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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN ESTONIA

Summary

Following independence from the CIS, the environmental situation in Estonia has improved considerably because of the economic recession and high investments. Despite the very recent signing of the Association Agreement, Estonia has already made considerable progress in harmonization of environmental legislation. All White Paper legislation will probably have been transposed by the end of 1999. Adoption of the remaining acquis communautaire is planned for the end of 2001. Even though this date is rather unrealistic, the acquis will probably be adopted before Estonia's accession.

However, application and transposition in the high-investment areas is currently very patchy and has to be improved.

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN ESTONIA

I. Introduction

With a population of 1.46 million and a surface area of 45,100 square kilometres, Estonia is the smallest of the Baltic States. 47.7% of its surface area consists of forests, 27.07% agricultural land, 20% marshland and 0.67% in built-up areas.

The economic decline which started after independence was stopped in 1994; since 1995 the economy has been booming again (average growth rate 4%). However, in 1997, Estonia failed to reach the 1990 level of GDP.

In terms of environmental policy, Estonia faces the problem of the legacy of the Soviet era and obsolete industries, while at the same time - in common with most of the CECs it has valuable and untouched natural areas. Pollution of the environment has been cut considerably since 1990 following the economic collapse and as a result of investments in the environment.

In the Baltic States too, opposition forces are lined up behind the environmental movement. As a consequence, environmental protection played a significant role in the first few years in Estonia. Because of the economic problems caused by the transformation and the desire for more consumer goods and mobility, environmental policy has been pushed increasingly into the background despite the large level of interest on the part of the general public.

II. Environmental policy

1. Legislative developments

Estonia has been pursuing an independent environmental policy since the 1980s, although environmental protection was not incorporated in the constitution until the new constitution was adopted in 1992. It set aside some previous legislation (e.g. on water), but most of it continues unchanged (e.g. legislation concerning air).

The environmental protection law adopted in 1990 provides the framework for further environmental legislation. It defines the principles and objectives of Estonian environmental policy. These are in line with those of the EU. One major concern of the law is the creation of economic instruments to achieve environmental objectives. To this end, levies have been introduced for the use of natural resources and for environmental pollution. They are payable for the use of oil, natural construction materials, peat and water. Environmental pollution levies are payable for the discharge of harmful substances into water or into the air and for the dumping of waste matter.

As part of the task force work on enlargement of the EU, a separate working paper has appeared with the title 'Environmental Policy and Enlargement' (PE 167.402) which discusses the environmental issues connected with enlargement.

A compulsory environmental impact procedure has also been introduced. In 1993, 34 environmental compatibility studies were carried out. The environmental compatibility procedure is anchored in the law on sustainable development (1995) as part of environmental policy. An independent environmental compatibility directive is to be adopted in April 1998, but the Integration Pollution and Prevention Control Directive (IPPC)[1] will not take effect until the year 2000.

In many areas of Estonian environmental policy only framework laws have been adopted so far. In most cases there are no detailed measures. In countless instances, many laws from the Soviet period continue to apply. In recent years a lot of new environmental laws have been adopted which introduce new features and replace old ones as the following table shows:

Table 1: *Environmental law: 1990-1997*[2]

Year	Law	Government Order	Ministerial Order
1990	1	6	4
1991	2	9	12
1992	1	9	4
1993	5	22	32
1994	12	24	61
1995	9	56	44

Source: http://www.envir.ee/ehp/legisl.htm

According to the UN's ECE, Estonia has been relatively successful in drafting new environmental legislation. Most of its new laws are based on western European or international models. The ECE concludes: 'the main concern is the ability of the government to implement them'.

In fact the regions and local authorities often do not have the requisite experts; nor do they have adequate human and financial resources to carry out their tasks. Firms, by contrast, do not have the necessary funding to purchase western technology to comply with the stringent standards. The authorities often 'turn a blind eye' in order not to jeopardize jobs.

The national environmental action plan (NEAP) was developed in the mid 1990s and is currently being implemented. Under this plan, $ 690 m is to be invested over the next 10 years in environmental protection. In 1996 expenditure on environmental protection in Estonia amounted to ECU 60.3 m on the part of non-banks and private-sector regulatory bodies. The contribution by industry amounted to ECU 52 m (compared with ECU 25.2 m in 1995).

Public-sector expenditure on the environment as a percentage of GDP is roughly as high as the EU average. The government is concerned to secure financing for environmental investments, particularly for the critical Eastern Baltic region. Estonia has been very successful in mobilizing

[1] Based on Directive 96/61/EEC on the integrated prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, which provides for an integrated plant approval procedure.

