

Informal meeting of the members to the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) at the 9th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group to the Basel Convention

Room 17, CICG, Geneva

17 September 2014

Participants:

Ms. Leila Devia, BCRC-Argentina (**Chair**)

Mr. Santiago Davila, Spain

Ms. Dana Lapesova, BCRC-Slovakia

Mr. Matthias Kern, BRS

Ms. Magda Gosk, Poland

Dr. Jinhui Li, BCRC-China

Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis, BRS

Regrets: Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco, Colombia/Basel ICC, Mr. Christian Dijkens, IMPEL/INECE, Mr. Fumiyoshi Kai, Asian Network

Summary of the meeting

Item 1 – Opening of the Meeting

- The Chair, Ms. Leila Devia, welcomed the participants to the informal meeting of the ENFORCE mentioning that this is a good opportunity to touch base with other members and to exchange views before the next teleconference.
- The Chair emphasized that this is not a formal meeting of ENFORCE and therefore no decisions will be formally adopted at this meeting.

Item 2 – Institutional matters

- The Secretariat informed the participants that Dr. Shunichi Honda, the representative of the Asian Network and vice-chair of ENFORCE, communicated that he will be substituted by Mr. Fumiyoshi Kai in his functions at the ENFORCE. This change will be effective from this meeting.
- The Chair informed the participants that consulting are being carried out with the government of Mexico in order to follow up with the designation of a representative of the Latin America and Caribbean region to the ENFORCE.

Item 3 – Goals and activities of the ENFORCE

- To introduce this topic, the Chair recalled that a roadmap of activities was adopted at the first meeting providing a framework for the activities to be undertaken until the next Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2015. In this context, a gaps analysis activity took place in the first half of this year and a report entitled “Overview of the Challenges and Needs of Parties and Various Stakeholders in Preventing and Combating Illegal Traffic in Line with the requirements of the Basel Convention” was prepared by a consultant made available as an in-kind contribution from the government of the Netherlands. The complete report is currently available at the website of the Basel Convention.

3(a) – Support activity 1: Sharing tools and materials

- The Chair introduced this item recalling the importance of this activity now that the network has been set up. She mentioned that it is the responsibility of the participants to make the network alive by sharing relevant information, in particular activities scheduled and materials related to the illegal traffic.
- A member informed that he co-organized two workshops for customs officers since last year. The first workshop was on the identification of wastes and one of the big issues raised was the lack of laboratories for analysis. The second workshop was on border control. The workshops were developed in the context of the national customs' training programme. In this context, cooperation was important to put together expertise on border control and waste management. The member emphasized the importance of cooperating with organizations such as UNEP and WCO.

3 (c) – Support activity 2: Facilitating information exchange on success stories, techniques and expertise, and dissemination of good practices

- In relation to the host website for information exchange of the network, members requested the Secretariat to prepare a table comparing the three options including associated costs. Members also highlighted that the sustainability of the website is an important criteria.
- Under the same topic, members expressed the desire to reach consensus on this issue as soon as possible and requested the Secretariat to include a discussion on this topic at the next teleconference.

3 (d) – Support activity 3: Report to the COP

- The Chair informed the members that she will present the activities carried out by the ENFORCE to the Parties present at the Open Ended Working Group on Friday, 19 September 2014.
- The Secretariat informed members that the deadline for the finalization of the first draft of the pre-session documents for the COP is the 30 October 2014. For this, members are required to agree on the main elements of the report and draft decision as soon as possible in order for the Secretariat to be able to prepare and share a draft with the members before this deadline. Members agreed to include this topic in the agenda of the next teleconference.
- The Chair also proposed to organize a side event on ENFORCE at the next Conference of the Parties. The organization of the side event will be discussed at the next teleconference, Members requested the Secretariat to book a date and inform members accordingly.

Item 5 – Next meeting

- The Secretariat reminded the participants on the offer of the government of Colombia to host a face-to-face meeting late 2014. Members expressed difficulties in participating in a meeting late December. The Secretariat indicated that the organization of the face-to-face meeting this year depends on the availability of resources.

- Taking into account the activities scheduled, members agreed to have a teleconference on the first week of October (6-10 October). Members are invited to indicate their preferences.