



**WECF**  
**Women in Europe for a Common Future**



**International Conference on the  
Sustainable Development of Chelyabinsk and region**

**From Dialogue to Partnership**

*Chelyabinsk, Russia: October 10-13, 2002*

**Project Report**

Zaaknummer: 2002.04.127



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*Enschede, April 25, 2003*

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# 1

## Introduction

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Ever since the publication of the report *Our common future* (World Commission on Environment and Development - Commission Brundtland, 1987) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, sustainable development has become the central perspective in national and international environmental strategies. The Commission Brundtland argued that sustainable development is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and the institutional change should be in harmony with each other in order to provide for human needs, now and in the future. In short: sustainable strategies aim at providing basic human needs by ensuring economic growth within ecological boundaries: people, planet, and profits. Sustainable development is a global concern. A lot of the changes required will start however at the local and regional level. Here sustainable development with its three dimensions is given concrete meaning. The process of defining regional sustainable development can also help in creating commitment and involvement of relevant actors.

In October 10-13, 2002 an international conference was organized in Chelyabinsk, Russia, with the aim of developing a sustainable perspective for the Ural region. This region is facing many problems related to health, safety, economic development and the environment. For many years the Southern Urals region has been a closed region because of its military strategic importance, in particular its nuclear armament complex "Mayak". The nuclear plant "Mayak" has suffered several severe accidents that have contaminated hundreds of kilometers with radioactivity. These accidents have always been hushed up. Citizens of the region had no information about the radioactivity, and also chemical, pollution which they were exposed to. The region has only slowly begun to open up since glasnost. Government policy in the region is still far from transparent and citizens lack faith in their abilities to influence (local) government policy. There is an urgent need for creating a sustainable future perspective.

In the last five years several citizen's organizations have started to protect citizen's rights and have made attempts to increase public participation in policy making the region. Women in Europe for a Common Future WECF has played an important role in this process through its project "School for Democracy". The School for Democracy is a three-year project implemented in partnership with 12 environment and human rights NGOs from Chelyabinsk. The project receives funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs MATRA program. The international conference CREATING was the final event of this project. The conference was organized by the 15 local MATRA NGO partners together with the business council, the women's council, the University of Chelyabinsk and the local and regional authorities of Chelyabinsk, WECF and the Greening the Industry Network GIN. The Dutch Ministry for the Environment VROM has supported the conference by facilitating the travel and stay of ten foreign experts.

This paper contains the final report of the project. We start with giving some background information on the Chelyabinsk region. Next we describe the format and the content of the conference. Finally, we present the results the conference led up to. In annex A the financial statement is given. In further annexes some more supporting material is presented (conference program, participants, project descriptions, etc.).

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# 2

## Chelyabinsk, Ural – The Former Industrial Heart of Russia

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This project concerns the Chelyabinsk region in the Ural, Russia. In this region there is an urgent need for change. Some major nuclear accidents as well as very polluting industrial production processes and mining activities have damaged the environment severely, in some cases irreversibly. As a result the living conditions are very poor. In this chapter we highlight the main problems, we discuss the importance of the concept of sustainable development and the role of the conference in this regard.

### **1** *Economies in transition*

Russia, and other countries with an economy in transition, faces the difficult task of transforming a social-oriented economy to a market-oriented one. Great steps have already been taken to achieve this transition, i.e.: state-owned industries, farms, and property have been privatized; institutional changes have been introduced; legislation has been changed and adapted, and tax reforms have taken place. And although these changes have forced inefficient industries out of business, the main problem – raising the competitiveness of manufactured goods – has not been solved. At the same time, some promising trends, connected with high technology, have not been introduced due to a lack of foresight among policy makers. Instead, capital, policy and strategy, and much human energy are still focussed on trying to strengthen industries with a large raw materials component, such as oil and gas extraction and the production of semi-finished goods. But the belief that this is the right way to go is gradually being shaken, and the important industrial regions of the country now face the dilemma of choosing a future direction for their development.

### **2** *The situation in the Chelyabinsk Oblast*

The Chelyabinsk oblast is a case in point. It is situated on the border between Europe and Asia, in the southern part of the Ural Mountains and the adjoining plain and forms part of the Ural economic region. The region measures 87.900 square kilometers, of which 56% is agricultural land and 27% is forest. The territory comprises 3170 lakes, among them 98 with an area of over 5 sq. km. The region is rich in minerals, precious stones and fossil fuels. Geographically, the region is on the main West – East and North – South land and air routes. Mass freight from the Volga region and Western Siberia passes through the region. On the other hand, being at the center of the Euro-Asian continent means that there is no easy access to sea ports. There is a network of state nature reserves, national parks, and nature monuments, including the museum reserve “Arkaim”, the national parks “Taganai” and “Zuratcul”, and the “Ilmen” state reserve. These reserves play a role in preserving the bio-diversity of the region.

The Chelyabinsk region has been among the largest centers of heavy iron and steel industry in the country, working primarily to satisfy the demands of the military production complex. The end of the cold war and the opening up of markets resulted in the industries going through a very rough time. Ever since perestroika (in the early 1990's) the region's administration has attempted to put new life in the traditional heavy industry but without much success. In this context, one should realize that Russia generally, and the Chelyabinsk region in particular, have to more and more meet the demands of the international markets. Therefore, in the present situation it is only possible to ensure the region's development by restructuring the economy.

### **3        *The need for a sustainable development strategy***

One particular problem of the Chelyabinsk region is the dramatic ecological situation which negatively affects the region's attractiveness for investments. Specifically, the contamination of the region with radio-active and industrial discharges and wastes is one of the major reasons for the unattractiveness of the region. The town of Karabash, which is also situated in the Chelnyabinsk oblast, is considered to be an ecological disaster area and has been declared by UN experts to be one of the most polluted towns in the world. However, part of the existing ecological problems can be turned into an opportunity. For example, the possibilities for the re-use and recycling of valuable raw materials (and metals in particular) that are currently laid up in large piles of waste, are still to be explored and could become of great significance for the region. So instead of continuing in the old way, a more sensible approach would be a concerted effort to achieve a structural transformation of the economy and the industry based on innovative technologies. Structural changes will also contribute to reductions in the discharge of harmful substances and reductions in energy consumption, at the same time improving the competitiveness of the industry and improving the living conditions of the people.

