**SIWG on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents   
under the Basel Convention**

Summary notes of the informal consultation of 18 January 2024.

**Topics discussed:**

1. Welcome by the Secretariat, who also thanked Mr Yorg Aerts – from the European Commission – who accepted to chair the informal consultation and the upcoming meeting of the group on 6 March 2024.
2. Plans for the 6 March 2024 meeting
   * The Secretariat explained that the main objective of the call was to discuss which topics to cover and how to divide the time of the meeting on 6 March 2024 – Geneva.
   * The chair asked the group for views about how to organize the March meeting.
   * The Secretariat explained that in 2021 an online meeting was organized, before the establishment of this working group, where many demonstrations were made by different Parties and stakeholders who already had electronic solutions and standards to support the Basel Convention PIC procedure, and related initiatives (e.g., e-CITES).
   * The chair mentioned that one way to organize the March meeting could be to use the morning slot for demonstration of solutions, lessons learned, plans for new initiatives, etc, which would be done on a voluntary basis. And that the afternoon slot could be used to discuss about topics to be included in an information document from the group to the OEWG-14 meeting, to take place in June 2024, in Geneva.
   * Several participants supported these ideas and mentioned that a mix of presentations from Parties and other stakeholders could be useful to learn from each other.
   * Some participants mentioned their willingness to share their experiences and/or solutions and will consider making presentations.
   * The chair explained that giving the limited amount of time of a one-day meeting, it would be important for those interested to indicate to the Secretariat their needs for their presentations and time required, so that the Secretariat could plan accordingly.
   * The chair highlighted that on 7-8 March, the SIWG on improving the PIC procedure is meeting in Geneva as well, and that this could be a good opportunity for both groups to learn about each other. The lead country of the other SIWG (France) supported the idea of using some dedicated time in both meetings to discuss the collaboration between the two groups. He mentioned that such a collaboration should take place on a regular basis since the work of the two SIWGs are interlinked.
   * For the afternoon slot, the group discussed the topics that could be included, such as pilot projects (i.e., what is needed, how this group can learn from projects and offer some guidance to those who wish to engage in pilot projects), the interlinkages with the other SIWG, and what to bring forward in the OEWG-14 information document about the work being done by this group.
   * It was highlighted the importance of recording the main points discussed during the March meeting to inform others outside the group to understand what this group is working on.
   * Finally, the group briefly discussed the importance of having participants in this group with IT knowledge, as some of the discussions may be of a technical nature. And the group could consider in the future to organize break-out settings to discuss more technical aspects of the automation of the PIC procedure.
   * The group concluded the discussions, and two actions were agreed on to be done by the Secretariat.
   * **Action:**
   * Secretariat to share the summary notes of this call, where it should be highlighted the invitation for demonstrations in the March 2024 meeting. And also, it should mention the importance of having representatives of Parties in the who have a more practical experience about the PIC procedure (i.e., competent authority) and IT specialists.
   * Secretariat to prepare the draft agenda of the meeting, in collaboration with the chair.
3. Any other business
   * Not applicable. The call was finalized at 14:40h.