

# INECE e-dialogue Summary: Implementation and Use of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Indicators

15 February – 5 March 2005

<http://www.inece.org/indicators/>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Goal of the e-dialogue

The goal for the second e-dialogue on environmental compliance and enforcement indicators was to share examples of implementing and using indicators, based on the actual experiences of the participants, and to identify common themes and lessons for incorporation into the *Practitioner's Guidance Document* that is underdevelopment.

### 1.2 Participants

Michael Stahl, Director of the Office of Compliance at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, moderated the e-dialogue. 10 participants from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, Russia, Scotland, Serbia & Montenegro, and the United States posted 22 comments during the discussion.

## 2 OVERVIEW OF THE DISCUSSION

Participants opened the discussion by commenting on the question posed by the moderator: "What steps has your organization taken to design, test, and implement ECE indicators? Which steps worked and which have not?"

Stahl outlined the steps taken by the US Environmental Protection Agency to develop environmental compliance and enforcement indicators, while Antonio Benjamin described the steps being taken by Brazil's National Environmental Council (CONAMA), the regulatory body of the country. Dave Pascoe contributed comments on Canada's process for developing environmental compliance and enforcement indicators for several industry sectors and regulations.

Henk Ruessink asked participants to consider the lessons that could be learned from experiences with indicators in other fields, and presented an example of a recent program in the Netherlands to assess compliance and enforcement of traffic legislation.

Saskia Roelandts described the work of the Brussels Institute for Management of the Environment (Belgium) to identify environmental compliance and enforcement indicators to measure the impact of the work of the division inspection on the environment.

Maria di Paola introduced the issue of having a legislative requirement for reporting and assessing inspection activity, including the development of environmental compliance and enforcement indicators. She noted that Argentina does not have such a law, and, consequently, the design and use of indicators depend on the will of each authority.

Dave Gorman described the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's "Effective Regulation" project, which is designed to modernize and refresh the agency's overall approach to regulation. Gorman noted that one of the goals of the Effective Regulation project is to begin to assess the linkages between inspection levels to compliance, how compliance is assessed formally, how compliance is reported, and what methodologies are used to quantify and report environmental benefits of regulation.

## 3 CONCLUSION

After sharing experiences, discussion participants concluded by with a (meditation on) whether, after all the hard work, the benefits of using indicators outweigh the challenges and risks of implementation. Participants agreed that the benefits do indeed outweigh the costs, but noted that they may "emerge gradually, over a period of time after experience is gained with interpreting indicators, applying them to programs, and using them to improve performance" (Stahl).