

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Summary 1/2004

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László Miklós / Minister of Environment of the SR

Environment knows no borders

By closing one of the most important chapters of the National Programme for Acquis Communautaire – chapter 22 Environment - at the end of 2002, the stage of conditions negotiation and fulfilment in this field for EU accession ended. With the exception of 7 transition periods negotiated for the implementation of the financially most demanding directives concerning mainly waste water treatment, hazardous waste handling, air quality improvement and industrial pollution control, we have met all EU environmental requirements, the Minister of Environment states in his foreword. He has also been evaluating the development of the quality improvement of individual environmental components in the field of air quality, waste and water management, nature protection, industrial pollution control and risk management.

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Jozef Klinda / MoE SR

State administration for environmental protection enacted

After 14 years of a dynamic development, successes and failures the state administration for environmental protection has been enacted repeatedly on 5 November 2003 by the Act No. 525/2003 Coll. This Act, at the same time, revokes the Act No. 595/1990 Coll. On the state administration for environmental protection, which had been amended seven times. The author informs about the sphere of authority of MoE SR after the change of competencies resulting from the above-mentioned Act.

(page 4-5 and 7)

Oto Hornák / Slovak Environmental Inspection (SEI)

Competencies of the Slovak Environmental Inspection have been significantly extended

A qualified inspection institution with legal competencies to impose sanctions is an important instrument of enforcing care of the environment in practice. The main institution to implement this policy in Slovakia is the Slovak Environmental Inspection, which has been established again by the Act No. 525/2003 Coll. On the state administration for environmental protection and on the amendment of some acts. Accession of the SR in EU is a significant factor for future institutional strengthening of SEI.

(page 6-7)

Božena Gašparíková / MoE SR

The objective of the Act On integrated prevention and pollution control – a high level of environmental protection

In June 2003, Slovakia has adopted one of the most significant Council directives in the field of environmental protection, i.e. Directive 96/61/ESM, which has been adopted by the Act No. 245/2003 Coll. On integrated prevention and pollution control and on the amendment of some acts. It refers to pollution caused by certain industrial activities classified in 6 categories: energy, production and treatment of metals, raw materials treatment, chemical industry, waste disposal and others, including intensive breeding of pigs and poultry.

(page 8-9)

Pavel Toma / MoE SR

We have been preparing the III National Environmental Action Programme of the SR

NEAP III for the years 2003 – 2007 up to 2010 is based on achievements in the field of environmental policy and on environmental situation in the world, in Europe and in Slovakia. It sets priorities, objectives, measures, funds and means for the elimination of major regional pollution sources. The author of the article writes about the fulfilment of measures of NEAP II and about priorities of NEAP III. There are 6 priorities including ensurance of sufficient quantity of drinking water, improvement of air quality, minimisation of waste production, removal of old environmental loads, preservation of biological and landscape diversity and rational use of natural resources.

(page 10-11)

Igor Ferenčík / MoE SR and Peter Siekel / Slovak Academy of Sciences

Attitude of Slovak population to genetically modified organisms in comparison with the world

The issue of GMO is an up-to-date issue mainly in EU member states. In the last decade, discussions take place in Europe and also in other parts of the world on this topic. The opinion poll focused on GMO use was carried out in Slovakia in October 2003. According to it only 35% of inhabitants think they know what GMOs are. By a checking question it was found out that only 76% of those answering positively, knew it. It equals to 26.6% of population. It is comparable with EU countries, where the percentage is 26-36%.

(page 12-13)

Alena Kostúriková / SEA

Hrušov – the village of the year 2003

Report from the awarding ceremony of the Village of the Year 2003 competition describes the atmosphere of this solemn event. It took place in the village of Hrušov that won the title the Village of the Year 2003. The President of SR Rudolf Schuster and other distinguished guests participated in the ceremony. The Village of the Year competition was organised under the auspices of the President of the SR and the Minister of Environment of the SR and its organisers are the Association of the Village Restoration and the Slovak Environmental Agency.

K. Javorská, S. Vogelová, E. Čillag, A. Kostúriková
The 10th Envirofilm approaching

The invitation to the jubilee 10th international festival of films, TV programmes and video programmes on the topic of environmental protection and improvement ENVIROFILM, which will be held on 4 to 8 May 2004 in the atmosphere of the accession of Slovakia to EU.
(page 15)

Štefan Cisko, Eva Bírnerová, Peter Majerčák / Žilina University
The Railways of the Slovak Republic versus environmental management

