are set at 27,000 t SO₂ (sulphur dioxide), 45,000 t NO_x (nitrogen oxides), 40,000 t VOC (volatile organic compounds) and 20,000 t NH₃ (ammonia);
- Member States shall draw up programmes for the progressive reduction of national emissions with the aim of complying with all national emission ceilings by 2010 at the latest;
- Member States shall prepare and annually update national emission inventories and emission projections for 2010;
- Member States shall each year (by 31 December at the latest) report their national emission inventories and their emission projections for 2010;
- The action programme on reduction of emissions provided by the Directive is one of the principal implementation acts aiming at reducing emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and thus reaching the environmental objectives contained in this Directive.

Emission projects are based on assessments of the likely development of Slovenia in the field of energy, which have been prepared as part of the foundations for the Resolution on National Energy Programme. Owing to differences between the actual status and projections and later adopted decisions the original assessment has been corrected: the projection of fuel use in transport has been increased, long-term agreement on supply of lignite to the Šoštanj power Plant has been considered as well as an increase in use of biomass in households.

In projections on emission from large combustion facilities the government decision of November 15 1999 was considered regarding the signature of the Gothenberg Protocol (with consideration of current ceilings from the Regulation on Emission of Atmospheric Pollutants from Large Combustion Facilities).

The scope of activities in agriculture and in other specific sectors for the calculation of emission projections has been prepared on the basis of assumptions and assessments provided by individual sectors.

Owing to the corrections of energy assessments mentioned above, projections of use of fuels in this Action Programme are slightly increased and not harmonised with projections in the Action Programme on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. However, differences are minor and their negative impact on efforts to reach the Kyoto protocol objectives can be neutralised

by consideration of calculations to increase the share of sinks of greenhouse gas emissions.

Radovan Tavzes, MA, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 7310

On September 22 the Government Adopted a Regulation on an Environmental Tax for Used Motor Vehicles

This environmental tax was introduced by a Regulation from 2003 in order to ensure a regular financial source for collection and processing/destruction of used motor vehicles.

The tax aims at more effective removal of used vehicles i. e. a progressive reduction of waste that cannot be processed with existing technology, from 15% of vehicle mass in 2007 to less than 5% of vehicle mass by 2015 and at improved processing capacities for various parts and materials in cooperation with car makers.

In April 2004 the legal foundation was modified as Slovenia became an EU Member State. The amendment completed the Regulation in force so that as well as the car maker and the importer, any person that bought a vehicle in another EU Member State was also required to pay this tax.

In May 7 last year the new Environmental Protection Act came into force, which represents the legal foundation for implementation of environmental taxes. As a result, in January a new Regulation was adopted that enabled individuals required to pay the tax to apply for recovery of already paid environmental taxes as part of their monthly balance in payments of environmental tax.

The new Government Regulation delegates the competency for monitoring of tax payments to the Customs Authority of RS and regulates in detail conditions under which payment is obligatory.

Nives Nared, MA, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 7339.

On September 22 the Government adopted a Regulation on Prevention of Major Accidents and Reduction of Their Impact

The Regulation identifies measures that managers of facilities need to implement in order to prevent major accidents and reduce their impact on people and the environment. The Regulation also identifies exemptions. It categorises facilities with regard to the type and quantity of harmful substances used by the facility, into facilities of minor or major risk for the environment. For facilities that represent minor risk for the environment registration of the facility and preparation of a design for environmental risk reduction are necessary. Facilities of major risk, as well as registration at the Ministry, need to prepare a design on prevention of accidents, establish and maintain a security control system, prepare a security report and inform the public on security

measures. Managers of these facilities need to register with the Ministry each modification of registration data. The Regulation also defines the precise contents of measures to prevent major accidents and reduce their impact. The contents are also described of the environmental protection permit that contains data on the manager and the facility. Implementation of this regulation will be monitored by the Environmental Inspectorate.

The current status of existing facilities is regulated by temporary and final provisions, so that existing facilities must register by November 11 2005. Registration of risk source, carried out in accordance with the 2002 Regulation on Measures for Reduction of Risk for the Environment caused by major accidents with harmful chemicals, counts as registration of the facility, if at the time of the enforcement of the new regulation the classification of registered sources of risk remains unmodified. Managers of facilities that represent a minor risk for the environment must prepare the design on reduction of risk by November 1st at the latest. Managers of facilities that represent major risk for the environment shall do so by January 1 2006. Managers of existing facilities shall obtain an environmental permit by October 31 at the latest.

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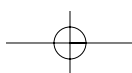
On September 22 the Government Adopted Amendments to the Regulation on Environmental Tax for Atmospheric CO₂ Emissions

These amendments are merely technical and concern details of the final deadline of enforcement, and conditions for recovery of environmental tax which has already been paid. The Regulation provides that the claimant for recovery of paid environmental tax for fuel combustion must send the claim to the Customs Authority in 60 days at the latest following the end of the calendar year for which he was entitled to claim recovery of the tax. The innovation of the Regulation is that the claimant must apply for recovery of paid tax to the Customs Authority four times a year, if the total amount of the claim to be recovered for the calendar year exceeds SIT 10 million; the claimant is required to apply by March 31 at the latest for October, November and December of the previous year, by June 30 for January, February, March, by September 30 for April, May and June and by December 31 for July, August and September of the current year.