Achieving sustainability is of vital importance for the citizens of the city of Chelyabinsk and the oblast. The pollution in the region is of such magnitude that it exceeds the absorption capacity of the local ecosystems. And, if not stopped, the pollution and contamination will lead to the degradation of the natural ecosystems and to an increase in the disease rate among the population. Creating a sustainable perspective offers the opportunity to improve the living conditions of the people by working on the environmental situation and creating a climate for investments and hence employment.

### **4        *The role of the conference***

The first step in a sustainable strategy is the development of concrete projects that later on may grow to become strong alternatives for current patterns of development. The overarching goals of this project were to implement several concrete projects on selected topics. The conference in October, with contributions from foreign experts, facilitated the development of such projects. It was at this conference that the sustainability of the region was the main focus, including the practical question of how this should take place and how constructive forces in the world community can assist in this process of achieving sustainability. The organizers of the conference could build on a firm basis that has already been laid in the region: social accountability of business has been accepted, and over the past years the four sectors in the community (i.e. the administration, the business commu-

nity, scientists, and the general public) have started to talk together and to work together on these issues.

Developing a sustainable strategy calls for the involvement of many parties. The conference brought together the main actors in the Chelyabinsk region: representatives of business, governments, science and NGOs. In a multistakeholder partnership all actors have their own role to play: governments have to face the challenge of creating a (legal) framework to enable transformational changes. The capability to undertake a transformation lies to a large extent within industry, so the private sector needs to be engaged proactively. Scientists can bring in new alternatives and study the viability of new options. And last but not least, the involvement of NGOs can ensure that developments match the needs of people. All those four parties have already come together in this project. They will collaborate towards a sustainable development strategy for the Chelyabinsk region.

In short: The conference in October brought together the main representatives of the region itself, that can develop and implement concrete projects, with experts from other parts of the world that could guide the design of the projects.

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# 3

## The conference

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### 1 *The preparations*

The conference was the final event of a long-term process on building transparency, democracy and sustainable development. While the process was focusing mainly on NGOs and the need to include other parties as well was recognized. WECF, therefore, approached GIN to co-organize the conference. In April 2002 a small committee with representatives of both GIN (Eric-Jan Tuininga, GIN Board member and Theo de Bruijn, European GIN coordinator) and WECF (Marie Kranendonk, president WECF; Annemarie Burkhard, Eastern Europe Officer) has visited Chelyabinsk to discuss the feasibility of organizing an international conference. The committee met with all relevant parties and made several site visits. Also during this visit a local organizing committee was installed. After that the Russian partners identified the thematic priorities for the workshop. They also ensured local commitment and participation and provided local support (in-kind and financial). GIN and WECF helped shaping the format of the conference and applied for foreign funding in order to make the conference possible. The Dutch Ministry of the Environment VROM was prepared to fund the travel and stay of the foreign experts that were needed at the conference. GIN and WECF have identified the relevant experts and have ensured their participation.

### 2 *The foreign experts*

- Prof. Dr. Bio Friedrich Schmidt-Bleek  
Sustainable Development and Factor 10  
President, Factor 10 Institute and International Factor 10 Club

- Prof. Dr. Ir. J.L.A. (Leo) Jansen  
Sustainable Technology Development  
TU Delft, the Netherlands

- Gavin Bridge, Ph.D.  
Expert on Metallurgic Industry and Mining  
University of Oklahoma, USA

- Zinaida Fadeeva  
Expert on Sustainable Tourism



International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, Lund University, Sweden

- Trudy Heller, Ph.D.

Expert on Education

President Executive Education for the Environment, USA

- Cor Koster

Agricultural expert

Formerly: McCain, The Netherlands

- Lukas Stühlinger

Sustainable energy production and conservation in urban areas

Berlin Energy Agency, Germany

- Prof. Nina Poussenkova

Expert on energy systems

Academy of Science, Russia

- Prof. Ir. Eric Jan Tuininga, MBA

Emeritus Professor Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

- Dr. Theo de Bruijn

European coordinator Greening of Industry Network

University of Twente, the Netherlands

### **3      *The conference program***

The program of the conference roughly looked like this (the complete program can be found in Annex B):

- Wednesday Oct 9
  - Tours and site visits in the region
  - Welcoming event in the evening
- Thursday Oct 10
  - Opening plenary sessions:
    - The State of the Region
    - In Search of Sustainable Development
    - The Need for Factor 10\
    - Role of GIN and WECF
  - Introduction to the working groups
- Friday Oct 11
  - Working groups on selected topics
- Saturdays Oct 12
  - Presentations of the working groups
  - Next steps
- Sunday Oct 13
  - Follow up plans and assignments
  - Farewell reception

The working groups covered the following themes:

1. *Metallurgy;*

Traditionally, metallurgy has been a very important activity in the region, based on extensive mining. This was an important source of income but has led to extensive environmental damage as well. The question is whether regional metallurgy companies can catch up and live up to international accepted standards of balance between the environmental/social/economic aspects. The challenge is to provide employment, reduce the amount of waste piles and to use and convert the old industrial structures and expertise.

2. *New Energy approaches for urban development;*

Energy supply and energy use in Chelyabinsk is very inefficient. The main question is whether new energy conservation technologies can be used within the context of an integral energy-saving investment plan.

3. *Water management;*

The region has vast water reserves but many of them are polluted; new water management approaches could help develop some breakthrough in thinking. The challenge is twofold: provide clean drinking water and develop opportunities for tourism around the many lakes.

4. *Agricultural production;*

Agriculture is an important aspect of sustainable development. As some areas have been heavily contaminated with radio-activity, special attention has to be paid to what crops and what areas are suitable. The challenge is to increase the efficiency of production without the massive use of chemicals.

5. *Sustainable development and education;*

Education is one of the crucial preconditions for sustainable development. The challenge is to develop a spectrum of educational activities at all levels and aiming at all relevant parties, based on local experiences with environmental education.

6. *Nature conservation and tourism.*

The region has a potential for regional and national tourism, but has not developed this well. The challenge is to develop the potential for in a selected attractive area, lakes or mountains, including the logistical aspects (development of trails, accommodation and other facilities, etc.).

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# 4

## Results of the conference

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### **1** *Six priorities*

Preceding the conference, the 200 participants jointly designed more than 100 local projects on agriculture, education, energy, recuperation of mining wastes, tourism, water management. The 6 best projects were selected as priorities during the workshops in the frame of the Conference based on the review by the foreign experts. These six projects are briefly described in an annex. GIN and WECF took the obligation to assist in searching for financing the top 6 of them.

