

**REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 9 OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL,  
ENTITLED "RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EXCHANGE  
OF INFORMATION"**

In accordance with the Parties' obligations under Article 9 of the Montreal Protocol the Republic of Lithuania has prepared a report on activities conducted pursuant to this Article in 2006 - 2007.

Taking into account Decision XVII/24 of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties in which the Parties recognized, that information relevant to the reporting obligation contained in paragraph 3 of Article 9 may be generated through cooperative efforts undertaken in the context of regional ozone network, ozone research managers activities under Article 3 of the Vienna Convention and etc. it should be stressed that Lithuania in 2006 –2007 took part in relevant activities of the European Union as a member of that regional organization and in ozone manager activities. We believe that the European Union will present the relevant reports of the regional activities undertaken in 2006-2007 under Article 9 on behalf of itself and the Member States including the Republic of Lithuania.

As regards ozone research managers' activities, Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service under the Ministry of Environment performs measurements of atmospheric ozone and UV monitoring following the standard programme of observations of the World Meteorological Organization recommendable for hydrometeorological services. The Service carries out column ozone operational measurements and UV measurements. The corresponding report on the ozone research and monitoring activities in Lithuania was sent to the Ozone Secretariat and World Meteorological Organization by letter No (10-1)-D8-9956 of 7 April 2008.

This Report contains information on national activities, supplementary to the above mentioned, namely on:

- steps undertaken in 2006-2007 to reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances from refrigeration and air conditioning equipment as well as ODS waste handling;
- activities in implementing ozone friendly alternatives or alternative technologies;
- promoting of public awareness.

Taking into account the fact that the main ODS banks in Lithuania are in the refrigeration and air conditioning equipment,

recognizing that reduction of the ODS emissions from the equipment could be reduced significantly if the companies' personnel, which service ODS containing equipment, recover and recycle ODS as well as are involved into ODS and ODS containing waste management, are trained adequately,

the Lithuanian Government undertook steps to improve qualification of the personnel involved into activities mentioned.

In 2006-2007 the corresponding legal base was established, the new qualification requirements were adopted by the Government and the relevant ministries, training programmes were prepared, other preparatory and implementation work conducted including introduction of penalties for breaching the qualification requirements as well as distribution of circular letters to the stakeholders informing about the requirements.

The above activities on establishing a system for the training and certification of the personnel were conducted in close cooperation with stakeholders including corresponding non-governmental organizations:

- the National refrigeration association as regards qualification requirements and training programmes;
- the Certification Centre of Building Products as a body responsible for certification of personnel involved into dangerous waste treatment activities;

- the Labour Education and Training Service of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Education and Science as regards improving existing vocational education and training programmes by introducing special educational/training modules on ODS for students/participants undertaking training in refrigeration and air conditioning.

In 2006-2007 UNEP/UNDP GEF project "Total Sector Methyl Bromide Phase out in CEITs" was continued. The overall objective of the project was to phase out rapidly all non-exempted uses of methyl bromide, minimize demand for CUN and QPS and introduce sustainable alternative treatment methods in post-harvest sector. Under the project equipment for alternative treatment was supplied and industry was trained on how to implement alternatives to methyl bromide as well public awareness raising activities conducted *inter alia* dissemination of information amongst stakeholders and exploiting Internet possibilities. The training programme covered theoretical course and practical training. Special alternatives demonstration workshop (demonstration of two types of alternatives: heat treatment and advanced phosphine technologies) was conducted to facilitate methyl bromide phase out and more over to avoid the reversion to the possible critical use and QPS. Total number of trained participants amounted to 28 persons and 22 persons (they participated in demonstration workshop). They represented industry sector as well as related state/control institutions in charge of plant protection, food processing, health and environment. Training materials were translated, distributed to the participants and also posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania.

Additional special demonstration training, which captured the outstanding issues in concern, was organized for industry. 17 participants from different companies dealing with grain processing and storage were provided with the Manual of DEGESCH generator (equipment provided under the project) and accordingly trained on the most important parts of the Manual.

