

Audit report on execution of the National Program on sanitation of the Dnipro river basin and enhancement of the drinking water quality

In 2008 the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine completed the audit of execution of the National Program on sanitation of the Dnipro river basin and enhancement of the drinking water quality (hereinafter referred to as the National Program).

Audit background:

Environment of the Dnipro river basin deteriorates in terms of hydrochemical and radiological indicators. This has been caused by the increasing anthropogenic load on the Dnipro river, inefficient work of urban treatment facilities and those of industrial enterprises, increase of emission of untreated or improperly treated waste waters, which pose a threat of biological and genetic degradation of the Ukraine's population.

Main audit findings:

1. The organization framework and the mechanism of the National Program implementation were not developed by the Government. The trilateral Ukrainian-Belorussian-Russian agreement on regulation of relationships regarding the Dnipro river basin was not concluded and the issue of trilateral cooperation in this field still remains open.
2. Some articles of the Program did not comply with the Law of Ukraine "On the State Targeted Programs", because public examination of the draft program was not carried out.
3. Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine that was responsible for the Program implementation failed to develop proper planning, coordination and reporting on the Program implementation. As a result, actual implementation of the Program did not proceed since 2002.
4. Expenditures effected within the National Program were not foreseen by the state budget. Absence of the governmental control resulted in inefficient management of the state funds and illegal use of public money.
5. Information on the course of the Program implementation submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine did not correspond to the actual data.
6. Constant reorganizations of the internal structure of the responsible Ministry resulted in failure to control and coordinate the implementation of the Program.

Audit recommendations to the Government:

- To bring the National Program in compliance with the Law of Ukraine "On the State Targeted Programs";

- examine how the responsible officers fulfill their duties regarding management of the state funds, take all the necessary steps to prevent the illegal use of public money and its inefficient use;
- establish within the responsible Ministry a special division dealing with the natural resources use, protection and renewal; establish the necessary coordination of the Ministry's structural units in order to supervise and control the implementation of the state targeted programs;
- intensify the negotiations with Belarus and Russian Federation regarding the agreement on use and protection of waters in the Dnipro river basin.