Next to these projects, the participants propose to use the region of Chelyabinsk - or a specific town or area within this region - as a pilot region for which an integrated approach for sustainable development will be developed based on a longterm strategy. One could also think of sustainable design and development of a new habitat for the population of contaminated villages along the Techa river. Dutch experiences with for instance "Brabant 2050" can serve as an example here. By following such an approach, the Chelyabinsk region may become an important example for other regions in the Russian Federation and abroad. We would, therefore, like to advise the Dutch and Russian government to make a cooperative effort between the Chelyabinsk region and the Dutch innovative approaches on regional sustainability.

### **2** *Implementation structure*

A Coordinating Council has been established that will guide the further developments on the Russian side. All parties are represented in the council.

### **3** *A special appeal*

The participants of the International Conference "Sustainable development for Chelyabinsk and the Region - From Dialogue to Partnership" held in Chelyabinsk from October 9 – 3th 2002, have jointly written a letter to President Putin of the Russian Federation and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.<sup>1</sup>

In the letter they say "We, members of working groups of citizens, including the representatives of local NGOs, regional, local and city administrations, legislative bodies of local councils and regional Parliament, leading scientists and businessmanagers, having worked at the October Conference in close cooperation with WECF and

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<sup>1</sup> The letters were to be sent to President Putin and Queen Beatrix preceding the visit of President Putin to the Netherlands. Since his visit has been postponed the letters have been sent to the Dutch State Secretary of the Environment and the Dutch Parliament, see Annex E.

GIN and together with experts from the Netherlands, The United States of America, Sweden, Germany and Russia, have started to make the idea of sustainable development a reality for the Chelyabinsk region as we do not want to be paralyzed by the problems of the past any more. For more than a year we have been working together on ideas for projects aimed at developing the region and communities in a sustainable way."

#### **4        *Future plans***

The conference was meant to be the start of a process of change. Currently the 6 priority projects have been brought to the attention of EU and Russian politicians at the highest level with the aim of getting broad support for a partnership on regional sustainability in this nuclear contaminated oblast of Russia. For one of the proposals a TACIS proposal has been developed and submitted. For all other prioritized projects new and improved versions of the project plans have been developed.





**WECF**  
Women in Europe for a Common Future



*Chelyabinsk Center of Social Initiatives, Partners of Chelyabinsk NGOs  
And partners of the project "School for Democracy"  
With financial support of the program of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs  
MATRA, Ministry of Construction, Spacial Planning and Environment of  
Netherlands, Administration of Chelyabinsk  
Under supervision of the Legislative Committee of Chelyabinsk Region  
And Administration of Chelyabinsk  
In partnership with the European Network WECF, GIN,  
South Ural Chamber of Commerce,  
Chelyabinsk State University,  
Ural Academy of State Service,  
South-Ural State University*

**Hold**  
**International Conference-workshop**

**«Sustainable Development of Chelyabinsk and the  
Region.  
From Dialogue to Partnership»**

**Dates:** 10.10.02 – 13.10.02

**Location:** Chelyabinsk, Palace of Pioneers and Schoolchildren named after N. Kroupskaya  
(Theater Building)

**The Conference opens:** 9-00



**Head -quarters of the conference - Center of Public Initiatives**  
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e-mail: [cpo@chel.surnet.ru](mailto:cpo@chel.surnet.ru)

### Календарный план общих мероприятий конференции

10.10.02	<p><b>1 day :Plenary session.</b>  9.00-10.00 Registration.  <b>ЧТ</b> 10.00-11.00 Opening.  Greetings from V. Chernobrovin , Chelyabinsk oblast legislation body, Head Deputy.  Greetings from T. Charisova, City Administration Deputy on Social activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Key speech: «The Current step and possible perspectives of Chelyabinsk Oblast Economy Development in Transition to the Market Economy»; A. Stroganov – Doctor Economic Sciences, Chelyabinsk State University.</li> <li>2. Brief excursion to the aims of the conference. E. J. Tuininga. GIN expert, professor of Sciences and Technology, Netherlands, Amsterdam.</li> </ol> <p>11.00-12.00</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Key speech 2 «MIP and Factor 10 for Ecologically Sustainable Economy”. K.F.Smidt-Bleek, doctor, professor, president of Club and Foundation “Factor 10.”</li> <li>2. Speech «Global practices of Sustainable Development. Approaches to regional problems of Chelyabinsk Oblast”; A. Andreevsky, Vernadsky foundation, Moscow.</li> </ol> <p>12.00-12.20 Coffee-break..</p> <p>12.20- 12.40</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. «Alternative Social Strategies.”». S. Ziranov, Ural Academy of State Servants Education”Candidate of philosophy.</li> <li>2. «The Industrial Policy of Ural enterprises : Transformation in Global Context and Sustainable Development”. Professor of Chelyabinsk State University.</li> </ol> <p>12.45-14.00Aims and tasks of the conference. E. J. Tuininga.</p> <p>14.00-15.00 Luch.</p> <p>15.00-16.00 GIN and WECF presentation.</p> <p>16.00-17.30 Discussions of the key speeches.  19.00 Round table discussions «IT and Factor 10» Chelyabinsk State University.</p>
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## Schedule (days 2 and 3)

<p>11.10.02 <b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>Day 2. Workshops</b> 9.00-10.00</p> <p><b>Key speech 3:</b> «Sustainable Tehnologies. Challenge for Sustainable Development. Doctor, <b>Professor L. Jansen, Netherlands.</b></p> <p><b>Comments for Key speech 3.</b> N. Poussenkova, Doctor, Professor Of Institute of Global Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of sciences, Moscow.</p> <p>10.00-10.30 <b>Introduction to workshops.</b> Moderator: E. J. Tuininga, Netherlands.</p> <p>10.30-12.30 Workshops. 12.30-12.50 Coffee-break.. 12.50-14.00 Workshops. 14.00-15.00 Lunch. 15.00-17.30 Workshops. 18.30 Workshops moderators' meeting. Evaluation of results.</p>
<p>12.10.02 <b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>Conference day 3:Plenary Session.</b></p> <p>9.00-10.00 Preparing the workshops' presentations. 10.00-12.00 Results. Presentations. 12.00-12.30 Coffee-break. 12.30-14.00 Pilot projects discussions. . 14.00-15.00 Lunch. . 15.00-17.30 Action planning. Priority pilot projects. Selection. 17.00-18.00 Conference closing. Main conference declarations discussion. 19.00- Farewell social party.</p>
<p>13.10.02 <b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>9.30-12.30 The working meeting of the workshops' moderators. Selected pilot projects' authors are invited.</p> <p>12.30-14.00 International Coordinators Council Dinner.</p>



