



COMMUNIQUES, DOCUMENTS, AND SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES ON ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF POLAND

I. PROS COMMUNIQUES AND DOCUMENTS

PROBLEMY EKOROZWOJU – PROBLEMS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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PROS Plenary Sessions in 2008

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Due to the § 14 of the *PROS Internal Regulations* (see below) meetings of the Council were held twice in 2008 – on April 10th and November 13th. Agendas of both events as well as some more important items will be presented and discussed.

Agenda of the 3rd PROS Plenary Meeting, April 10th, 2008

- (1) **Acceptance of the Agenda,**
- (2) **Handling of Nomination Acts to new Council Members – Minister,**
- (3) ***Current Environmental Problems of Poland*, presentation by the Minister of Environment – Professor Maciej Nowicki,**
- (4) ***Energy Policy and Climate Changes* – prof. Maciej Sadowski,**
- (5) **Final approval of the *Internal Regulations of PROS*,**
- (6) **Information about PROS Presidium activities since last Plenary,**
- (7) **Approval of the *PROS Annual Working Plan for 2008*,**

(8) **Internal communication of PROS Members via Internet – info,**

(9) **PROS semi-annual journal – *Problems of Sustainable Development*,**

(10) **Acceptance of Minutes from the 2nd PS on 5.12.2007,**

(11) **Matters arising.**

Abbreviated extraction from Minutes of the most important items is as follows:

(2) After last nomination of PROS members the set of the Council reached its upper limit 30.

(3) Professor Maciej Nowicki presented four selected issues, he found to be crucial for the ministerial strategy for approaching years:

- **Creation of appropriate law** – Poland completed a great job before the accession to EU and the current legislation activity should concentrate on critical implementation of EU law with a special attention to such issues as the impact on the environment and a consensus between NATURA 2000 requirements and harmonic

development of infrastructure – *Economic development – YES, but with the great attention to nature.*

- **Execution of law** – requires adequate tools to execute the law – the Ministry is just working on organization of an agency to head regional *Environmental Inspectorates*, which are now under jurisdiction of Self-Governments of 16 regions of Poland (Voyevodships). Functions of the Ministry should concentrate on such main issues as: creation of new law, elaboration of strategies, verifying and accepting of large project proposals and international collaboration. The Agency should perform a powerful *Environmental Police* having a large controlling authority.
 - **Financial resources to obey the law** – about 20% (5 mld. E) out of the current EU budget devoted to Poland is just a part of large environmental expenditures to be covered by the national budget.
 - **Education for Sustainable Development** – Minister underlined the importance of NGOs as well as councils like PROS and PROP activities and pointed out as an example a growing consciousness and concern of the society on the climate change issue as a result of organization by Poland the COP-14 in Poznan.
- (4) Professor Maciej Sadowski (PROS Vice-Chairman) presented preparatory works to the COP-14, concentrating chiefly on scientific aspects of the conference, he is responsible for. He suggested wider engagement of some PROS Members in this important task.
- (5) After PROS Presidium work on the draft document and via Internet discussion by all PROS Members *Internal Regulations of the State Environmental Council of Poland* were approved in a final form (see below).
- (7) Work Plan for 2008, consisting of some issues to be completed by the Presidium and others to be done by WGs was discussed and approved (see below).
- (9) Results of this item discussion could be seen in the journal in front of us.

Internal Regulations of the State Environmental Council of Poland

§ 1

The State Environmental Council of Poland called later „the Council” was nominated based on Art. 390 of the Act of April 27th, 2001 – Environmental Law Act (Dz. U. of 2006 No 129, poz. 902, with later changes) through the Decision No 14 by Minister of Environment of June 11th, 2007 dealing with an establishing of the set of members of the State Environmental Council of Poland, changed by the Decisions of the Minister of Environment: No 16 of July 20th, 2007, No 24 of November 14th, 2007, No 3 of February 8th, 2008 and No 7 of April 2nd, 2008, to be the advisory and opinion creating body to the minister responsible for environmental affairs.

§ 2

Regulations describe organization and rules of functioning of the Council

§ 3

The Council consists of: the chairperson, two Deputies to the Chair, the Secretary and Members in a total number up to 30 nominated by the minister responsible for environmental affairs for 5 years term among representatives of science, professional circle, eco-NGOs as well as self-government of economic circle.

§ 4

The Council Presidium consists of: the Chairperson, his two Deputies, the Secretary and other Members called by the Minister on Chair's motion. Heads of working groups are also members of the Presidium.

§ 5

To carry on current activities the Presidium could authorize the Board consisted of the Chairperson his Deputies, the Secretary and the clerk of the Office of Minister responsible for the Council Secretariat.

