

Nubarashen POPs pesticides burial site in Armenia Emergency case

OSCE's efforts to work towards a definitive
solution

Amb. Sergey Kapinos
OSCE Office in Yerevan

Armenia Emergency Burial Site

Designed in
1976

Disposed in 80s

Many
complaints
since 2000

Maintenance
works in 2004

2010 cover
destroyed by
unknown
people

Request for assistance 2009

- Late 2009 Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations requested OSCE assistance to assess situation at Nubarashen landfill
- April 2010 OSCE confronted with a potentially catastrophic situation
- Emergency situation : cover of landfill removed with direct exposure for people and cattle and spread into environment

Concerned
people
living
downstream

2006



Concerned people living
downstream



April
2010

Environmental catastrophe?

What did we do?

We acted

What did we do?

- Alerted Armenian Government
- Government set up Emergency Working Group to take lead of actions
- President made available some 80,000 EUR for ad hoc closure
- Finalised Emergency Closure

First step but only temporary solution



Status today –future plans

- Next step is feasibility study which will determine a plan for clean-up phase
- MFA of Armenia and OSCE approached many donors
- Donor coordination arranged - at present list of 10 interested donors
- UNDP will prepare GEF proposal (GEF financial mechanism of Stockholm Convention 1.5-2 MUSD)

Future Problems?

- The Nubarashen emergency burial site is not the only POPs/Pesticides burial site in Armenia
- We need to work together towards a structural solution

Future Role of the EU

- Create public awareness
- Make inventory for sites in Armenia and assess and prioritize the risks
- Secure sites with high risks
- Then make action plans for collection
- Centralization
- Final elimination

Goal: Work towards an environment
free of obsolete pesticides