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# Steps Taken In Direction Of Ratification Of Transactions Of Un European Economic Commission On “Heavy Metals” In Armenia

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The "Assistance for Ratification of transactions of UN European Economic Commission on "Heavy Metals"" three-day workshop, which was attended by representatives of over ten countries, launched its proceedings in Yerevan on May 14. Within the frameworks of the UN corresponding convention eight transactions have been adopted for 29 years, which regulate the exhaustion of almost all the most important harmful materials into atmosphere.

Armenia ratified the convention in 1997. However, as Angella Turlikian, the chief specialist of the Protection Department of the RA Ministry of Environmental Protection, mentioned, none of those transactions has been ratified up to now. The reason, according to her, is that the implementation of the strict demands defined by those transactions are not available for Armenia as yet. Among them are, in particular, the detailed making inventory of exhaustions and the continuous running of land-survey and the investment of "best available technologies." In the words of A. Turlikian, the making inventory conducted in the republic and the running of land-survey do not correspond to the demands of the transactions as yet.

According to her, the objective of the workshop is to contribute to the abolition of obstacles for the ratification of one of those transactions: the transactions on "Heavy metals." This transactions regulates the exhaustions of mercury, lead and cadmium. A. Turlikian mentioned that the issue is very up-to-date for Armenia, as there are sources of exhaustions of heavy metals. They are, in particular, the factories of non-ferrous metals and cement.

The given transactions has been ratified by 29 out of 51 countries, which have voted for the convention. At present, steps are taken in Armenia in the direction of its ratification and the settlement of the problems connected with the implementation of the obligations proceeding from them. It was also mentioned that a cartography program of the sources and quantities of exhaustions has been carried out in the republic. In addition to this, the monitoring station of transborder pollution will be put into operation in a month. The government of Norway has sponsored the creation of this station in Armenia.

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