In order to expand the range of the companies being able to use the alternative treatment one additional training was conducted by national trainers, i.e. the "trained trainers" transferred their knowledge and skills to the second stage trainees. 10 participants took part in that training course.

In order to get acquainted with the alternative treatment, notably using carbon dioxide and pressure chambers, a study visit of 2 participants to the Polish company was organized.

In the framework of the project arrangements and co-ordination on the national level was performed in order to organize participation in the Post-harvest regional seminar on non-chemical methods of pest control in products and structures in Bialystok (Poland). Five participants from Lithuania took part in this workshop.

Significant efforts were made in order to facilitate and streamline the procedure on methyl bromide alternative registration. The Registration Commission was informed on the urgency of the matter and possible streamlined approaches to be applied. The application for registration of the alternative has been accepted by the national competent authority and is to review in due course in 2008.

Campaigns aimed at raising of public awareness, information of industry and interested state institutions includes further activities undertaken under the project (beyond above mentioned):

- the project aims and implementation particularities were discussed during several meetings with the Grain processors association;

- as a preventive information measure, disinfections and fumigation companies not using methyl bromide at the moment were approached and explained on project aims and major activities on methyl bromide alternatives available;

- recommendations on alternative grain treatment including technical information were prepared and posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania;

- in order to facilitate registration of methyl bromide alternatives the comprehensive explanatory document was prepared and submitted to the national Plant protection service with the purpose to inform the Service about the most recent requirements on methyl bromide management as regards ozone layer protection and to make a close linkage of various regulations. To facilitate registration and use of alternatives in biocide applications the explanatory letter of the similar

content was submitted to the State Environmental Health Centre under the Ministry of Health Care of the Republic of Lithuania as the Centre is assigned as a competent authority for biocides;

- information on methyl bromide alternatives currently available (chemical and non-chemical methods) was prepared taking into account the most recent relevant information, i.e. compilation of the various alternatives for both soil and post-harvest sector was provided. The info specifies the pest in concern, site treatment, alternative's effect, peculiarities and countries where it is applied;

- summary information about alternatives registered in EU including registration status in the particular Member States was posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment and distributed to some importers.

The rapid phase out of methyl bromide was achieved largely with chemical alternatives, which may not be sustainable in the longer term. Many chemicals are under review globally, in particular in the European Union, as part an initiative to reduce chemicals used in the production of food and food products. As mandated in the GEF project document, UNEP seeks to assist countries in finding contacts and funds of research for the identification and development of sustainable alternatives to prevent backsliding into methyl bromide. Two meetings were organized with this respect, namely:

- the first one - with representatives of the European Commission to determine the prospects for funding of research and other activities to increase the sustainability of pest control methods that had recently been put in place to replace methyl bromide;

- the second one – a field visit to the Netherlands to see first hand the operations of a facility using non-chemical pest control methods, also as replacement for methyl bromide.

Both activities are important for long-term sustainability of replacements for methyl bromide.

As regards further activities related to promoting the public awareness on ODS effects to the ozone layer, international and national ODS management requirements and possible alternatives, the following activities were undertaken:

- circular letters on requirements applied to ODS management and ODS containing equipment were sent to the companies of refrigeration and air conditioning sector in order to make them aware of these requirements;

- information for industry on the website of the Ministry of Environment as a national competent authority for ODS management was updated and improved as regards reporting requirements on ODS import, export, use, recovery, recycling and etc.;

- information and data collection campaign was carried out in the sector of halon use for fire fighting on ships. Relevant circular letters were sent to the ship owners and to the maritime authority. As a result, use of halons on commercial ships was reduced significantly;

- internet information in relation with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Protocol was prepared and posted on the website of the Ministry of Environment;

- a lecture on ODS effects, national and international requirements for ODS management and a possible role of local authorities in enforcement was given to representatives of the local authorities.