## ANNEX C: PARTICIPANTS LIST

№	NAMES	Organization
1	Abizov Alexander	Scientific – research Institute “Ural_Niistromproect”, Chelyabinsk
2	Alyaev Alexander	The Chairman of the Committee of property management, the Deputy Mayor, Magnitogorsk city
3	Andreevsky Andrei	Executive Director of the non-governmental ecological Fund named after B.I. Vernadsky
4	Antonuk Balentina	Deputy Mayor on economy, Chelyabinsk
5	Aristov Igor	Chelyabvneshtservice”, Director
6	Afanasyeva Lubov	Newspaper “Delovoy Ural”, Chelyabinsk oblast
7	Babekov Nilolay	Association PPVV, Chelaybinsk
8	Babeshkina Lubov	Women panel, Chelaybinsk region
9	Baimakova Marina	The Plant of Construction Equipment, Deaputy Director, Chelaybinsk
10	Barkhatov Victor	Joint-stock company “Novotekh”, Director, Chelyabinsk
11	Barusheva Nina	the town of Snezdinsk, Administration.
12	Basurgina Elena	Chelyabinsk Academy of Agriculture
13	Belikov Vladimir	Humanitarian University, Professor, Moscow
14	Beloborodov Vyacheslav	Ministry of Natural Resources, Moscow
15	Benderskaya Taisiya	“NPK “Tekhenergy”Ltd, Director Representative
16	Bersenev Andrei	Palace of Pioneers and Schoolchildren named after N.K.Krupskaya, Director, Chelyabinsk
17	Bichurin Rinat	Joint-stock company “Soneco”, Director General, Chelaybinsk
18	Bluze Evgenia	Radio broadcast Sustem “Silver Rain”, Chelaybinsk
19	Bogush Yuri	?
20	Bozhe Vladimir	City Center of Historic-cultural Heritage, Director, Chelaybinsk
21	Bondaryeva Zemphira	City public organization “Club of Business Women”, Chairman, Zlatoust
22	Bondarevsky Ilya	NGO “New Generation”, Chelaybinsk
23	Bronnikov Oleg	Leader of the project “Children Publishing House”, Miass
24	Bukova Natalia	ЧОЧС ?
25	Vantrusov Yuri	“Society “Intellect”, Chairman Deputy, Snezhinsk
26	Varava Ludmila	Head of the ecological department of the city administration, Chelaybinsk
27	Vasiliev Vitaly	Head of ПЭК ?
28	Vereshagina Tatiana	Chelyabinsk State University, Dean of economical department
29	Vereshagin Maxim	Plant “Teplopribor”, Technical Director, Chelaybinsk
30	Volchenkova Marina	“International Center of Development”, Snezhinsk
31	Vukolova Alina	?
32	Gabitov Gennady	The Plant of Construction Equipment, Leading Expert, Chelaybinsk
33	Gaiduchenko Leonid	Chelyabinsk State University, Assistant Professor
34	Galanov Vyacheslav	“Energyconservation” company, Deputy Director
35	Gerasimov Valery	Independant Expert, Doctor of ecological sciences
36	Gitis Mikhail	“Abris” company, Director, Chelaybinsk
37	Glukhova Vera	Fund “Partnership of Creative Leaders”, Chelaybinsk oblast
38	Golovkin Anton	Leasing Bureau, Expert, Kasly

## ANNEX C: PARTICIPANTS LIST

39	Golovkina Marina	NGO "Women network on the Urals", Kasly
40	Gorokhova Natalia	"Real" company, Director, Chelaybinsk
41	Gorshkov Alexander	The Chelyabinsk State University, Assistant
42	Goryainov Petr	The City Association of War Veterans, Chelaybinsk, Chairman
43	Gumnitskaya Elena	The Plant of Construction Equipment, Leading Expert, Chelaybinsk
44	Guseva Natalia	"Club of Business Women", Zlatoust
45	Gutnov Vitaly	Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Kombinat, Medical Department, Head
46	Gushina Nina	Chair of Therapy of the Ural Medical Academy of Additional Medical Education, Chelaybinsk
47	Gushin Sergei	Ural Medical Academy of Additional Medical Education, Expert, Chelaybinsk
48	Dainatova Lubov	Ecological laboratory, Head, Chelaybinsk
49	Danilchuk	?
50	Demkina Nadezhda	?
51	Denisov Sergei	South Ural Research Institute, Director, Chelaybinsk
52	Denisova Larisa	"Ecological Project", Head, Chelaybinsk
53	Deryabina Larisa	Chelyabinsk State University, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Assistant Professor
54	Dida Nadezhda	Chelyabinsk Regional Administration, Advisor
55	Dmitriev Yuri	«АВИДМГ» company, Chelyabinsk
56	Dobrovolsky Ivan	Regional organization "Success", Representative
57	Doronicheva Natalia	Secondary School N12, Director Deputy, Chelaybinsk
58	Dostovalov Mikhail	Regional Culture Fund, Expert
59	Drakova Damira	South Ural State University, Assistant Professor, Chelaybinsk
60	Drevorubov Alexander	"Technoenergy" company, Director Representative
61	Dubrovin Maxim	NGO "New Generation", Chelaybinsk
62	Egorova Inessa	Public foundation "Eco-View", Leader, Chelaybinsk
63	Ezhov Valery	Vocational college, Teacher, Magnitogorsk
64	Elistratov Aleksei	NGO "New Generation", Chelaybinsk
65	Erina Tatiana	?
66	Ermolayev Evgeni	"Chelyabenergy" company, Director Deputy
67	Efimov Vladimir	Businessman (wanted to stay inkognito)
68	Zhelnin Aleksei	Medical Academy, Professor, Chelaybinsk
69	Zhidkov Maxim	"Open Society" NGO, Deputy Director
70	Zhmakin Valeri	HIPROMEZ, Scientific – Design Center
71	Zabeivorota Pavel	Ecological Party of Greens
72	Zakirov Oleg	Union of young metal workers of "MMC", Magnitogorsk
73	Zakharov Nikolai	"Technoprom" company, Director, Miass
74	Zakharov Sergei	Russian Geographical Society, Head of the Chelyabinsk Branch
75	Zvezdina Nadezhda	Chelyabinsk Regional Administration, Head of Radiation Safety Department
76	Zvyagintzev Vyacheslav	"Vitec" company, Representative
77	Zdanovich Gennadi	Natural Museum "Arkaim", Director
78	Zuryanov Sergei	Russian Academy of State Service, Director of the Ural Branch

