

## **2nd Joint Meeting of the Legal and Technical Working Groups. 28 May 2002**

The joint meeting was chaired by Mariann Karcza of Hungary and Joachim Wittwer of Canada.

The contact group under the chairmanship of Australia on Draft guidance elements for bilateral, multilateral or regional agreement or arrangements reported that they were not able to finalize the guidance document, however, the discussions had been fruitful. The meeting agreed to recommend that further discussion be held on the subject at the COP-6.

The meeting discussed the conference room paper on draft guidance elements for detection, prevention and control of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes. It was agreed to incorporate the comments and views expressed by Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Spain and the United States in the plenary yesterday and today.

The open-ended Working Group on financial limits of liability under the Protocol on liability chaired by Switzerland reported that the current system of establishing minimum liability limits as it stands will remain. The participants agreed that the financial limits at this stage should be based on tonnage and not on hazardousness of wastes.

The participants were divided as to whether to continue or not with the Annex VII study as proposed by the Secretariat. The Secretariat has proposed carrying out case studies on specific waste streams and the relationship with Ban amendment. This was intensively discussed and towards the end the Chairperson concluded that the study should continue and a report should be submitted to COP-6 for further steps.

The open-ended Working Group on the draft strategic plan which was co-chaired by the European Commission and Costa Rica reported on the two day discussions on the subject. The meeting invited further written comments before 15 July 2002 on the documents as amended by this meeting. Based on these written comments, the Secretariat will prepare a revised document which will be posted on the website for further comments by 15 September 2002. Then a final document will be submitted to COP-6. The group also decided that the following activities should be undertaken for 2003-2004:

- Assistance in the development and implementation of national legislation and capacity-building
- Development of waste prevention and minimization programmes and tools
- Assistance in the establishment and strengthening of the BCRCs
- Sustainable partnerships
- Coordination with other MEAs
- Reduction and monitoring of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes

The progress report on the implementation of the Basel Declaration on environmentally sound management and related activities on capacity-building, training and information was also considered by the joint meeting. The Parties were invited to comment by 15 July 2002 and the draft decisions referred to will be discussed in the Working Group for Implementation.