

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Albania

Environmental Performance Reviews

Second Review



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ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

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Foreword

In 1993, Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) were initiated at the second Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, in Lucerne, Switzerland. They were intended to cover the UNECE States that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Subsequently, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy decided to make them part of its regular programme.

At the fifth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Kiev, 2003), the Ministers affirmed their support for the EPR Programme, and decided that the Programme should continue with a second cycle of reviews. This second cycle, while assessing the progress made since the first review process, puts particular emphasis on implementation, integration, financing and the socio-economic interface with the environment.

Through the peer review process, EPRs promote dialogue among UNECE member States and the harmonization of environmental conditions and policies throughout the region. As a voluntary exercise, an EPR is undertaken only at the request of the country concerned.

The studies are carried out by international teams of experts from the region working closely with national experts from the reviewed country. The teams also benefit from close cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system, for instance the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and other organizations.

This is the second EPR of Albania published by UNECE. The review takes stock of progress made by the country in the management of its environment since the country was first reviewed in 2002. It assesses the implementation of the recommendations in the first review (annex I). This second EPR also covers 10 issues of importance to the country related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects, and the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies.

I hope that this second EPR will be useful in supporting policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and to further promote sustainable development in Albania, and that the lessons learned from the peer review process will also benefit other countries of the ECE region.



Sven Alkalaj
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

Preface

The second EPR of Albania began in June 2011 with a preparatory mission. During this mission, the final structure of the report was discussed and established. A review mission took place on 4-10 October 2011. The team of international experts taking part included experts from Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova and Slovakia as well as from the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the ECE secretariat.

The draft EPR report was submitted to Albania for comments and to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration in March 2012. During its meeting on 3-4 April 2012, the Expert Group discussed the report in detail with representatives of the Government of Albania, focusing, in particular, on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts.

The EPR recommendations, with amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the eighteenth session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on 18 April 2012. A delegation from Albania participated in the peer review. The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in this report.

The Committee on Environmental Policy and the UNECE review team would like to thank the Government of Albania and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and assistance. UNECE wishes the Government of Albania further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including the implementation of the recommendations in this second review.

UNECE would also like to express its appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and to the German Federal Environment Agency for their support of the EPR Programme through the Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; and Germany, UNEP and the EEA for having delegated their experts for the review; and UNDP for their support of the EPR Programme and this review.



Team of experts for the second EPR of Albania, 2011

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