[2] A survey of Estonian environmental legislation can be found on *http://www.envir.ee/ehp/legisl.htm.*

foreign support. For example, more than 40% of investments have been financed by international loans.

One other important factor in Estonian environmental policy is the Estonian Environmental Fund, which was set up in 1983 and reformed in 1994[3]. Its substantial income (ECU 2.7 m in 1995) comes from environmental levies from industry, fines, the granting of licences and also foreign donors. It finances environmental protection projects through credits on various terms and non-repayable advances.

2. Administrative structure

Since 1989 Estonia has had an independent environment ministry with a staff of 105 (1995) which is responsible not only for the environment and the protection of nature but also for the management of mineral resources, planning and building. The environment ministry formulates the national environmental strategy, prepares legislative processes, collects information and performs a supervisory role.

The enforcement of legislation is the responsibility of five authorities reporting to the ministry: the State Marine Inspectorate, the Environmental and Nature Protection Inspectorate, the Forestry Authority, the Land Authority and the Fisheries Authority. These are supported by 60 regional environmental administrations for purposes of implementing and monitoring laws. Responsibility for the application of environmental legislation lies with the Environmental and Nature Protection Inspectorate. Since 1993, the gathering and processing of information has been the responsibility of the Environmental Information Centre.

The environment ministry cooperates closely with other ministries in integrating horizontal aspects of environmental protection in other policy areas. It is the opinion of the UN's ECE, that the role of the environment ministry within the government has improved continuously from 1992 to 1996.

There is close cooperation with academic bodies. Consequently, there is little involvement on the part of NGOs and industry. Since Estonia's government is obliged to release information, subject to the usual restrictions (1990 Nature Protection Act), the work of the NGOs is in theory made easier. However, there are still no regulations spelling out details of the information directive and the law is accordingly applied in a restrictive way. Of the 35 environmental NGOs, the most important are the Estonian Nature Conservation, the Estonian Nature Fund, and the Green Movement.

III. Environmental situation

1. General

The state of the environment in Estonia has improved quite considerably in the years since Estonia's independence from the CIS. A large part of these improvements is due to the decline in industrial output, which was more marked in more environmentally intensive areas than elsewhere. Nonetheless, a considerable proportion is also due to a successful environmental policy and high investments in environmental protection.

[3] For its activities see *http://www.envir.ee/ehp/econom1/htm.*

The most serious environmental problems are pollution in the industrialized areas of the north and the north-east. The main factors here are pollution from the oil shale industry and major power stations. Air pollution and the resultant acid rain are also one of the main environmental problems. There are still numerous hot spots due partly to heavy industry and partly to Red Army bases (1.8% of national territory). As far as waste is concerned, the inadequately equipped dumps with poor safety facilities and the low recycling percentage are causes for concern. There is also a considerable need to improve administrative and management capacities.

The 1 500 military installations of the former Soviet military army enjoy a special status. 290 installations are slightly polluted, 300 have medium pollution with oil and chemicals and 135 are very heavily contaminated. In addition, because of firing ranges, some 8 000 hectares are polluted with non-exploded bombs, heavy metals and chemicals (Pakri Island, Aegviidu and Utsali), and the former military airports polluted with oil and chemical residues are particularly seriously contaminated.

2. Air

2.1. Situation

Estonia emits a substantial volume of substances harmful to the air and consequently has a high degree of air pollution. The main sources of emission in 1995 were the energy sector (61.3%), the building industry (19.4%) and the oil shale industry (3.5%).

Since independence from the Soviet Union the air has become cleaner mainly because of the economic collapse and also because of high environmental protection investments, as the following table shows:

Table 2: *Trends in air pollution in Estonia*[4]

In tonnes per annum	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**
SO_2	180 000	142 000	140 000	110 000	120 000
NOx	39 000	40 000	42 000	48 000	no information available
CO_2	29 000 000	23 000 000	24 000 000	18 000 000	no information available
Dust from stationary sources	240 000	180 000	160 000	125 000	100 000

90% of *emissions of harmful substances by industry* in Estonia are concentrated in the north and the north-east. This is mainly because of the two major power stations in the industrial city of Narva. In 1994 the two power stations accounted for 70% of SO_2 emissions, 40% of NOx emissions and

[4] Unless otherwise indicated, all tables are taken from Baltic environmental forum (October 1997), Riga.

