

DAILY BRIEF

17 January 2002

The meeting continued its consideration of the draft strategic plan which was presented yesterday. The plenary adopted the report of the informal working group that was co-chaired by South Africa and the European Commission which confirmed the need for the establishment of an intersessional working group on the draft strategic plan. In terms of composition of the group, it was decided that three representatives per region will be invited to a meeting scheduled to be held in Denmark in the first week of April 2002. In this connection the regional representative were mandated to collect and coordinate the views of members of the regional group. The terms of reference for the intersessional working group was also agreed upon, and the process of deliberation of the strategic plan should be conducted with the maximum transparency and accountability.



Switzerland and Finland discussing the draft strategic plan.

The Joint meeting discussed at great length the report of the Secretariat on the progress on the study of Annex VII. In order to move forward on this issue, the chairperson invited further comments by experts and also the Secretariat's report by 15 March 2002, together with relevant documentation that would assist the Secretariat in its task. It was also decided that the Secretariat should complete Phase II of the analysis for the next Joint meeting that would consider future actions following COP-6.

When considering the legal aspects of the full and partial dismantling of ships, delegates highlighted the need for increased cooperation between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and other relevant organizations, in particular the IMO. It was also recognized that the issue of legal implications of the dismantling of ships goes beyond the scope of the Basel Convention and involves many other organizations and it was suggested that a joint meeting between the Basel Convention and the IMO should be convened. Parties were requested to provide the Secretariat with all relevant documents and information on the legal implications of the dismantling of ships by 1 March 2002.

As far as the draft guidance elements on monitoring and prevention of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes are concerned, the meeting requested all Parties to submit further

suggestions, views and comments for further updating and improvement of the document by 1 March 2002.

There remains substantive differences in opinion of the delegates over the issue of financial limits under the Protocol on Liability and Compensation. Some participants opposed the idea of amending the present limits as found in Annex B of the Protocol while those participants in favour of amending the limits could not agree on how to proceed. In view of these opposing views, Parties were requested to consider the Australian proposal and provide their views and comments as well as any other relevant information to the Secretariat for consideration at the next Joint meeting in May 2002.