## ANNEX C: PARTICIPANTS LIST

79	Ivanov Oleg	The Ural socio-economic institute, Head' Deputy
80	Ishukova Tatiana	Regional Television and Radio Broadcast company, journalist, Weather Broadcast Expert
81	Kabirov Gosman	The Chelyabinsk city ecologic-educational public organization "Techa", Leader
82	Kazariniv Lev	The South Ural State University, Representative
83	Kalinina Tatiana	NGO "Women of the 90s", Chairman, Chelyabinsk
84	Kalugina Tatiana	Oblast Administration, Regional Department of Education, Representative
85	Kapov Alexander	"Soneco" company, Representative, Chelyabinsk
86	Kareva Natalia	Technical Center of City Improvement and Sanitary Clean – up, Chelyabinsk
87	Kartavtseva Tatiana	Doctor-dietologist, medical department of "MMC", Magnotogorsk
88	Kiiko Vladislav	?
89	Kipriyanova Elena	International Academy of Authors of Scientific Discoveries and Inventions, Representative
90	Klepov Yuri	Regional Administration, Ecological Committee, Chairman Deputy
91	Kleshevnichov Maxim	Regional Foundation "Regional Tourism Development", Director
92	Klyazeva Svetlana	"Ural-Eco" company, Expert, Chelyabinsk
93	Knutareva Nadezhda	Scientific – research Institute VODGEO, Chelyabinsk Branch, Director
94	Kolesnik Vyacheslav	The Ural Socio-Economical Institute, Chelyabinsk Branch, Deputy Director
95	Kolesnik Elena	Chelyabinsk State University, Department of Management, Representative
96	Komelkova Aigul	Regional Culture Foundation, Expert, Chelyabinsk
97	Kondrashin Valentin	The owner of a private household
98	Koretski Albert	Chelyabinsk Teplotechnical Reaserch Institute, Assistant Director on Economy
99	Korzhova Luisa	Public regional organization "Kishtim-57"
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101	Korobova Ludmila	НАУМ ПКП ?
102	Korov Vladimir	City Administration, Representative, Satka town
103	Korolev Vladimir	Regional Culture Foundation, Leading expert
104	Kostuchenko Andrei	City Administration, Satka
105	Kotomina Ludmila	БВУ ?
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107	Kravchenko Elena	Miass city, Representative
108	Kravchenko Igor	State Duma Deputy I.V. Lisinenko, Assistant, Chelyabinsk
109	Krasnova Ludmila	Regional Children Library, Expert
110	Kraushkina Marina	Pediatric Doctor
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112	Kudrin Nikolai	Candidate of technical sciences
113	Kuznetsova Elena	"Bank of Ideas" NGO, Leader
114	Kustova Natalia	Regional Council of Women Public Movements, Representative, Chelyabinsk
115	Lavin Pavel	Scientific-Research Peat Institute, Director, Tver city
116	Lazutkova Elena	"South Ural Panorama", Regional TV broadcast, Correspondent
117	Levit Alexander	Chelyabinsk State University, Chair of Nature Usage, Lecturer

## ANNEX C: PARTICIPANTS LIST

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119	Liberman Tamara	Program "New Names", Coordinator
120	Lipenkov Alexander	Chelyabinsk State University, Assistant Professor
121	Lubimov Alexander	Regional Administration, Household Utility Service, Head
122	Lubnin Gennadi	Deputy Mayor of Chelyabinsk
123	Lyamkina Elizaveta	Regional Administration, Main Department on Radiation and Ecological Safety
124	Makarov Vladimir	Regional Administration, Agricultural Committee, Head
125	Makovetskaya Yulia	ЧРО «Мин» МААИОИ ?
126	Malafeeva Alla	Public movement "Ecolin", Head, Chelyabinsk
127	Malov Alexander	Enterprise (?) Director Deputy, Chelaybinsk
128	Malushev Sergei	Regiona Administration, Committee on Natural Resources, Chairman Deputy
129	Markovski Valeri	"South Ural Geological Exploration", Director, Chelyabinsk
130	Matushkin Petr	"ECORM" enterprise, Leading Expert, Chelyabinsk
131	Matushkina Irina	PROSTEC-Chelyabinsk
132	Menukhov Alexander	Center of Sanitary Inspection, Head Doctor Deputy
133	Mechina Irina	Department of energy conservation, Represenattive
134	Mironova Natalia	"Movement for Nuclear Safety", Leader
135	Morozov Alexander	Society of Consumer Rights' Protection, Chairman, City Council Deputy, Chelyabinsk
136	Mochalina Anna	"Istok" company, Head
137	Mochalova Svetlana	Regional Duma, The Assistant of The Deputy Berestov
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139	Nasibullina Olga	City Administration, Deputy Head of the Education Department
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145	Palkina Galina	Group of Harmony, Public movement
146	Patsula Andrei	Doctor of sociological sciences
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150	Petrov Valeri	NGO "New Generation", Chairman
151	Petrova Ekaterina	Department on wild life protection and specially protected natural areas
152	Petukhov Yuri	Regional Administration, Agricultural Committee, Department of poultry
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## ANNEX C: PARTICIPANTS LIST

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169	Reshetkov Konstantin	?
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195	Tugolukova Olga	"MMC", PR Center, Specialist, Magnitogorsk
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**ANNEX C: PARTICIPANTS LIST**

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212	Shkatov Aleksei	?
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217	Shramm Evgeni	"Soneco" company
218	Uzhakov Vladimir	Department of Agriculture, Deputy on Economy
219	Yagodinits Vyacheslav	Head Deputy, Chelyabinsk Administration
220	Yachmenev Vladislav	Regional Legislation Body, Department of Industrial Branch Policy, Head
221	Yachmeneva Nadezhda	Hydrometeorology Department, Head

## 1. PREPARATION OF ENERGY SAVING TECHNOLOGIES' IMPLEMENTATION IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HOUSING

### **Targets:**

- *Metering and Regulation:* Prepare the set up of a system of registration and regulation for power, water and heat consumption and collect data on energy consumption as well as energy saving potentials.
- *Energy Audits:* Know-how-transfer on energy audits and energy saving technologies on the basis of a particular pilot project.
- *Pilot Project:* Reduce energy costs and decrease CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions by 50% within the pilot project.
- *Pre-Investment Work:* Provide a basis for energy-saving investments of Russian and European companies in the Chelyabinsk region.