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Government Appeals to Border Municipalities to Abolish Tax Regulations

On September 29 the Government adopted the decision to appeal to Municipalities of Bistrica ob Sotli, Brežice, Gornja Radgona, Ilirska Bistrica, Lendava, Metlika, Podlehnik, Rogatec, Šempeter



- Vrtojba, Šentilj, Zavrč and Žetale to abolish in 60 days all regulations that provided for payment of various taxes at the crossing of the national border. The Government also asked Ministries in charge to prepare proceedings for the Constitutional Court, if Municipalities do not comply with the Government decision. The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning was informed that some Municipalities had introduced an environmental tax at their border crossings that applied to individuals transporting goods through their area. In February 2005 the Ministry addressed a claim to Mayors of those Municipalities to submit regulations on border taxes for inspection. The Ministry stated that 12 Municipalities based these taxes on the Communal Action Act, the Local Government Act and the Environmental Protection Act, which was abolished by adoption of the new Act. The Ministry further stated that all these municipal regulations were unlawful. In May the Ministry organised a meeting with representatives of relevant Local Communities explaining that municipal regulations could no longer be in force since they had no valid legal foundation. At the end of September the Government therefore adopted the above-mentioned decision.

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Government Withheld Implementation of Decisions on Chimney Sweep Service

On September 29 the Government withheld implementation of measures that shall integrally regulate implementation of public service on measurements, monitoring and cleaning of combustion facilities, smoke conduits and ventilators, until amendments to the Environmental Protection Act are adopted

In June the Government issued decrees on the selection of concessionaires for these services and charged the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning to consider in the Concession Agreement the amendment on modification of the period for which the concession be granted. In July the Government considered information on the establishment of a national chimney sweep service and decided that a formal procedure of selection of concessionaires by a public tender be concluded. The Government also asked the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning to modify decrees on the selection of concessionaires so that a 6-month concession period be defined with a possibility of prolongation until relevant legal acts were adopted. Legal provisions on concessions require that the period of concession be defined in the concession act. Implementation of the Government decision therefore made a modification of the provision in Paragraph 4 article 4 of the Regulation necessary so that the 15-year concession period be reduced to 6 months. The Ministry therefore prepared a draft amendment to the Regulation and submitted it to Government Office on Legislation for coordination. The Ministry also began to prepare legislative amendments that would integrally regulate introduction of a

license system for implementation of chimney sweep service. Two possible ways were identified, an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act or an amendment to the Public Services Act. Since the solution should be integrated, broader debate is expected and the 6-month period for implementation of amendments to the aforementioned laws is therefore too short. Future concessionaires should also be invited to take part in the debate. The Government therefore adopted the decision to withhold implementation of the July decision until the necessary legal acts are adopted.

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On September 30 Rules Were Published in the Official Gazette of RS on Retrieval of Specimens of Brown Bear (*Ursos Arctos*) from Natural Environment

In an Annex to these Rules the planned cull of bears can also be found for the period from October 1 to December 31 2005. The planned cull has been decided considering expert opinion of the Institute of RS of Forestry on the removal of great beasts in 2005. In 2005 the Institute estimated that 405 to 485 bears can be found in the central area, 35 to 50 in the periphery, 7 to 10 in transitory area and 3 to 5 bears live in area of so-called extreme presence. The planned cull in the mentioned period will be 23 bears, 17 in the central area and 6 in the periphery. The Ministry consider the cull to be only one of the measures. A new and more efficient damage recovery system has been prepared and shortly a leaflet will be published on functioning of the damage recovery system. The Ministry allocated additional funding for the Institute to improve the operation and the Agency carried out a public call of SIT 15 million for 60-percent co-funding of particular protective measures (such as purchase of electric net). The Ministry will prepare Action Plan on reduction of presence of bears near settlements in the following short-term period. Other tasks include establishment of an efficient feeding system by which bears will be kept away from settled areas, removal of overgrowth around settlements and installation of waste containers that would be inaccessible to bears.

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2nd Slovene-Croatian Congress on Popular Exotic and Wild Animals

On September 26-28 in Ljubljana, the Slovene Veterinary Union organised the 2nd Slovene-Croatian Congress on Popular Exotic and Wild Animal Species. Renowned experts from Croatia, the Czech Republic, the United States and Slovenia presented papers. Beside issues concerning health and protection of wild animal species the three-day congress also

targeted numerous issues concerning the protection of species. Representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Environmental Agency of RS explained the implementation of domestic legislation on the protection of nature. On Wednesday, September 28 a one-day workshop was held as part of the Congress aimed at training of veterinary inspectors on monitoring of compliance with provisions for the protection of wild animal species. The Environmental Agency of RS explained in detail implementation of the CITES Convention on international trade in endangered wild animal and plant species, and EU and Slovene legislation in this field. The Agency has had good cooperation with the Veterinary Inspection and attendees at the seminar also expressed readiness for future mutual cooperation.