§ 6

The Council's range of activities consists of elaboration (for the sake of the minister responsible for environmental affairs) of opinions dealing with environmental protection and proposals and conclusions leading to create conditions of sustainable development and environmental protection as well as to protect or improve the status of environment.

§ 7

Demanding any Council's opinion, the minister responsible for environmental affairs should attach adequate materials.

§ 8

Specific tasks of the Presidium of the Council are, to:

1. establish of Council's work-plan,
2. organize of Council's activities,
3. prepare and call for Council's meetings,
4. prepare of documents to be opinioned by the Council's quorum via Internet,
5. initiate events of various scale (conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops), devoted to discuss crucial problems of environmental protection and sustainable development,
6. inform about realization of Council's resolutions,
7. apply to the minister to finance some expenditures to complete projects linked with Council's tasks, requiring such external elaborations,
8. present to the Council information concerning Presidium activities.

§ 9

To complete work necessary to accomplish work-plan tasks the Presidium is authorized to establish permanent or *ad-hoc* working groups formed out of the Council members or recruited from outside, observing the following rules:

- 1) a working group is coordinated by its chairperson,
- 2) working groups are completing their tasks mainly via Internet and have real meetings while approved by the Presidium,
- 3) invited experts could join a working group,
- 4) a working group could apply to the Council's Chairperson to contract elaboration of required expertise,
- 5) working groups could organize an event initiated by Presidium – § 7, 5.

§ 10

Each Member of the Council is obliged to participate in activities of at least one working group.

§ 11

Specific tasks of the Chairperson of the Council are, to:

- 1) call for meetings of the Presidium of the Council,
- 2) chair meetings of the Council and the Presidium,
- 3) elaborate agendas of meetings of the Council and the Presidium,
- 4) undertake actions on behalf of the Presidium of the Council due to a received authorization,
- 5) observe a proper and in a due time realization of tasks constituting the range of the Council activities.

§ 12

The Council Secretary is responsible for technical and office services and for Internet communication

of Members of the Council. The Council Chairperson could establish the Plenipotentiary for Internet Contacts.

§ 13

- 1) The Member of the Council could quit the membership informing the minister responsible for environmental affairs.
- 2) If the Member would be not present at three plenary meetings or would exhibit a permanent lack of activity within the working group he has chosen the Chairperson of the Council on his own initiative or following the request of the Chair of adequate working group could suggest to a non-active member to resign his membership.
- 3) Meetings of the Council could attended on advisory basis be person invited by the Chairperson of the Council.

§ 14

- 1) Plenary Meetings of the Council should be called on according the work-plan, but not less than twice a year.
- 2) Extraordinary Meetings of the Council could be called on initiatives of:
 - the Minister of Environment,
 - the Chairperson of the Council,
 - at least 1/3 of a total number of Members of the Council.
- 3) Resolutions requiring an approval of quorum of the Council could be voted via Internet using individual login and password
- 4) The Presidium of the Council and working groups are working using Internet link. The Presidium is meeting due to requirements.

§ 15

The Chairperson of the Council after consulting the Presidium is presenting to the Minister the draft budget of the Council while the state budget for the next calendar year is composed and is announcing other tasks to be financed when they appear during the budget year.

§ 16

The Minister of Environment could grant international travels of the Council Members due to the motion of the Chairperson of the Council.

§ 17

Administrative services for the sake of the Council are provided by the Office of the Minister of Environment.

§ 18

Internal Regulations could be changed at the quorum of the Plenary Meeting of the Council by at least 50% of voting.

§ 19

Internal Regulations were preliminary accepted at the Plenary Meeting of the Council on December 5th, 2007 and after completion approved at the at the Plenary Meeting of the Council on April 10th, 2008.

§ 20

The Regulation of the State Environmental Council of July 6th, 2001 is terminating its validity,

PROS Work Plan for 2008**Main Problems (PRE)**

1. Consulting of a new version of *the State Ecological Policy*,
2. Discussion on *State Energy Policy*,
3. Considering *Solid Waste Management Problems*,
4. Economic Development versus Biodiversity – discussion and action,
5. Education for the sake of Sustainable Development – discussion and action.

Events Organized by PROS WGs

1. *Adoption of Forest Ecosystems as a Part of Scenarios of Climate Changes* – preparation of negotiation position for Poznan Conference (EE & BD).
2. Organization of the *7th International Conference Education for Sustainable Development* – preparatory works – 2008 ; the event – October 2009 (ED).

