



## CONFERENCE SES-2019 IN THE CONTEXT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dušan BEVILAQUA - Miroslav RUSKO



Sustainability - Environment - Safety '2019

Environmental policy is based on the principles of precaution, prevention and elimination of pollution at source, as well as the “polluter pays” principle. Activities in the field of environment set the framework for action in all areas of environmental policy. Within the EU, they are integrated into horizontal strategies and taken into account in international environmental negotiations. The precautionary principle is a risk management tool that can be applied when there is scientific uncertainty about the anticipated risk to human health or the environment as a result of certain actions or policies.

The polluter pays principle is included in the EU Directive 2004/35 / CE on environmental liability, which aims to prevent or repair environmental damage to protected species or the natural environment, water and soil. Operators of certain occupational activities, such as the transport of dangerous substances or activities involving the discharge of substances into water must take precautionary measures in the event of an immediate environmental hazard. If damage has occurred, they are obliged to take appropriate measures to remedy it and to pay the costs. The scope of the Directive has been extended three times to cover the management of waste from the extractive industries, the operation of geological sites and the safety of offshore oil and gas exploration.

As a general rule, the operator who caused the damage but immediately endangers the damage should fully cover the costs of preventive and remedial measures. The competent authority may also take the necessary measures on its own, but only as a last resort, and should ensure that the costs it incurs are recovered from the operator. Remediation is achieved if the competent authority decides that the original or near-original condition has been reached. Companies must inform the authorities of any "imminent threat" of environmental damage, even if they have already taken precautionary measures. In the event of damage, operators must take practical steps to limit the extent of the damage or to prevent further deterioration.

Among the main challenges in the environment belong today climate change, loss of biodiversity, the threat to our health with pollution, the way in which we use natural resources and the production of excessive waste. The EU is addressing these challenges by setting standards in the field of the environment and promoting new ways of working and cleaner technologies. New technologies developed in Europe, which are more environmentally friendly, could also contribute to the increased competitiveness of our economy, thus creating jobs and financing social progress. Economy, economy, safety and the environment of man, the society is in a direct relationship. Everything what a civilized society has comes from nature, everything what it does not need comes back in the form of waste to the nature. We have not learned so far to manage the elements of nature, natural resources in the production, exchange, and consumption. Economic growth consumes natural resources and produces waste.

How to solve the conflict between individual development of the production and societal waste removal is fixed in various countries in various ways. Market economy knows the state regulatory tools for proceedings of private producers, and corporations. The market economy is unable



to fully solve the problem of the provision of public goods and fully ensure the elimination of wastes. These are the two issues where state, state authorities must appear in the creation and protection of the environment of a society.

The EU aims to reduce the impact of the use of resources and to produce less waste while maintaining economic growth. This means using more renewable sources (as long as their use is sustainable), recycle more and better manage with residual wastes. Some of these priorities were selected in seven „thematic strategies“, which take an overarching approach to soil protection, conservation of the marine environment, the sustainable use of pesticides, air pollution, urban environment, sustainable use of resources and management with them and reduction of amount and recycling of wastes. Diseases related to the environment require substantial financial resources for health care, medication, sickness benefits and they lower productivity, cause invalidity and early retirement. These costs often outweigh the costs of prevention. There is an effort to protect the health of the workplace and reducing the pollution of our air, water and food chain from sources as diverse as lead in petrol and chemicals in batteries. Despite this, the incidence of diseases caused by environmental factors is on the rise. But we, however, need to improve also our understanding of the complex interaction between pollutants and human health, whereas we are exposed to many different pollutant substances, which being combined make up the "cocktail effect".

Each societal activity has its own ethical aspect, what means to behave in such a way that the conduct of one entity was not caused an evil to another entity. This applies fully even to the environment of the society. This is about the behaviour of one section of society to the society as a whole and to its parts, but also to the very nature, flora, and fauna. Not to harm the nature by the society belongs to the basic ethical principle of environmental sciences, of the practice which the society has to its own environment. Only in this way will the human society be able to enjoy life in a healthy, unspoilt, and undamaged environment.

The need to solve the topical problems connected with ensuring the protection of the environment, but also with ensuring the safety in individual sectors of the economy, public and private organizations, countries and regions, has created the conditions for the emergence of various sectors (in the field of information security, the protection of persons and property, emergency services, civil security, food security, etc.) and professions (security officer, security services worker, health and safety technician at work, a security worker, etc.), whose mission is to address the issues of ensuring security (information, administrative, personnel, physical, risk, emergency, etc.). This often leads to integration of individual approaches to a comprehensive solution of the problems in question.

In practice, besides various labels also some identifiers play an important role for manufacturers, distributors, retailers but also for consumers. The identification is used to identify of one entity in a set of entities. Certain standards seek to assign a unique identifier for the entity. The identification is needed to maintain or to ensure some transparency and exactness of the identified data. It helps to orientate at the market, and in the case of positive experience, or of obtaining the information from the advertisement and so on, it directs the product purchasing to be at the expense of another substituents. An individual approach to the label is often, in addition to visual contact, linked with the emotional element, often as a reflection of the life attitudes and personal experience. From this point of view, the so called symbolic thinking associated with the original labelling of products and services has become of increasingly importance. In societal life the labels affect us, and they are aimed at non-verbal guidance of our activities, or to draw attention in appropriate direction. It relies on the fact that voice communication method is not sufficient - of time, personnel and other reasons.

Identification of products has become an essential tool for not only improving the effectiveness in the set of industrial sectors across the supply chain. The sphere of safety and protection of the environment also plays an important role in the identification of products. The identification of the products is a key element in the process of automation, not only in the framework of the production, or in a particular retail store, but in the entire retail sector, in particular for ordering, shipping, storage, distribution and billing.



The aim of the international scientific conference "Sustainability-Environment-Safety 2019" is to provide information to professional and scientific public, to representatives of self-government and state administration, exchanging of experience, and the presentation of new results in the issue of sustainable development, environment and safety.

There is an assumption that the contributions from this conference will be a stimulus for discussion and for further activities at research and in practice.

**Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Miroslav RUSKO, PhD.**

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Trnava, Slovak Republic

**Ing. Dušan BEVILAQUA, PhD.**

Slovenská spoločnosť pre životné prostredie, Spišská Nová Ves