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Preface

The preparatory mission for the Environmental Performance Review of Kyrgyzstan was organized in April 2000. The structure as well as the organizational details of the project were decided on that occasion. The review team for the project was constituted following these decisions and included national experts from Armenia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and the Russian Federation, together with the ECE secretariat, experts from the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and from the Bilthoven Division of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO/ECEH). The costs of the participation of experts from countries in transition, as well as the travel expenses of the ECE secretariat, were covered by extrabudgetary funds that had been made available from Italy and Switzerland. The contributions were essential to the implementation of the project.

The review mission to Kyrgyzstan was undertaken in October 1999. The draft of the EPR report was finalized subsequently and was submitted to Peer Review by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its annual session in Geneva on 25 September 2000. Prior to Peer Review, the EPR Expert Group, together with a high-level delegation from Kyrgyzstan, considered the report and proposed modifications of the EPR recommendations to the Committee. At the end of its deliberations, the Committee approved the recommendations as they are set out in this report.

The review of Kyrgyzstan's environmental performance highlighted the outstanding natural beauty of the country and the efforts and difficulties for environmental management to maintain it under difficult economic circumstances, which call for substantial changes in the economic structure and in production processes. It is hoped that Kyrgyz environmental management will find the methods for effective coordination with other national administrations in order to strengthen its contribution to a future sustainable development of the country.

The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the ECE review team wish the Kyrgyz Government success in their important future tasks, including the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present report

LIST OF TEAM MEMBERS

Mr. Andreas KAHNERT	(ECE secretariat)	Team Leader
Mr. Ivan NARKEVITCH	(ECE secretariat)	Project Coordinator
Ms. Irina KRASNOVA	(RUSSIAN FEDERATION)	Chapter 1
Mr. Paolo BACCA	(DENMARK)	Chapter 2
Ms. Elina PALM	(ISDR)	Chapter 3
Ms. Irina KRASNOVA	(UNEP)	Chapter 4
Mr. Claus BUNNENBERG	(GERMANY)	Chapter 5
Ms. Catherine MASSON	(ECE secretariat)	Chapter 6
Mr. Michel HOUSSIAU	(BELGIUM)	Chapter 7
Ms. Katharina HÄBERLI	(SWITZERLAND)	Chapter 8
Ms. Nuneh DARBINYAN	(ARMENIA)	Chapter 9
Mr. Michal KRZYZANOWSKI	(WHO/ECEH)	Chapter 10

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