50% of dust emissions. The Kunda cement works is responsible for 30% of dust emissions. 85% of heavy metals and compounds such as benzopyrene are emitted in the Harju district (north).

The main polluters of air in Estonia are the electricity and heat power stations. Output fell by 50% from 1990 to 1996. However, since gas and oil as imported fuels have had to be replaced by the native oil shale, emissions have fallen by 'only' 40%. In contrast to its Baltic neighbours, Estonia is still a net exporter of SO_2. For example in 1995 the SO_2 pollution at 74 kg per inhabitant was far in excess of the mean value for Europe as a whole (56 kg per inhabitant). Considerable strain is expected to be taken off the environment over the next few years as a result of the construction of a new major power station in the north and as a result of Finnish investments in desulphurization measures.

In the *transport* sector emissions have been rising again since 1992. The number of motor vehicles increased by 60% between 1991 and 1994. The problems are caused by the low technical standards and the high consumption of the vehicles. The use of leaded fuels and poor fuels, for which there is no tax disincentive, seriously aggravates the pollution balance. Emissions in the transport sector are one of the most rapidly growing threats to the environment in Estonia.

Nevertheless, concentrations of harmful substances have exceeded the permitted concentrations only in a few districts. Limit values for substances harmful to the air recorded in 10 major cities in the country were significantly exceeded only in Tallinn in 1995.

Air pollution is controlled not only through standards but also through licencing policy. Industries which emit polluting substances have to purchase emission licences valid for five years. Exceeding the values attracts a hefty fine. The revenue benefits the Environmental Fund.

Infringements of existing standards declined for the first time from 1994 (259) to 1995 (141)[5]. This is due not least to more rigorous action on the part of the inspectorate.

2.2. Legal position

In 1998 Estonia adopted a framework directive on clean air policy which is identical to Directive 96/62/EEC (ambient air quality assessment and management).

A regulation corresponding to Decision 88/609/EEC on emissions from large combustion plant is to be adopted in spring 1998. It is the opinion of the Stockholm Environmental Institute that the existing plants are able to comply with the standards laid down in the relevant EU directives.

Standards adopted in the Soviet period are still enforced in the clean air policy. Although they are in line with WHO standards, they are often not applied or enforced.

3. Water

3.1. Situation

According to information from the Baltic Environmental Forum, the water quality of the *1500 lakes and 420 rivers* has improved considerably since 1980. This trend has continued in the 1990s because of measures to protect ground water and the shutdown of the cellulose industry which is a particular source of pollution of water. According to information from the Estonian environment ministry

[5] All information on infringements can be found on *http://ww.envir.ee/ehp/superv1.htm*

released in 1996, on the basis of its own classification system, only 1% of stretches of water are highly polluted, 13% show signs of medium pollution and 16% are slightly polluted. The highest polluted stretches are those in the area of the former Russian military bases. Fossil fuels, a wide variety of chemicals and heavy metals are contributory factors. In the industrial regions of the north, too, there is serious pollution with heavy metals and chemicals.

Estonia has adequate water reserves and only 50% of the annual water output is consumed.

In 1995 *drinking water quality* failed to comply with the statutory bacteriological standards in 10.7% of cases. In 23.7% of cases there was excess chemical pollution. The maximum permissible quantity was exceeded in 42.1% of the cases for surface water and 4.6% of cases for ground water. Two-thirds of ground water is used for water supplies.

The quality of the *ground water* well below the surface is very good, but higher up it is polluted by nitrates. The nitrate content is exceed by 45% of sources. Thanks to reduced use of fertilizers, the situation has improved in recent years. In the area around Narva, the ground water is contaminated, thanks to oil shale production, by sulphates, phenols and other toxic substances. In the north-east of the country the excessive use of water and the production of oil shale have resulted in a dangerous lowering of the ground water level.

Table 3: Trends in ground water pollution from 1992 to 1996

In tonnes per annum	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**
Nitrogen	5635	4241	3614	3503	3200
Phosphates	673	445	353	321	304
BOD_7[6]	18084	11 250	5 711	4 481	4 174
Sulphates	102 000	107 550	87 840	92 940	no information available
Chlorides	14 600	12 830	13 880	14 000	no information available
Oil products	154	127	76	93	no information available

Source: Estonian Environment, P. 29 ff.

In common with the other countries bordering the Baltic, Estonia has ratified the two Helsinki agreements (1974 and 1992) on protection of the *Baltic*. Investments in recent years have resulted in a substantial reduction in harmful substances discharged by Estonia. However, eutrophication is still a major problem. Despite reductions in recent years, organic harmful substances and heavy metals have also reached critical values in certain instances.