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Slovenia and France Signed Agreement on Removal of Bears

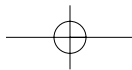
On September 30 French Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development Nelly Olin and Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning Janez Podobnik signed agreement on removal of five brown bears from Slovenia to France.

Slovenia and France are parties to most important international and regional conventions in the field of protection of nature and they cooperate successfully in the implementation of these agreements. In January France adopted decision to double the number of bears in the Pyrenees by 2008. Scientific research shows that the current population cannot survive so additional specimens need to be settled in the area that are genetically and biologically compatible. France asked Spain, Croatia and Slovenia to donate bears. For France Slovenia is the most convenient for genetic compatibility and health condition of bears as well as good references and simplified procedures of removal of bears inside the EU; besides Slovenia and France have already cooperated successfully in settling of brown bear in the Pyrenees in 1996 and 1997. Condition of brown bear population in Slovenia is favourable and such removal therefore represents no threat to the species. The French National Office on Hunting and Wild Animals and the Slovene Institute of Forestry are in charge of the implementation of this agreement.

Peter Skoberne, PhD, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Einspielerjeva 6, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 309 4562

Last Technical Review of Results of Inter-Sector Real Estate Project

In the first week of October a delegation of International Bank on Reconstruction and Development paid a working visit to Slovenia to assess results of the inter-sector project on the modernisation of real estate registration. All



calendar

November 8-11	Portorož:	14th meeting of Parties to the Convention on Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean and its protocols <i>Mitja Bricelj, MA, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 7384</i>
		
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November 8-15	Uganda (Kampala):	9 th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands <i>Gordana Beltram, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 309 566</i>
November 10	Ljubljana:	35 th Geodesy Day - Geodesy and Spatial Management <i>Božena Lipej, Mapping and Surveying Authority of RS, Zemljemerska 12, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 4903</i>
November 17 and 18	Bled:	international seminar Urban Management in a Networking Europe and meeting of High Officials of CEMAT <i>Margarita Jančič, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 7024</i>
November 17 and 18	Portorož:	16 th Symposium: Real Estate Business - State, Citizens, Housing. <i>Barbara Starič Strajnar, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Dunajska 48, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 7035</i>

consulted users confirmed important progress in the field of real estate registers and accessibility of data in the six years of the project's duration. Users are in favour of the fastest possible connection between registers, direct links between user systems and cadastre and land register systems, and improvement of update and quality of data. Real estate institutions should overcome obstacles that perpetuate delays in real estate registration, which is of greatest importance in Ljubljana and Maribor. After the conclusion of the project a sustainable approach was suggested in the fields of legislation, registration and strategy. After the conclusion of the project the International Bank will continue to support the activities of the Programme Council on modernisation of real estate registration in order to improve future activities in the field of real estate.

Božena Lipej, PhD, Mapping and Surveying Authority of RS, Zemljemerska 12, Ljubljana, tel.: 478 4903

Interpretation of Nature and Tourism - Seminar and Workshop

One of Slovenia's features that is highly valued by visitors from abroad is nature. Tourism therefore benefits from conservation of nature. It is also true *vice versa* - that tourism is one of the principal allies of nature conservationists, in particular in national parks. Interpretation of nature connects both - nature and its visitors. A seminar on interpretation of nature and tourism was aimed at this connection. It was chaired by John A. Veverka who impressed over 230 attendees with interesting examples and good presentation. Attendees were representatives of tourism, municipalities, regional development, universities, protection of cultural heritage and

protection of nature, forestry and agriculture, students, and also nature parks in Italy and Austria. The two-day workshop brought together representatives of institutions that manage visitor centres or information centres in nature parks. They were acquainted with basic principles of planning of such centres and with numerous successful examples from other countries. Especially valuable were examples of characteristic mistakes and traps, and advice on how to produce great impact with modest means. J. Veverka also expressed doubts whether information centres were truly the best solution, in particular when high maintenance costs were considered. At the end of the workshop the majority of attendees suggested that examples of good practice from Slovenia be presented at the following meeting. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Economy; the host was the Triglav National Park. Programme and material is accessible at www.interpretacija.si. The training was a follow-up to a series of training courses on interpretation organised in recent years by Branka Hlad at Environmental Agency of RS.

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PUBLICATIONS

2001 Hydrological Yearbook (Volume 12). It is also accessible at the website of the Environmental Agency of RS at http://www.arso.gov.si/podro~cja/vode/poro~cila_in_publikacije/letopisi.html

Marjan Bat, MA, Environmental Agency of RS, Vojkova 1b, Ljubljana, tel.: 01 478 4084

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