



**JOINT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL OZONE NETWORKS
FOR EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA (ECA) AND SOUTH ASIA (SA),
ISTANBUL, TURKEY, 26-30 APRIL 2010**

MEDIA BRIEFING

Asia meets Europe

For first time, the Regional Ozone Networks for South Asia and for Europe & Central Asia met jointly to promote inter-regional cooperation between South-Asian, Central Asian, Caucasus and Balkan countries. The venue could not have been in any other place in the world, since Istanbul is the only city in the world situated on 2 continents – Asia and Europe.

The meeting allowed Ozone Officers from more than 30 countries to exchange their experience in phasing-out the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as CFCs and HCFCs widely used in refrigeration, air-conditioning and foam production.

In the margin of the meeting, Country Dialogs allowed addressing illegal trade issues through the comparison of trade data and verification of transaction documents. Apparently, significant amounts of CFCs and HCFCs have been illegally traded between countries often mis-declared as recycled substances which are not controlled under the Montreal protocol. Russia, China and other countries are now investigating these cases in order to identify the responsible persons.

Alternative technologies using refrigerants which are not harming the ozone layer were presented by leading manufacturers such as Daikin and Mayekawa. Modern supermarkets such as Carrefour in Istanbul is using carbon dioxide (CO₂) as cooling agent which is an ozone- and climate-friendly alternative to ODS. Pepsi Cola Turkey displayed their commercial bottle coolers running on hydrocarbons (HC) and the Croatian meat factory Pik Vrbovec presented their new plant using ammonia (NH₃). These case studies demonstrated that commercially viable alternatives to ODS exist and are used in Article 5 countries.

Options of co-financing climate and other environmental benefits through mechanisms like the Voluntary Carbon Market or through energy savings were explained and case studies presented. Such co-financing will be vital when countries of the regions start implementing their HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs).

Countries around the globe are currently preparing their HPMPs in accordance with the accelerated phase-out schedule for HCFCs agreed on at the 19th Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol.

National refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations will play a crucial role in overcoming the barriers to technology innovation and market penetration. For this reason, Heads of national RAC associations participated in the meeting to share their state-of-art knowledge and to get acquainted with alternative technologies. These associations are best placed to ensure efficient communication to companies, investors and technicians and to inform on alternatives technologies.

As a direct result of the meeting, an umbrella network has been created to link up these national RAC associations at the regional level in order to promote coordinated and harmonized action in terms of training and certification of technicians. The newly established website www.ECAcool.org will be the bilingual (Russian – English) communication platform between these organizations. A working group consisting of RAC associations from Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan has been established with the purpose to find ways forward and appropriate recommendations for future work were developed.

The joint network agreed to promote the ECA Ozone Protection Award 2010 for Customs and Enforcement Officers and identify cases of illegal trade detected or prevented during the period January – June 2010. Furthermore, it was agreed to further encourage the submission of iPIC info sheets and in particular work with the major exporting countries to facilitate their participation.

A special side event was organized for the Turkish military sector to address the use of ODS in military mainly halons and CFCs and a follow-up event is being planned.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey and the OzonAction Programme of UNEP's Division on Technology, Industry & Economics organised the joint meeting of the Regional Ozone Networks for Europe & Central Asia (ECA) and South Asia (SA) in Istanbul, Turkey, 26-30 April 2010. The joint meeting was opened by Mr. Sedat Kadioglu, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey. The welcome statement was delivered by Mr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director Asia Pacific, UNEP. The participants included Ozone Officers and Heads of national refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations of the ECA network and SA network as well as associated CEIT countries. Representatives of implementing agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP and World Bank), bilateral partners (Hungary, Poland, Germany and Japan), international organisations (AREA) and private sector (Neutronics, RemTech International and EOS Climate) supported the meeting as resource persons.

The meeting documents and presentations will shortly made available through the website: http://www.estis.net/sites/ecanetwork/default.asp?site=ecanetwork&page_id=225395AC-4F4F-44BA-BD5F-9163CFA6D087

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Additional Information:

Regional Ozone Network for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) and South Asia (SA)

The Regional Ozone Network in Europe and Central Asia (ECA network) was created in 2003 with the technical and financial support from the Multilateral Fund, the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic. The Regional Ozone Network in South Asia (SA network) was created in 1998 with the technical and financial support from the Multilateral Fund. The two networks are now part of UNEP DTIE's OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme.

The ECA network includes the following 12 member countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

The ECA network is a dynamic group of countries spread over three sub-regions (Caucasus, Balkan, Central Asia). Several former ECA network countries have already acceded to the European Union and have been reclassified as Article 2 countries. Candidate countries include Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

It does not formally include Countries with Economies in Transition (CEIT countries) which are supported by the Global Environment Facility. However, those countries participate in some of the network activities as part of their GEF-funded institutional strengthening projects: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The network is supported by implementing agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, World Bank) and bilateral partners (Czech Republic, European Community, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Sweden) as well as the Multilateral Fund and Ozone Secretariats. Additional partners include the World Customs Organisation's Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO CIS, RILO ECE), the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), European Federation of National Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Associations (AREA) as well as industry, TEAP and TOC experts.

The South Asia network includes the following 13 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Korea (Democratic Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The network is supported by implementing agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, World Bank) and bilateral partners (Japan and United States of America), as well as the Multilateral Fund and Ozone Secretariats. Additional partners include the World Customs Organisation's Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO A/P), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as industry, TEAP and TOC experts.

Regional networking provides a regular interactive forum for Ozone Officers from the region to exchange experiences, develop skills, and share knowledge and ideas with counterparts from both developing and developed countries in order to meet compliance, the provisions of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. Through regular network and thematic meetings and on-going dialogues, networking helps ensure that Ozone Officers have the information, skills and contacts required for managing national ODS phase-out activities successfully. Specific compliance assistance is provided to countries with compliance issues.