### **Short abstract:**

The strong growing market for Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) in Europe shows, that through the implementation of energy saving technologies great potentials for a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and energy costs can be used. Because of housing structure and climate conditions the Chelyabinsk-Region offers favorable conditions for such activities. With strongly rising costs of energy and a growing ecologically orientated movement the basic conditions for energy saving investments are becoming more and more interesting.

The project aims at setting a basis for further similar projects and for investments of Russian and European companies, by:

- working on a know-how transfer for energy audits and energy saving technologies with local specialists
- providing specific data on energy consumption, energy losses and energy saving potentials in public housing in cooperation with local specialists
- working out a an energy supply and billing scheme for the use of power-, gas- and watermeters
- preparing a pilot project in cooperation with local NGOs (target: decrease CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions within the project by 50%) for realization

Under the given circumstances it is not yet possible to realize energy saving projects in an ecologically and economically effective way. This project is making a first step for accessing the existing huge energy saving potentials in the Chelyabinsk region.

## **2. IMPROVING ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT AT KARABASH VIA RESOURCE RECOVERY: ENHANCING ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

### **Goal:**

To promote economic development and environmental remediation at Karabash by providing information and assistance for resource recovery efforts. Specifically, to build on pre-existing environmental assessments at Karabash by developing

- (1) an open access clearing-house for environmental data and
- (2) a business incubator to assist the transfer of the technological capacities associated with metals recovery and environmental remediation from state institutes to the private sector.

### **Project Description:**

Karabash is a heavily polluted copper mining and smelting town located 100 kilometers to the NW of Chelyabinsk. In the last few years several projects have been undertaken to monitor and assess the extent of contamination in Karabash (funded by the EU and US via ISTC 500-98 and ISTC 1872). These projects have generated significant information about the air, soil, and water resources of the region and have indicated that accumulated wastes at Karabash contain significant quantities of metals. The workshop in October also indicated that a number of small firms were interested in exploring opportunities for the recovery of these metals from accumulated slacks and tailings at Karabash.

Metals recovery could provide both economic and environmental benefits for the region. It also has the potential to spur the local, endogenous development of metal recovery technology for broader application within Russia and elsewhere, particularly if done in collaboration with the significant human and technological resources of the region (e.g. the technological capacities of the Institutes of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the State Center for Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection, and the Chelyabinsk Regional Center for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, and the Russian Federal Nuclear Center). There is significant potential, therefore, for reducing some of the heavy burden of environmental contamination through a program of metals recovery and environmental remediation and, under the right conditions, for generating a set of technological assets within Karabash that may become the basis for future economic development.

The objective of this project is to help realize these possibilities. It seeks to do two things.

- (1) to bring together and make publicly accessible all existing data characterizing the region's environment and resources: this includes local and regional data on pollution and contamination, data on the metal content of waste piles, and cadastral information on land and resource ownership.
- (2) to facilitate the linking and transfer of technological capacities (housed within state institutes) with existing resources at Karabash by providing business support for efforts to develop mineral recovery and rehabilitation projects.

Experiences gained from Karabash may become a model for the ecological rehabilitation and economic development of other regions in Russia.



### **3. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Goal:**

Develop a corps of practicing business managers in the Ural region who are educated in the application of sustainable development principles to the strategies and practices of their enterprises.

**Activities:**

- Develop and conduct a new course in Sustainable Development for Business Managers at Chelyabinsk State University. Innovate educational materials and interactive teaching methods.
- Import and translate appropriate business education cases and other teaching materials from Western sources. Use educational technology where appropriate.
- Develop new teaching cases based on local, regional business experiences, e.g. a plastics company that achieves ISO 9000 certification, and enters the global marketplace.
- Involve students in consultation to "live cases," or local business that are grappling with environmental problems.

#### 4. CHELYABINSK REGIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE FOR CITIZENS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Goals:**

To render the citizens of Chelyabinsk region assistance on sustainable development by providing information and practical examples from Russia and abroad on environmental, economical, technological and social aspects, including the integrated approach of all the aspects and the cooperation between sectors (NGOs, science, authorities and business).

**Targets and activities:**

- Collecting, analyzing and dissemination of information for sustainable development in Chelyabinsk and regional cities;
- Regional program proposals: Developing the net of Internet Information “Supermarkets” on Sustainable Development for all groups of citizens.
- Information support for citizens: women, youth and other NGOs by means of different kinds of communication (Internet) and other interactive ways (printed materials, audio-video materials etc.) on sustainable development items;
- training seminars and other educational activities in the field of sustainable development;
- unified informational field, covering and servicing NGOs, scientific and educational Institutions, businessmen and regional and local authorities on sustainable development, by creating an Internet Portal.

**Expected results:**

- The Internet portal will concentrate the sustainable development items in one source and will provide the broad open access to it for experts and broad public of the region..
- The informational bulletins and methodical brochures will inform the target groups about the stages of pilot projects’ development, the details of their realization and possibilities to solve the problems in sustainable development manner.
- The consumers’ needs study will reveal the information which is needed by this or that target groups in reality. This will directly influence the project effectiveness.
- The net of information shops will provide both information and advisory services “from one desk” thus mastering the mechanisms of consulting and deliver information to the consumers. The trends monitored will show the directions of project development and will assist the NGOs to cover the needs of the public, which could permit them to work out correct strategies.
- The participants of the sustainable development movement could exchange experience (both positive and negative) through the Internet portal.
- The systematic consumers’ investigations and monitoring will make the informational shops become profitable in the future.

## 5. PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION OF COMPLEX ORGANIC-MINERAL FERTILIZERS ON THE BASIS OF PEAT FROM LOCAL RAW MATERIALS RESOURCES

### Project objectives:

The objective of the project is to construct in one of the economically depressed areas the production complex to produce 10000 t annually complex organic-mineral fertilizers on the basis of peat from local raw materials resources with required content of nutritious elements.

The experience of this project is being planned to apply for output increasing – up to 40 000 t per year creating similar production complexes in other regions.

