



## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL OZONE NETWORK FOR EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA, YEREVAN, ARMENIA, 18-22 MAY 2009**

### **Strengthening National Institutions Through Regional Co-operation**

For the first time, 15 Heads of national refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations participated in the annual meeting of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia (ECA network) in Yerevan. The purpose was to initiate cooperation among these associations and to define their role in phasing out ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) which also contribute to global warming.

The network unanimously agreed to enhance this new cooperation by creating a joint website and to invite them also to next year's ECA network meeting in Istanbul. As an immediate outcome, Ozone Officers and Heads of the associations established close contacts among each other (in some countries for the first time) and countries without such associations learned how such associations were created and how they operate in other countries. It was recommended to include a provision in phase-out management plans for HCFCs for capacity building and networking of national RAC associations.

The meeting also agreed on venues and dates of the forthcoming ECA enforcement network meeting to initiate regional cooperation of Customs and Ozone Officers to enforce trade controls for ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in ECA network countries. This year's meeting is scheduled for 12-14 October 2009 in Budapest, Hungary and will be organised back-to-back with a regional Green Customs workshop raising awareness on other Multilateral Environmental Agreements related to hazardous waste, toxic chemical and endangered species. In 2010, similar meetings will take place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

The Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the OzonAction Branch of UNEP's Division on Technology, Industry & Economics jointly organised the annual ECA network meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, 18-22 May 2009. It was opened by the First Deputy Minister Simon Papyan of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and UN Resident Representative Vidal Consuela. Representatives of UNDP, UNIDO, and UNEP, bilateral partners from Hungary and Romania supported the meeting as resource persons.

In addition to the above-mentioned topics, the following items were also considered: Awareness raising on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments, status of compliance, data reporting and ratification, status of HCFC phase-out management plan preparation and MDI stakeholder consultations. Meeting participants also agreed on the work programmes 2009 / 2010 for ECA network and associated CEIT countries and set priorities.

The participants included Ozone Officers and Heads of national RAC associations of the ECA network and associated CEIT countries as well as representatives of the implementing agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP), bilateral partners (Hungary, Romania) and international organizations (AREA, RILO CIS, IIR).

The meeting documents and presentations will shortly be made available through the ECA network's website: [http://jp1.estis.net/sites/ecanetwork/default.asp?site=ecanetwork&page\\_id=CCCCE749-C977-4A0D-9CF0-0E43578B048F](http://jp1.estis.net/sites/ecanetwork/default.asp?site=ecanetwork&page_id=CCCCE749-C977-4A0D-9CF0-0E43578B048F)

### **For further information please contact:**

Asya Muradyan, National Ozone Unit,  
Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia  
Tel: +374-10541182, Fax: +374-10541183  
[asya.muradyan@undp.org](mailto:asya.muradyan@undp.org)

Halvart Koeppen, Regional Officer (Europe & Central Asia)  
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch  
Tel: +33-1443714-32, Fax: +33-1443714-74  
[halvart.koppen@unep.org](mailto:halvart.koppen@unep.org)