

2nd Joint Meeting of the Legal and Technical Working Groups. 27 May 2002

The Second Session of the Joint Meeting of the Legal and Technical Working Groups was opened at 10.00 am, under the chairmanship of Ms. Mariann Karcza, the Chairman of the Legal Working Group.

The meeting began its deliberations by debating item 4(a) on the agenda: Decision V/21 Draft guidance elements for bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements or arrangements. Many delegates who took the floor on this agenda item, notably Ethiopia, USA and Egypt, requested specific changes to be made to the present draft document. While USA was skeptical of the usefulness of some provisions, others were of the opinion that the guidance document was welcome. A small contact group chaired by Australia was formed to address the points of disagreement.

Regarding the second item on the agenda, item 4(b): Prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes, several amendments to the text were proposed by delegates. The final text with all proposed amendments should be made available to the meeting for further discussion before adoption.

An open-ended working group under the leadership of Switzerland was established on the item 4(c) on the agenda: Relationship of the protocol with the Basel Convention. This group will meet today between 1 and 2 pm in order to reach a compromise.

The next item on the agenda: Dismantling of ship was widely discussed in the last meeting of the LWG as well as in the last meeting of the TWG. It was noted that this item remains on the agenda of the LWG for further considerations. The item was adopted by the meeting without significant changes.

In the afternoon the plenary session resumed, this time under the chairmanship of Canada. The Draft Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention was widely discussed by delegates. The results of the intersessional meeting on this item that was held in Copenhagen were welcomed and commented on by delegates. Some delegates pointed out that the Draft Strategic Plan needs to be discussed further before being adopted.

A few delegations provided comments on the BAN report on the intersessional meeting which was held in Copenhagen, expressing their displeasure with the report.

After some discussions an open-ended working group under the chairmanship of the European Commission and Costa Rica was established on this item.