

DAILY BRIEF
14 JANUARY 2002



In the absence of Mr. Jawed Ali Khan from Pakistan, the 19th session of the Technical Working Group (TWG) was chaired by Ms. Riitta Leinen of Finland.

The meeting commenced with the review of Annex IX which was then referred to a small working group under the chairmanship of Switzerland.

The new version of the draft technical guidelines on recycling/reclamation of metal and metal compounds was introduced by Australia. Some suggestions were given on the need for inclusion of the definitions of terms and new treatment technologies. A small working group was convened to develop the draft further.

The new draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of the full and partial dismantling of ships were prepared by Norway with the collaboration of the Netherlands and India. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has assisted in view of workers safety and occupational health when ships are dismantled. The Basel Action Network (BAN) raised the issue of health and safety and the responsibility of developed countries in this practice which in its view were not emphasized enough. BAN was also of the opinion that hazards should be removed prior to the arrival of ship in shipyards for dismantling. Norway was given the lead of a small group on this issue and significant results are expected during this session.

The draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries were finalized by Brazil. Some minor comments were presented and the document was adopted provisionally.

The draft technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal was intensely discussed. There were different opinions expressed on the reference to the Stockholm Convention and on hazard avoidance. The chairperson said that because these guidelines have been discussed since the 13th session of the TWG, there was a urgent need for its final adoption. A small drafting group was convened that included the representatives of Denmark, Germany, the EC, Brazil, Canada and Peru.

The Secretariat informed the meeting on the progress of the preparation of the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of POPs as waste. Mr. Jim Willis of the Interim Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention confirmed of the availability of funds for hiring a consultant for this purpose. Canada indicated that

it has started work on updating the guidelines on PCBs. Many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation between the Stockholm and Basel Conventions.

The meeting was also informed that the OECD has completed the work towards the further harmonization of the OECD control system with the Basel Convention. The new notification and movement document forms will be shortly available.