[6] Mean value of 7 oxygen-consuming substances.

The total volume of discharged *waste water* has been cut by a third since 1990. The volume of waste water classified as polluted has fallen by a good 40%.

Table 4: *Volume of waste water*

In million m^3 per year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total volume	2692	2063	1962	1849	1692
Waste water requiring no treatment	2239	1667	1582	1452	1375
not treated	21	23	19	18	63.2
treated	427	370	359	378	252.8

Source: www.envir.ee

With the reduction in discharges of waste water there has also been a reduction in the volume of harmful substances discharged into lakes and rivers. One striking fact is that since 1990 the volume of organic substances discharged has been reduced by 70%. Discharges of suspended matter have been halved since 1990 and discharges of nitrogen and phosphates have been reduced by 44% each. Pollution of water by oil products has fallen by 60%, with an 85% reduction in phenol discharges which come largely from the oil industry.

Infringements against the existing legislation fell again from 1994 (1714) to 1995 (1990) This is due not least to a more stringent approach on the part of the inspectorate. In 1995 there were also 691 infringements of waste water rules. From 1990 to 1996 a total of ECU 20.9 m was spent of water protection. This amount increased from year to year. For example, in 1995 alone, ECU 6.6 m was invested in water protection (the state contributed ECU 2.7 m, the Environment Fund ECU 0.96 m and foreign donors ECU 3.1 m).

In 1994 a water protection programme was adopted for the period 1995 - 2000.

3.2. Legal position

In 1994 the Estonian Parliament adopted a new water law which satisfies the requirements of the Helsinki Convention. This has facilitated adaptation to EU legislation. In fact, there are scarcely any deviations from Community standards. The Helsinki Convention merely gives participating nations a longer transitional period than the corresponding EU provisions.

Given the large investments involved, it is assumed that there will be some delay in applying and enforcing of standards.

4. Waste

4.1. Situation

The volume of local authority waste in Estonia has increased substantially in recent years but the volume of dangerous waste has fallen only slightly.

Table 5: *Trends in volume of waste*

in 1000 m_3	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**
Local authority waste[7]	no information available	1441	2131	2356	2562
Dangerous waste	7730	7475	7273	7679	7639
Dangerous waste as a percentage of total volume of waste	63	53	54.05	no information available	no information available

Source: Baltic 1997

The oil shale industry produces almost all the *dangerous waste*. In 1995 only 13% of the waste was treated and the rest was stored untreated. However, many of the 450 waste dumps do not satisfy the current requirements. Many are leaky, with the result that the dangerous substances they contain are washed away by the rain and enter the soil and ground water. However, there is still a lack of information about dangerous dumps and contaminated industrial sites.

The *recycling rate* doubled from 1993 to 1995 from 10.6% to 21%. This percentage is to be further increased. As part of a state waste recycling programme, which has been in operation since 1995 in cooperation with the Danish firm Chemcontrol A/S, new facilities are to be established for the recycling and disposal of dangerous waste matter.

The *local authorities* have neither the money to carry out repairs nor the financial or technical resources for monitoring existing waste tips. From 1995 to 1997 EEK 159 m at 1994 prices[8] were invested in this area. By *the year 2000* the waste tips of the larger cities, at least, are to be updated and the number of tips reduced to 120.

Infringements of existing standards have risen continuously from 1992 (143) to 1995 (647). This is due not least to more rigorous action on the part of the Inspectorate.

4.2. Legal position

In 1992 a framework waste law was adopted which sets out the principles and objectives of Estonian waste policy, which are broadly in line with EU legislation in this field.

In implementing legislation too, Estonian laws are in many cases in agreement with, or more stringent than, the corresponding Community rules. Only in the area of dangerous waste, which makes up the lions share of waste, are any substantial efforts required. However, the existing legislation in this respect is at least in accordance with international agreements, since Estonia has

[7] Estonia has a different classification system to the EU and data are therefore not comparable.

[8] 1 ECU = EEK 15.3.

ratified and implemented the Basel Convention on Waste. Legislation is also required on dumps and waste incineration plant.

5. Nature conservation

5.1. Environmental situation

Estonia has considerable *biodiversity* (18 000 species of fauna, 9000 species of flora and 2000 higher types of plant). Depending on the variety an average of 4% of any given species are under threat (but 8% of amphibians). Amphibians and reptiles are subject to complete protection, while 70% of bird varieties, 47% of mammals and only 6.5% of fish are protected by statute. Fish stocks are in a good condition. However, an increase in cod fishing by 600% has substantially reduced stocks. The catch quotas are not yet exhausted.