Mutual and other Events

1. Conferences with PROP (*State Nature Protection Council*) on issues of mutual interest (PRE),
2. EEA Seminar in Copenhagen (EEA, SD),
3. EEAC 16th Annual Conference and Plenary Session, Bordeaux, (CH),
4. Participation of PROS WGs members in the EEAC WGs meetings (finances?).

Experts Duties

1. Functioning of the *CAP* in terms of the *Lisbon Strategy* (AE),
2. Influence of biomass production for energetic use on environment (AE),
3. Relations between implementation of *Natura 2000* and preservation of biodiversity (BD),
4. Assessment of the progress in implementation of *the National Strategy and Program of Ecological Education* (ED),

5. Monitoring of realization of tasks related to *the UN Decade of Education for the Sake of Sustainable Development in years 2005-2014* (ED),
6. Diagnosis on *the Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Country* (SD),
7. Assessment on implementation of *the EU Agenda 21* in the scope of a sustainable development of tourism in Poland (SD),
8. Current problems of water economy in Poland – urgent undertakings (WE),
9. New concepts on collection and segregation of municipal wastes (EG),
10. Relation between environmental law improvement and anthropogenic discharge to the environment (WE),
11. Improvements of energy saving and limiting of rural low emission (EG).

Other Tasks

1. Elaboration of an application for a grant to assess perspective of water resources (WE).
2. Edition of PROS semi-annual journal merged with currently edited – *Problems of Sustainable Development* (EG & WE).

Legend: CH – chairman PRE – Presidium;

WGs: AE – Agriculture & Environment; BD – Biodiversity; ED – Education for SD; EE – Energy & Environment; EG – Environmental Governance; SD – Sustainable Development; WE – Water Economy.

Agenda of the 4th PROS Plenary Meeting, November 13th, 2008

- (1) **Acceptance of the Agenda,**
- (2) **Status of preparatory works to COP-14 and the PROS Delegation for Poznan,**
- (3) **Establishing of the *General Environmental Directorate* – information presented by the Deputy Minister,**
- (4) **Exploitation of resources for environmental investments and status of implementing of the EU Program *Infrastructure and Environment* – presented by Director of Minister's Office,**
- (5) **Status of Preparatory works to issue the new *State Ecological Policy Act*,**
- (6) **Information about the 16th EEAC Conference & APS in Bordeaux – chairman,**
- (7) **Information about PROS Presidium activities since the last Plenary Meeting**
- (8) **WGs Heads' proposals to the *PROS Annual Work Plan for 2009*,**
- (9) **Information about the accreditation of PROS Members to the Internet communication system and suggestions concerning the PROS home page,**

- (10) **Information about status of preparation to the first issue of periodical co-edited by PROS – *Problems of Sustainable Development* – presented by the editor,**
- (11) **Acceptance of Minutes from the 3rd PM on 10.04.2008,**
- (12) **Matters arising.**

Abbreviated extraction from Minutes of the most important items is as follows:

(2) Professor Maciej Sadowski presented (Polish version of the pp of this presentation available on PROS home page at: www.mos.gov.pl/pros) the current status of preparation to the COP-14. The PROS Chairman informed that Prof. Maciej Sadowski apart from his function as the person responsible for the scientific preparation of the conference has been nominated the head of PROS Delegation to the COP-14 and two other members of PROS representation are Prof. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz and Prof. Ryszard Janikowski – all three are included in the National Delegation of Poland to that Summit.

(3) Doctor Maciej Trzeciak delivered a wide information (Polish version of the pp of this presentation available also on PROS home page) about finalizing of the Ministry of Environment plan to create an agency to deal with the environmental control – obeying law, proper spending of investment resources, both internal and external other crucial controlling functions. The institution has been named *the General Environmental Directorate*.

(4) Ms. Monika Kaczynska presented (Polish version of the pp of this presentation available also on PROS home page) the current status of exploitation of funds devoted for environmental purposes as a part of implementation of *Infrastructure and Environment Program supported by EU resources*.

It appeared that 90 projects were completed (88 investment type – 79 water & wastewater, 8 solid waste, 1 air pollution). Moreover, 95% of all available resources (1.23 mld E – 43% of total cost) have been already contracted.

The Program *I & E* will require 37.6 mld E and out of 15 axes 5 deals with environmental tasks – (i) Water & Wastewater; (ii) Solid Waste & Surface Protection; (iii) Resources Management & Hazards Prevention; (iv) Adjustment of Enterprises to Environmental Standards; (v) Nature Protection & Creation of Ecological Attitudes.

(5) The last version of the new *State Ecological Policy Act* was presented. The discussion was very modest since the act has been already sent to the Parliament.

(8) Discussion on 2009 Work Plan was adjourned for later consideration and will be proposed by the Presidium and approved via Internet communication.