Under project realization the following results are expected:

- soil fertility restoration;
- agricultural enterprises get cheap fertilizers of required quality;
- sowing areas are decreasing because of fertility increase due to fertilizers produced;
- creation of working places.

### Project description:

In Chelyabinsk Region there are substantial agricultural areas degraded by former use of pesticides and artificial fertilizer.. In order to restore them it is necessary to add organic-mineral fertilizers with the proper characteristics into the soil. The production of mentioned above fertilizers is not organized.

Chelyabinsk Region has a tremendous stock of peat, thus being a very good base for complex organic-mineral fertilizers production. A special technology has been carried out and tested in different regions of Russia, including Chelyabinsk, where it has been tested while sowing and growing potato, wheat and vegetables. Test results have showed fertility increase up to 10-15%. Realization of the project is planned to be implemented on the territory of Argajash region, where are all necessary conditions: peat stock of required quality; consumers of the produced product, production areas, interest and willingness to support the project by Regional Administration and NGO organizations.

Project Partners-organizations:

- Argajash Regional Administration;
- NGO Council of Argajash Region;
- “AGROKHIMIA” enterprise (Chelyabinsk), specializing in fertilizers distribution, having subsidiaries in 24 agricultural regions;
- GUP “Krastorf” (Krasnojarsk) – scientific and resource support of the project.

## **6. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE CHELYABINSK OBLAST FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

**Goals:** To develop a package of organizational, economic, legal instruments and technical recommendations' for sustainable development of water management and infrastructure of the municipalities of Kasly, and the Karabash regions.

### **Main activities:**

- To master the system of water resources management;
- To master the municipal systems of water supply complying the specifications of the basin while planning the infrastructure. Defining the norms and goals.
- To involve the experts and public (citizens) of the territories in the process of planning and management. Developing (and mastering) of the mechanism and system of the public participation in planning and management decision- making process.

### **Main targets:**

- The detailed estimation of water sector (water resources and their management system; municipal water supply system);
- To make up the package of recommendations for transformation of the water sector and its management. Implementation of the recommendations (accounting the needs of the population, industry and agriculture in water supply of required quality and quantity; ecosystems' needs and possible favorable conditions for fishing and tourism.)
- The prioritizing of the needs in technological transformations and preparation of investment projects, answering the global practices' demands.
- The framing of public sector responsibilities in saving and usage of water resources.
- Develop the information–education Center for the education of citizens, decision - makers, professionals and educating the new generation. To inform the public about the items of water problems. To make and innovate studying programs involving the Russian and foreign partners. Publishing the regular bulletin "Water on Earth" for experience exchange.

### **The expected results:**

- 1 The set of proposals for water supply system transformation (including the organizational, economical and technical recommendations)
- 2 The plan for the recommendations' implementation, including the investment plans.
- 3 The plan of public sector participation, directed to building partnership in civil society (business, administration, citizens groups, and science). Favoring the innovation on local level. To create a positive impact on in the attractiveness to invest in improvement of the drinking water resource and management.

### **Abstract from project description:**

The towns and regions of Kasly, Ozersk and Snezinsk utilize the water from the unique Kasly lakes' system. Snezinsk, for example, has negative impact on the contamination of lakes with industrial and other wastes. As a result the water in these lakes doesn't answer norms and demands of ecosystems in general, which is influencing also the standards of drinking water.

Karabash Copper Smeltery has been dumping the industrial wastes (sulfates, heavy metals) in the system objects.

The Argazy Reservoir is receiving the waste waters, albeit it forms the source of drinking water for the population of Chelyabinsk city and for the towns of Emanzelinsk, Korkino and Kopeysk too. The water doesn't answer any standards.

Good investments can change the situation. But it becomes possible only when the investments climate is ready. That is why the project starts with these preparations.



**To:**  
Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment  
To the attention of Mr drs. P.L.B.A. van Geel  
State Secretary  
P.O. Box 20951  
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**From:**  
Participants of the International Conference and workshops  
"Sustainable Development of Chelyabinsk and the Region. From Dialogue to Partnership."  
October 9-13, 2002 Chelyabinsk, Russian Federation,  
which was sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Matra Programme,  
the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment,  
by the Regional and City Administration and State University of Chelyabinsk  
and the Chamber of Commerce and some companies in Chelyabinsk

November 18, 2002

Dear Mr Van Geel,

ON THE FUTURE OF CHELYABINSK REGION

The people of Chelyabinsk Oblast, co-operating with the Greening of Industry Network (GIN) and the Network Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), having co-operated together in the International Conference "Sustainable Development for Chelyabinsk region: from Dialogue to Partnership", kindly ask your attention to the future of the Chelyabinsk region!

A new future for the Chelyabinsk oblast and communities of oblast cities, like Karabash, Argayash, Kasly and many others, has to be developed on the basis of a heavy heritage of the past: contamination of soils and water from nuclear fuel productions and storage of nuclear wastes, from the "Mayak" nuclear catastrophe of 1957, from the impact of more than 200 years of mining and

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processing of copper and other ores. Consequently our environment is degraded, risks have increased and the lives of future generations have been compromised.

The health of the Oblast population is still at stake, most of all because of continuing contamination of drinking water.

The challenge for the region is to create sustainable forms of social-economical progress that takes into account the carrying capacity of the environment and focuses on increasing the quality of life of all people of current and future generations. An crucial goal is a socially responsible exploitation of all resources, including natural ones. We very well recognise that the society is very close to the point of no return and regards it vitally important to start moving in a sustainable direction just now. Moreover, by choosing sustainable development as the leading principle for future development, great opportunities for combining economic development with environmental protection and social improvement will be created.

We, members of working groups of citizens, including the representatives of local NGOs, regional, local and city administrations, legislative bodies of local councils and regional Parliament, leading scientists and business managers, having worked at the October Conference in close co-operation with WECF and GIN and together with experts from the Netherlands, The United States of America, Sweden, Germany and Russia, have started to make the idea of sustainable development a reality for the Chelyabinsk region, as we do not want to be paralysed by the problems of the past. For more than a year we have been working together on ideas for projects aimed at developing the region and communities in a sustainable way.

To start the process, jointly we have designed more than 100 local projects on agriculture, education, energy, recuperation of mining wastes, tourism and water management. A group of them was selected as priorities during the workshops in the frame of the Conference. GIN and WECF took the obligation to assist in searching for financing the top 6 of them (see annex 1). The others are no less important.

