

# AUDIT FINDINGS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TASKS CONNECTED WITH PROTECTION OF AIR AGAINST POLLUTION

## **Name of Supreme Audit Institution**

The Supreme Chamber of Control

## **Title of summary report on audit findings**

Protection of air against pollution

## **Audit Description**

The audit aim was to evaluate the following:

- tasks undertaken by the government administration and economic entities in order to improve air quality and comply with regulations on air protection;
- fulfilment of commitments stemming from international conventions and agreements referring to air protection;
- regularity of calculation and exaction of fees for emission of air pollutants and fines for exceeding permissible emission levels;
- utilisation by economic entities of financial aid from Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management and of other forms of aid for the implementation of investment projects in the field of air protection.

The audit was undertaken on the SCC's own initiative and was conducted in the third and fourth quarter of 1999. The audit covered the period from 1995 to 1998.

Reasons for undertaking the audit - the audit were conducted by the SCC as a parallel audit, in co-operation with the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Czech Republic and the Lithuania Republic. The findings of the three national audits constitute the basis of a joint communication of the Presidents of the SAIs participating in the audit.

**Scope of audit:**

- reduction of emission of air pollutants;
- measures aimed at protecting air against pollution;
- improvement of air quality
- development of co-operation with the neighbouring countries in order to reduce transboundary pollution.

**Audited units:**

The audit was conducted in 69 units, out of which the SCC audited 53 units, including the following:

Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry;

Ministry of Transport and Marine Economy;

11 heat and power plants and power plants;

3 chemical plants; 2 cement plants.

At the request of the SCC, Voivodship Environmental Protection Inspectorates conducted audits of 16 units, including:

7 heat and power plants and power plants;

6 chemical plants;

2 cement plants

1 steel mill

**Audit Participants:**

The Department of Environmental Protection - co-ordinator of the audit  
Regional Offices of the SCC  
Summary of the audit findings and evaluation of the audited activities

The audit findings indicates that the measures taken by the public administration and economic entities have resulted in a reduction of emission of air pollutants. In 1995 — 1998, a period of continuous economic growth, emission of air pollutants was reduced:

by about 19% in the case of dust;  
by about 13% in the case of sulphur dioxide;  
by about 5% in the case of nitrogen dioxide.

The industries were inadequately equipped with pollution control facilities. The audit, conducted in 35 plants, showed that almost half of them lacked adequate pollution control facilities ensuring emission reduction.

### **Conclusions**

The audit findings indicate that in order to achieve air pollution abatement objectives, it is necessary to take i.a. the following measures:

- expand co-operation with the neighbouring countries in the field of environmental protection, in line with valid international treaties and agreements; accelerate the establishment of fuel quality standards;
- introduce a regulation establishing application forms and conditions of issuing permits for trading in substances depleting the ozone layer;
- take measures aimed at reducing emission of air pollutants from means of transport;
- ensure proper functioning of the atmosphere monitoring network;
- develop a long-term programme of measures aimed at protecting air against pollution and at utilizing unconventional sources of energy.

### **Environmental benefits**

Investment and modernisation projects implemented by the examined industries in 1995 — 1998 resulted in a reduction of dust emission from 55.6 thousand tons/year to 18.3 thousand tons/ year (67%) and a reduction of emission of gaseous pollutants, mainly SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>, from 228 thousand tons/year to 200 thousand tons/ year (12%). Changes in production processes aimed at i.a. reduction of emission of air pollutants were introduced in 8 out of the 35 examined plants.

Major progress was made in the implementation of the „Black Triangle" Programme. In the border zone of Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic there is a great concentration of brown coal-fired power plants with a total power of 16 000 MW. As a result of joint measures, in 1998 emission of air pollutants by power plants in this region was reduced by about 50% as compared with 1989. In the Polish part of the region, emission of dust by the Turów Power Plant was reduced by 86%, while SO<sub>2</sub> emission was reduced by 47%. In 1996, a joint air monitoring system was established. The system consists of 43 automatic measurement stations located in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. In 1999, work on developing new areas of tripartite co-operation in the region was initiated.

The audit demonstrated the need for further co-ordinated measures, particularly on the central level, in order to implement air pollution abatement tasks in line with the National Environmental Policy.

**Addressees of the summary report on audit findings**

The SCC has forwarded the summary report on audit findings to the President, the Parliament, the ministers concerned and to the heads of central units as well as to Voivods and Heads of Voivodships.

The public has also been informed about the findings of the audit through mass media.