

COALITION CLEAN BALTIC Annual Meeting

To: Mr. Mikhail Kasyanov, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation,
Moscow, Kremlin
Mr. Valery Serdyukov, Governor of the Leningrad Oblast,
St. Petersburg

Copy: HELCOM, Helsinki,
Ramsar Convention secretariat

Palanga, Lithuania, May 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Governor,

We ask you to pay attention to the emergency situation that arose in connection with the oil spill which took place in Ramsar Wetland Site "Lebyazhye" in Lomonosovskiy district, Leningrad oblast, Russia, the south shore of the Gulf of Finland, the Baltic Sea, on 17 April, 2002. Russia has signed and ratified the Ramsar Convention on protection of wetlands of international significance mainly as habitat of waterfowl. The State natural reserve Lebyazhiy was included in the list of Ramsar areas located on the territory of the Russian Federation by the Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation of 13 September 1994, No. 1050.

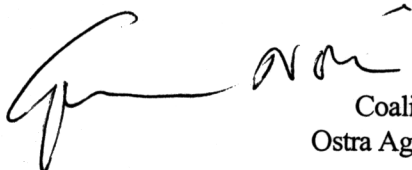
Oil products, from the spill of 17 April have polluted over 30 km of the coast from Bolshaya Izhora up to Shepelevo. At that time, many thousands swans were staying at this polluted coast on their season migration way from Western Europe to the Russian Arctic. The spill brought harm to the birds, some of them died.

Despite of notification, which was done by Green World activists, authorities of Lomonosov district did not take necessary efforts to assess the impact and remove that pollution.

In connection with the above-stated, we ask you investigate the case of the spill on 17 April, 2002, and to find out the source of the spill and the reason why no measures were taken to remove oil products from the coast line. We ask to inform us about the results of the investigation to the addresses given below.

We also ask you to take the necessary measures to provide reasonable environmental control and liquidation of sudden oil spills in the Russian part of the Gulf of Finland.

This letter was approved by the Coalition Clean Baltic Annual Meeting. Coalition Clean Baltic is a network of 28 environmental NGOs from 9 countries around the Baltic Sea.



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