Next to these projects, we propose to use the region of Chelyabinsk - or a specific town or area within this region - as a pilot region for which an integrated approach for sustainable development will be developed based on a long term strategy.

Dutch experiences with for instance "Brabant 2050" can serve as an example here. By following such an approach, the Chelyabinsk region may become an important example for other regions in the Russian Federation and abroad. We would therefore like to advise the Dutch and Russian governments to make a co-operative effort between the Chelyabinsk region and the Dutch innovative approaches on regional sustainability.

The people of Chelyabinsk will appreciate your attention and assistance in supporting the process that could create the precedent for sustainable development of a big traditionally industrial Russian territory, the South Urals, turning from the narrow path of Survival to the broad road of Revival.

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On behalf of the 200 participants of the International Conference and workshops:  
"Sustainable development for Chelyabinsk and the Region:  
From Dialogue to Partnership"  
held in Chelyabinsk from October 9 – 13th 2002.

**Signed by:**

The Centre of Social initiatives, Chelyabinsk, Iriny Parfentyeva



The Chelyabinsk Regional Legislative Body-the Parliament, Boris Mizrackhy



The Scientific Community, Vladislav Yachmenev



Chelyabinsk City Administration, Tatyana Harisova



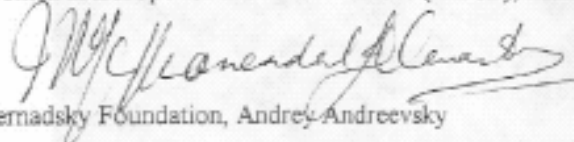
Local NGOs Representative, Maria Sobol



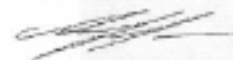
The Greening of Industry Network (GIN), Theo de Bruijn



Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), Marie Kranendonk



Vernadsky Foundation, Andrej Andreevsky





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This letter has been sent to :

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr mr. J.G. de Hoop Scheffer

Russian Embassy in the Netherlands  
Ambassador Mr Alexander Khodakov

Royal Netherlands Embassy in Moscow  
Ambassador Mr T.P. Hofstee

A copy of this letter has been sent to :

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Mr dr. ir. A. Oudeman, DGM/IMZ  
Mr drs. H.G. von Meijefeldt, DGM/BWL

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mrs J.A. Peters, MATRA

Enclosure : 1

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**The Greening of Industry Network develops knowledge and transforms practice to accelerate progress toward a sustainable society.**

***Since 1991***

The Greening of Industry Network is an international association of individuals from academia, business, government and NGOs dedicated to building a sustainable future. With coordinating offices in the United States, Thailand, and the Netherlands, we engage participants from 50 countries to respond to the challenge of sustainable development. Through linked conferences, publications and communications, the Network creates new relationships, visions and practices for sustainability. In 2003 the Network has introduced a membership scheme.

***Sustainable Development Imperative***

We regard progress toward engaging society in sustainable development as a global imperative. This progress takes into account the carrying capacity of our environment and focuses on increasing the quality of life of all people of current and future generations.

***Industrial Transformation Needs***

Global shifts in industrial regimes, trade and technology are creating significant environmental and social impacts and inequities around the world. Major changes in production and consumption systems are required in order to meet the needs and aspirations of a growing world population while using environmental resources in a sustainable manner. This process of industrial transformation will require the constructive engagement of all societal institutions.

***Our Work***

The Greening of Industry Network stimulates, coordinates and connects high quality research to policies, strategies and actions in ways that contribute to a more sustainable society. Through a variety of arenas, we provide a neutral forum for creative debate to engage researchers, business, workers, government, consumers and other actors in developing a shared understanding of the changes required for creating a more sustainable future. The activities of GIN are guided by an International Planning Board.

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**WECF**  
**Women in Europe for a Common Future**

**Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is an international network, which brings together women's' initiatives from different parts of the world in joint projects. WECF stimulates cooperation between women in NGOs from Eastern and Western Europe and the NIS, on the issues of environment, health and sustainable development. WECF develops practical projects and policy making activities with its partners at local, national and international level. WECF supports women's' organizations to understand the causes of their environment and health problems and to organize activities to improve the situation. These activities focus on practical solutions - such as clean water and soil decontamination projects - as well as on increasing women's' participation in local, national and international policy making, promoting sustainable development.**

**Activities of WECF:**

1. Practical aid projects with partner organisations in Western and Eastern Europe (incl. CIS) focusing particularly on solutions for health and environment related problems, increasing women's participation in local, national and international policy making, capacity building for poverty alleviation and NGO management, research and awareness raising about gender aspects of health and environment issues and their interrelation.
2. Advocacy at local/regional, national, and international (European and UN) level. WECF's advocacy work is directed at international policy making negotiations together with partners from Western and Eastern Europe and the CIS. WECF focuses on the elimination of persistent organic pollutants, the implementation of Agenda 21, the Water Protocol, the European Health and Environment policies, the implementation of the Platform for Action of Beijing's 4th World Women's Conference, the implementation of the Aarhus convention on public participation in environmental policy and access to information and justice, and European policy towards accession countries. WECF's advocacy work is strongly linked to local and national NGO activities.
3. Provision and exchange of information and expertise in the field of health, environment and sustainable development. WECF collaborates with scientists conducting primary research and promotes widespread distribution of research findings and other information, through direct contacts with its partner organizations, participation in conferences and through its website.

**WECF's activities in the Ural, Russia:**

With WECF coaching, 10 environment and human rights NGOs from the Chelyabinsk region have set up the "School for Democracy". More than 30 NGO leaders -many of them women - from the Chelyabinsk region are being trained in NGO management skills, working with the media and dialoging with the authorities. From the second year on the NGOs are joined by scientists and persons working in government functions. In the third year also business is approached to participate in dialogue on the region's future development. Next to the training and seminars the NGO's have developed practical projects to investigate the environment and health problems and to develop methods to improve the situation. WECF has been seeking the cooperation with international scientists and industry experts to give support to the process of multi-sectoral dialogue on the possible future development of the region in a sustainable direction. The cooperation with the Greening the Industry network is giving a new impetus to this process. The aim is to organize a series of workshops in Chelyabinsk in October 2002 with experts from GIN, West-European industry and science institutes and the Academy of Science, regional authorities and business and NGOs, on future options for the region, which should deliver concrete plans for pilot projects that can show sustainable solutions for the region.

**WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future**

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