

3rd Teleconference of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)

1st July 2015 – 14h (Geneva time)

Participants:

Ms. Leila Devia, BCRC-Argentina (**Chair**) Ms. Upik Aslia, Asian Network (**Vice-Chair**)
Mr. Abbas Torabi, Iran Mr. Christian Dijkens, IMPEL/INECE
Ms. Dana Lapesova, BCRC-Slovakia Mr. Dany Mpolesha, Congo DRC
Ms. Gordana Veslkgaj, Croatia Mr. Helge Ziolkowski, Sweden
Mr. Luis Espinosa Salas, Ecuador Ms. Sarah Westervelt, BAN
Ms. Wanhua Yang, UNEP

Invited experts:

Ms. Nancy Isarin, Consultant Ms. Ieva Rucevska, GRID-Arendal
Ms. Tamara Kutonova, OSCE

Secretariat:

Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis, Mr. Matthias Kern, Ms. Juliette Voinov-Kohler

Summary of the meeting

Item 1 – Opening of the Meeting

- The Chair, Ms. Leila Devia, welcomed the participants to the 1st teleconference of the ENFORCE.
- The Chair introduced Ms. Upik Aslia as the new representative of the Asian Network and the new vice-chair of ENFORCE.
- The Chair reminded that the main objectives of the teleconference were to report on the activities related to ENFORCE during the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 12, 4-15 May 2015) and to review the implementation of the Roadmap of Activities.

Item 2 – Adoption of the agenda

- The proposed agenda was adopted by the participants without any change.

Item 3 – Welcome to the new members

- Following an invitation from the Chair, the Secretariat introduced the representatives of members that were elected by COP-12 and congratulated them. An updated list of members can be found at <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/ENFORCE/Membership/tabid/4527/Default.aspx>

Item 4 – Review of the implementation of the Roadmap of Activities

4(a) – Report on the COP 12

- The Secretariat provided a brief account of the activities related to ENFORCE which were undertaken at the COP 12.
- The Secretariat underline the side event which was facilitated by the Chair of ENFORCE and included presentations from the Government of Colombia, the Regional Enforcement Network, The Green Customs Initiative, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC - China), the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), and the Nigerian Enforcement Agency (NESREA). The Secretariat underlined that the side event was well attended and was a good opportunity to provide an interaction between members of ENFORCE and COP-12 participants.
- The Secretariat also informed that the report of the activities of ENFORCE, which was made by Ms. Leila Devia to the plenary of the Conference of the Parties was well received and that Parties to the Basel Convention agreed to extend the mandate of ENFORCE and to elect new members to the network.

4(b) – Development of the website for disseminating tools and materials

- The Chair invited Ms. Nancy Isarin to present the development of the prototype website. Ms. Isarin described the main elements to the prototype website that was circulated in advance (<http://staging.wscep.org/>).
- IMPEL recalled the offer from the Government of the Netherlands to finance the transition and maintenance of the website in 2015, which corresponds to the amount of 15,000 euros and called for additional finance for the website to cover 2016 and beyond, inviting members to look into the possibility of committing funds for the website, which is estimated at 10,000 euros per year. The Secretariat highlighted the decision adopted by COP-12 on the development of the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange whereby the Secretariat was requested to provide access to thematic information relevant to the conventions through the clearing-house mechanism, including from parties and other stakeholders, on priority areas such as illegal traffic, and the possible relevance to this item. IMPEL responded that the decisions that were taken by the members of ENFORCE during the last teleconferences and that the current investment for the development of the website should not be ignored and maintained that the efforts should focus on the development of the proposed website.
- The design and structure of the prototype were welcomed by a number of participants which agreed to continue its development. The Secretariat will circulate some proposal urls and a draft terms for the use of the website.

4(c) – Exchange of information

- The Chair invited Ms. Ieva Rucevska from GRID Arendal to briefly present the publication “Waste crime- Waste risks: Gaps in meeting the Global

Waste Challenge” (link to the publication <http://grida.no/publications/rr/waste-crime/>)

- Participants welcome the presentation made by Ms. Rucevksa and enquired about potential outreach activities organized by GRID. Another participant informed about the relevance of the Network of Prosecutors in Latin America and promised to facilitate the dissemination of more information from their side.
- The Chair also invited Ms. Tamara Kutonova from OSCE to present the project on counterfeited and contraband pesticides. A member welcomed the presentation and the opportunity to exchange information with other organizations and invited other members to look into practical results from the activities of ENFORCE highlighting that exchange of information could or should lead to joint activities between members.

Item 5 – Next face-to-face meeting

- The Secretariat clarified that a proposal for the next face-to-face meeting, tentatively in November/December 2015, was put in place for the consideration of donors and that a feedback is expected in the end of July. Two participants expressed support for a face-to-face meeting this year. One participant also highlighted that this could give opportunities for the development of concrete work and activities.

Item 6 – Other matters

- The Secretariat apologized for the connection problems faced by some of the participants and promised to look in ways to improve the connection by making technical tests or identifying other options for the next teleconference.

Item 7 – Closure of the meeting