In the early 1990s Estonia ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Estonia has four *national parks*, five state nature reserves and 50 other protected areas of various categories. In 1993, 7.8% of the area of Estonia was protected (according to IUCN criteria; or 23% according to Estonian criteria).

Estonia has large forest areas, moorlands and marshes. Pine, birch and spruce are the predominant tree varieties. Only 40% of reafforested areas are cut every year. Its marsh forests are unique in Europe with the exception of the other Baltic States. Large parts of the Estonian coast are still untouched, since it used to be a military prohibited area.

Only 19% (1996) of the unique marshes are protected. The remainder are threatened by drainage and peat cutting. In 1994 Estonia ratified the RAMSAR Convention of 1971.

There is a major *threat* to formerly unused areas on the coast of Estonia which are now to be 'developed' following privatization.

Infringements of existing legislation increased considerably from 1992 to 1995. Mention should be made of illegal timber felling (1995: 1862 cases) and fishing (1995: 1904 cases). There were also 161 violations of the hunting laws in 1995.

In 1995 the Environmental Fund invested ECU 0.18 m in nature conservation.

5.2. Legal position

The legal position in this area is in many cases more stringent and more up-to-date than that of the EU. Thanks to the higher level of training of staff, the application and enforcement of EU legislation presents no problems. Only Estonia's habitat directives need to be brought more in line with the acquis.

6. Nuclear safety

6.1. Situation

This sector relates solely to the legacy of the Soviet period and radiation in medical examinations. The latter are regulated in the same way as the Community rules.

Estonia no longer operates any nuclear power stations, although there are still dangerous sources of radiation. These include reactors belonging to the Soviet army, a nuclear waste dump and the Sillamäe metal factory which used to enrich uranium for civil and military purposes. Representatives of Russia and Finland decided on 20 July 1994 to shut down the reactors. This was done in 1995 with the support of a specially set-up international working party. The reactors are to be dismantled in 1998.

6.2. Legal position

A radiation law was adopted in 1997. The legal acts implementing the law are to be adopted by the end of 1998. The target is to achieve full harmonization with corresponding Community directives by the end of 1998.

IV. Estonia and the European Union

1. EU agreement and White Paper

In June 1995 Estonia signed with the EU a Europe Agreement (COM(95) 207 of 2 June 1995). In November 1995 Estonia also submitted a formal application for membership.

The Europe Agreement provides for cooperation between Estonia and the EU on the environment in the following areas:

- effective monitoring of environmental protection
- combating local, regional and cross-border pollution of air and water
- long-term effective and environmentally-friendly production and use of energy
- classification and safe use of chemicals
- prevention and reduction of pollution of water
- waste avoidance, recycling and safe disposal of waste
- environmental-friendly farming.

To achieve these objectives, the agreement provides for the following resources:

- exchange of information and experts
- training programmes
- joint research
- harmonization of legal provisions.

The Republic of Estonia submitted its application for membership of the European Union on 24 November 1995 and the Council of Ministers decided on 4 December 1995 to initiate the procedure pursuant to Article O of the Treaties on European Union, which provides for an opinion by the Commission. This was published in June 1997.

Implementation of these objectives will be sought via TAIEX, DISAE and PHARE, the last of which is the most important programme.

One part of the accession strategy is the *White Paper* on preparing the associated states of Central and Eastern Europe for the internal market of the European Union. The annex to the White Paper lists as core legal acts for implementing the acquis communautaire prior to accession 70 legal acts concerning the environment in relation to the internal market. On 25 August 1997 the Commission added to this inventory of Community environmental legislation the 'guidelines on the approximation of European Community legislation' to the legal acts not mentioned in the White Paper.

2. The PHARE programme

The PHARE programme which is intended to prepare the CEECs for accession and which mainly implements specific measures in support of the accession countries, is also one of the most important Community programmes in the environmental area. Five areas are to receive support as a matter of priority within the programme: European integration, the development of exports, regional development, public administration and infrastructural development, including environmental protection.

Between 1992 and 1996 PHARE invested a total of ECU 94.5 m in Estonia, with 3.5 m for environmental protection.

The following table shows the allocation of PHARE funding in the environmental sector in the CEECs.

