

## **NATO SPS Programme – Nationally-Funded Activities (NFA)**

### **Summary Report of the Fourth Workshop on ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (EMS) IN THE MILITARY SECTOR “PARTNERING FOR SOLUTIONS TO EMS IMPLEMENTATION”**

**Held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on October 2-6, 2006**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Building on the success of three previous workshops on EMS in the military sector, the Georgian MOD hosted the fourth workshop in Tbilisi on October 2-6, 2006. Sixty-three participants representing the following nineteen countries attended the meeting: **Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Turkey, Ukraine.**

2. Using the workshop forum as the vehicle for examining elements of the ISO 14001 EMS continual improvement cycle, participants discussed in detail practical measures to:

- Identify the necessary elements of a viable environmental policy organization;
- Identify ways and means of revising their existing policy to bring it into alignment if necessary, OR, Draft an environmental policy that recognizes the broader legislative and regulatory framework and the nature of its application to the military sector, and,
- Identify (if necessary and desirable), a military organization among the participating members of the workshop that could act as a mentoring partner.

3. This report highlights challenges and opportunities for promoting the implementation of EMS in the military sector.

4. The meeting convened on Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference room of the Varazi Hotel, Tbilisi. Dr. Keith Gardner, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Science Cooperation, NATO Public Diplomacy Division, opened the workshop by expressing support for the work of this group in the midst of the changes that are transforming NATO profile, and gratitude to the Georgian host as well as encouragement to all participants. Mr. Mamuka Kudava, First Deputy Minister of Defence of Georgia, then addressed participants. Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, brought greetings from his department. It should be noted that it was an official from this department that volunteered Georgia to host this meeting during the 2004 workshop in Sonthofen. Mr. Mikheil Menteshashvili, representative of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Georgian Parliament, also expressed his support for the workshop. These remarks were followed by a number of presentations by various Georgian and visiting participants as well as by a representative of the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources followed.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

## **SYNDICATE WORKING GROUPS**

5. The major part of the workshop was devoted to the work of the three syndicates groups.

### **A. Syndicate Working Group: “Policy and Planning”**

Facilitator: Maarten Gijsbers (The Netherlands)

Co-Facilitator: Irma Jakimaviciute (Lithuania)

Scribe: Susan Drover (Canada)

Countries represented: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and NATO SHAPE.

6. The syndicate group on policy and planning was tasked to consider a number of questions related to the “Policy and Planning” phases of the ISO 14000 EMS Standard. The goal was to ensure that participants left the syndicate exercise with an understanding of the barriers and incentives encountered in the development of different phases of their EMS. Key questions were addressed during the syndicate sessions.

#### ***Main Issues “Policy”***

- Types of EMS
- Why EMS?
- What are the critical success factors when setting up an EMS?
- What elements should be in an Environmental Policy Statement?

#### ***Main Issues “Planning”***

7. The following questions were used to guide the discussion on planning.

- What are the different steps in developing a plan?
- How would you set up a measuring and registration system?
- What can be done if resources are not available?
- Define objectives and targets in the field of energy conservation

8. In the course of syndical work, participants have discussed the challenges and opportunities encountered in the development of the “Policy and Planning” phases of an Environmental Management System, specifically aimed at managing the significant environmental aspect of “energy conservation”. A better understanding of the possible content of environmental policy statements, policy documents, and planning documents was achieved.

## **B. Syndicate Working Group: “Implementation and Operation”**

Facilitator: Dr. Harald Kiliyas (Germany)

Co-Facilitator: Ilona Ekmane (Latvia)

Scribe: Geneviève Perron (Canada)

Countries represented: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, Sweden, and Turkey.

9. In this Syndicate Working Group, participants were invited to offer their experience and issues encountered in relation to EMS implementation and operations within their country. The following offer the main points raised by the group for EMS implementation and operation.

- Basic EMS elements
- Implementation
- Measuring and Reporting
- Communication
- Resources
- Education
- Important notes concerning EMS
- Guidance

## **C. Syndicate Working Group: “Checking and Corrective Action”**

Facilitator: CDT ing. Guy de Veth (BE)

Co-Facilitator: CDT Johan Laire (BE)

Scribe: drs. Willem van Alphen (NL)

Countries represented: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Czech Republic, Georgia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Ukraine

10. As the workshop was concentrated on information gathering, validation and calibration, analyzing and reporting, this syndicate working group decided to examine the following issues:

- (1) a way of filling in the “need for help”
- (2) a way to learn from each other
- (3) a way to get insight “how to start”
- (4) more insight in waste management (hospital waste)
- (5) practical tools to implement EMS
- (6) EMS (in general)
- (7) more insight in the process of checking
- (8) more insight in the process of management review

## **PLENARY SESSION**

11. During the workshop plenary session, LTC. S. Kelly from SHAPE led a syndicate discussion that addressed the environmental training curriculum of the NATO School. After much consideration, a number of recommendations regarding such training especially as it applies to EMS were made.

12. Each syndicate working group then made a presentation to the plenary session with the conclusions they had reached.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKSHOP**

13. The 4<sup>th</sup> EMS Workshop “Partnering for Solutions to EMS Implementation” provided a forum for syndicate participants to share lessons learned, identify challenges and opportunities inherent in putting together an EMS and transfer of knowledge. Syndicate participants agreed that the workshop successfully achieved its goals.

14. Georgia and Ukraine expressed the view that the workshop had given them a better insight into the principles of EMS and how it can be applied in the Military Sector. It also provided a way ahead.

15. The syndicate participants discussed the proposed format for the next workshop.

- Include an explanation of the notion of Sustainable Development and how EMS can be tied into the broader definition of sustainable development.
- Audit NATO documents. It was noted that these documents are at the strategic level and may be too general for discussion and review.
- Review/Audit other countries’ documents. The participants expressed an interest in reviewing only one country’s documents so that the results could be compared among syndicate groups. The Netherlands volunteered to have their EMS documents reviewed.
- Include practical site study.
- Participants would like more practical knowledge in addition to the theory.
- Evaluate the existing mentoring partnerships.
- Dedicate a portion of the agenda to present the principles of EMS to new EMS practitioners and those considering undertaking EMS. Belgium volunteered support this initiative.

## **Next Workshop**

16. The next workshop will be held in 2008. A draft agenda will be circulated to participants in 2007. Ukraine will investigate the possibility to host the next Workshop.

## **Closing Remarks**

17. The Georgian Ministry of Defence thanked participants for their participation. Hosting the workshop proved to be very beneficial at this stage of Georgia's aspiration for NATO integration. Establishment of EMS is one of NATO partnership goals and Georgia is committed to fulfill its NATO responsibilities. Striving towards environmental military and civil objectives in a spirit of partnership is the most effective method of achieving lasting success in the shortest time.