Current social and economic development brings many challenges and The Railways of the Slovak Republic (RSR) is no exception. The development and integration of railway systems become the priority of social transport policy of the European Community. The Project of Transformation and Organisational Changes of RSR was approved by the Resolution of the Slovak Government No. 830/2000. It resulted in creation of two companies The Railway Company and The Railways of the Slovak Republic. RSR provides for railways maintenance. This is closely connected with environmental impacts of this activity. In 2002, six ecological accidents were recorded. At present, Slovakia has started a process within which several producers accede voluntarily to the implementation of the system of environmentally oriented management and audit developed in accordance with the Act No. 468/2002 On the system of environmentally oriented management and audit (EMAS).
(page 16-17)

Lubor Čačko
Photographic probes in birds' privacy

Birds are essential part of nature. Multicoloured bird realm fascinates many people, including the author of the article. The article has been illustrated by unique photos of birds living in Slovakia.
(page 18-19)

Ivan Kmet'
ZOO Bojnice in the prestigious company of world's zoological gardens

An interview with the director of the ZOO Bojnice Vladimír Šrank brings information about his business trip to Costa Rica, where, at the meeting of the World Association of Zoological Gardens and Aquaria (WAZA) in San José, the ZOO Bojnice was admitted as a regular member of this significant international organisation.
(page 20-21)

Jozef Klinda / MoE SR, Zuzana Lieskovská / SEA
The 10th State of the Environment Report of the Slovak Republic has been published

The right of the public access to environmental information has been embodied in several international documents and regulations. Although the Slovak Republic has not been the signatory to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Slovak Government in 2000 already expressed its approval with the access of Slovakia to this convention. Periodical publishing of the State of Environment Reports on national, regional or local levels is one of forms of environmental information dissemination and at the same time the instrument of raising environmental awareness. Ministry of Environment of the SR has been publishing the State of the Environment Report in co-operation with the Slovak Environmental Agency.
(page 22-23)

Helena Nitchneiderová and František Šopinec / SEI

Position of the Slovak Environmental Inspection (SEI) as the permission granting body.

Slovak Environmental Inspection underwent several changes of competencies. Its current competencies – administration of the state supervision - have been extended in the state administration for the field of integrated permission granting, i.e. permission granting activity. Since 31 July 2003, a new body has been established at the SEI's headquarters – the Authority of Integrated Permission Granting and Inspection (AIPGI) and also Departments of Integrated Permission Granting and Inspection in individual Environmental Inspectorates. The article brings information about fields of activity of the above-mentioned authority and departments, about the integrated permission granting process and about new aspects in this process.

(page 24-25)

Anna Gudzová / SEA

A young conservationist and Šumava lover is the winner of the competition “Forest-protection Act of the Year”

The author of the article introduces Ivona Matějková, the only winner of the 5th competition “Forest-protection Act of the Year” announced by the Green Hope Foundation with the seat in Tulčík. She became the winner because of her long-term and efficient work for the protection of virgin forests in the Šumava National Park.

(page 26)

Juraj Rizman

Tatra chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra tatrica*) contaminated by PCB

Results of analyses of subcutaneous fat of chamois from Belianske Tatry (the research was carried out by Greenpeace) confirmed the occurrence of all seven monitored types of PCB compounds in chamois's tissue. Toxic pollution, the author says, knows no borders or natural obstacles. Even remote regions and animals living in them are contaminated with hazardous substances. This is the result of so called global distillation.

(page 27)

Valerián Franc / Matej Bel University Banská Bystrica

Unusual surprises under Poľana

The author of the article writes about unusual beauties of the Poľana mountain massif, which was declared in 1981 the protected landscape area. At Poľana, which is since 1990 the biosphere reserve, a nature lover will find one of the most extensive complexes of natural forest in Slovakia. Hrochotská valley is the pearl of this region.

(page 28-29)

Ján Lichý

EXPO 2005 in Aichi will be about environment

The main theme of EXPO 2005 in Japanese Aichi will be Nature's Wisdom, with sub-themes Nature as a Universal Basis, Art of Life and Development of Eco-communities. The author of the article leads the reader to the centre of the exhibition, Aichi, which is situated about 20 km from Nagoya..

(page 30 –31)

Ján Lichý***From Royal Forests to State-owned Ones***

From Royal Forests to State-owned Ones is the name of the book published by the company The Forests of the Slovak Republic. Its authors are Ľubica Miľanová and Viktória Józsová from the Forest and Timber Museum in Zvolen.

(page 31)

Viktória Miklósová***Mysterious island of dragons***

The author of the article shows us to the mysterious island of Komodo in Indonesia. The largest living lizards – Komodo lizards – will be our companions. Komodo island was declared in 1915 a reserve, in 1980 the Komodo National Park and in 1991 it was inscribed in the World and Cultural Heritage List.

(page 32-33)

Cultural Heritage

Morocco – historical city of Meknès, Philippines – rise terraces in the Philippine Cordilleras, Australia – Lord Howe Islands, Mexico – pre-Columbus town and Palenque National Park.

(page 35-36)

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Note: On request we can translate the whole article into English.