Table 5

Environment and nuclear safety Funds allocated by country 1990-1997 (ECU million)						
	1990-93	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total
Albania	3.3	0	0	1.5	6.7	11.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	49.1	5	7	6	0	67.1
Czech Republic	0	0	0	5	0	5
Estonia	0	2.5	0	1	0	3.5
FYROM	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hungary	47	15.5	12	0	0	74.5
Latvia	0	5.5	0	1.1	0	6.6
Lithuania	0	1	0	2.5	0	3.5
Poland	75	12	22	5	0	114
Romania	5	0	0	8.4	35	48.4
Slovakia	0	0	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	4	4
Multi-country programmes	88.5	13	20	10	17	148.5
Other	20	23	20	15	11.7	89.7
Czechoslovakia	35	0	0	0	0	35
Total	322.9	77.5	82	55.5	76.4	614.3

Source: European Commission, DG 1A, F6(19.3.1998)

3. Progress in harmonization of legislation

According to the Estonian authorities[9], the following legal measures listed in the White Paper have now been adopted in Estonia.

Table 6

White Paper Chapter - Environment -	Directives		Regulations		Total
	Stage 1*	Stage II/III*	Stage I	Stage II/III	
Estonia	4	0	3	0	7
Number of White Paper measures	31	7	7	0	45

* Stage I directives and regulations have priority, as far as transposition is concerned, over Stages II and III

According to the Commission[10], Estonia should be able to achieve approximation of its environmental protection legislation to the acquis communautaire within the medium-term.

The government has set itself the task of adopting all the legal provisions mentioned in the White Paper by 1998. An approximation strategy needs to be tabled in 1998 for those provisions. Efforts will be needed to bring the recently adopted provisions on waste, water and nature conservation fully in line with EU legislation. There are not yet any legal provisions for radiation protection or the disposal of radioactive waste. There is a general lack of any safety concept in this area. Particular importance should be paid to speedy transposition of the framework directives on air, waste and water and the directive on integrated protection and prevention of environmental pollution. and on defining financing strategies for transposing legal regulations in the areas of water, air and waste, since significant investments are required here.

As far as major combustion plant and the water sector are concerned (in particular waste water treatment for small and medium-sized cities) actual alignment with the acquis will be most difficult because of the significant investments required. Substantial investments will also be required in industry. Urban air pollution, the disposal of solid waste and dangerous waste and the disposal of local authority waste are other areas requiring both investments and a greater public awareness. A particularly close watch needs to be kept on the situation concerning radioactive waste in Paldiski, the former Soviet Navy's U-boat base. Appropriate structures will need to be developed for implementation and enforcement. One major hurdle which needs to be overcome is the shortage of personnel familiar with the approximation of laws. As part of its environmental strategy prior to accession, Estonia needs to draw up timetables for transposing the acquis in matters relating to environmental protection, and a start should be made with transposing the framework directives mentioned above and the IPPC directive.

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[9] Agenda 2000, the opinion of the Commission on the application of Estonia to the European Union, 1997. Appendix to the opinion. The Commission expressly points out that inclusion in the table does not mean that it agrees with the analysis by the Estonian authorities.

[10] Agenda 2000, opinion of the Commission on the application of the Estonian Republic for accession to the European Union, 1997, p. 65, quoted below.

V. Multilateral and bilateral relations

1. Multilateral relations

Estonia signed the most important international conventions on the environment in the early 1990s. It has signed the following conventions: the RAMSAR Convention on the protection of wetlands (entered into force in 1994 in Estonia), the Biodiversity Convention (1994) the Washington CITES Convention on the trade in endangered species (1993), the Berne Convention on the conservation of European wild animals and their habitats (1992), MARPOL, and the Basel waste convention (1992), the Climate Convention (1994), and the ozone agreement (1997).

2. Bilateral relations

Estonia is working with the other Baltic states on preserving the Baltic Sea. It has signed the conventions on the Baltic and the convention on the protection and use of cross-border water courses and lakes.

There is an agreement with Russia on the protection and use of Lake Peispi (1991), an agreement on the protection and use of cross-border waters (1996).

There have been agreements since 1990 with its Baltic neighbours on the protection and use of natural resources. There are framework conventions on the protection of the environment with Finland (1991), Denmark (1991), Sweden (1992) and Germany (1992). There are also agreements with Finland on the protection of air and water and on oil pollution and control (all 1993).

There are fisheries agreements with Denmark, the USA, the EU, Canada, Sweden, Russia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland.

As part of their international aid programme, the USA. Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Canada, Norway and Belgium fund environmental protection in Estonia even where there are no specific agreements.

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Annex

Map of Estonia:

Source: Microsoft, Encarta.