

5th Teleconference of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)

25 October 2016, 15:30 – 16:30 h (Geneva time)

Participants:

Ms. Leila Devia, BCRC-Argentina (Chair) Ms. Gordana Vešligaj, Croatia
Mr. Dany Mpolesha, Nigeria Mr. Helge Ziolkowski, Sweden
Ms. Ivana Jasikova, BCRC Slovakia Ms. Ieva Rucevska, GRID Arendal
Mr. Matthias Kern, BRS Secretariat

Regrets:

Mr. Christian Dijkens, IMPEL/INECE; Ms. Dana Lapesova, Ms. Viera Spalkova, BCRC-Slovakia; Mr. Blas Matias Michienzi, Latin American Network of Environmental Prosecutors

Summary of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

- The Chair, Ms. Leila Devia, welcomed the participants to the 5th teleconference of the ENFORCE Network and indicated that the main topics of this meeting were the preparation of the ENFORCE documents for submission to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP13), the review of progress in the implementation of the roadmap of activities, and the exchange information among members.

2. Adoption of the agenda

- The Network received a request from GRID Arendal to become member of ENFORCE. It was agreed to discuss this request under agenda item 6. “Other matters”. With this addition, the agenda was adopted.

3. Preparation of COP 13 documents:

(a) Pre-session document with proposed decision

- The Secretariat had circulated before the teleconference a draft ENFORCE “pre-session” or “working” document. The deadline for submitting working documents to the COP13 was 9 November 2016. The Chair emphasised that the Network should make an effort to clear the document during this teleconference. She asked the Secretariat to explain the process of document development and to introduce the document.
- The Secretariat explained that the deadline for finalizing the draft working documents is already on 9 November because the documents have to be edited, cleared by an internal process in the Secretariat and send for translation to be available in all UN languages on the COP 13 website at least 2 months before the meeting.

The document followed the structure of all COP working documents, i.e. a short introduction with the mandate and request from the last COP on what

Parties expect from the Network, followed by a brief description of what happened since the last COP. The details of the face-to-face meeting and the implemented activities was to be described in the ENFORCE information document as discussed under the next agenda item. Section III of the working document contained a draft decision for consideration by the Parties, following the ENFORCE terms of reference and drafted similar to the decision taken at COP 12. Main points in the draft decision were the election of representatives from regions and Regional Centres as designated during the COP, and the request to organize annual meetings, subject to availability of funds.

- The working document was accepted with no further comments. The Chair asked the Secretariat to finalize the working document and forward it to the internal process for submission to COP13.

(b) Information (INF) document with progress report

- The Chair indicated that the INF document had to be ready for submission latest by 17 January 2017. The INF document will contain the detailed progress report from ENFORCE.
- It was agreed that the Secretariat will draft the progress report, describing the activities of ENFORCE since the last COP including the outcome of the discussion at the face-to-face meeting and of today's teleconference. The Secretariat will circulate the draft to all ENFORCE members and invite comments on the text within about two weeks by e-mail. The Secretariat will then compile all comments made and propose a final version of the INF document for acceptance also on written procedure. A teleconference could be held early next year to discuss the progress report.

4. Review of the implementation of the Roadmap of activities:

(a) Priority areas:

a. Website for disseminating tools and materials

- The Secretariat had received an indication that IMPEL had allocated USD 2,500 for the operation of the ENFORCE website but this could be allocated only if co-funding from elsewhere would be confirmed within the next few weeks.
- The Secretariat indicated that it discussed with three agencies the possible hosting of the ENFORCE website and/or financial or in-kind support for maintenance and updating. One centre indicated that it had no possibility to host the website. Two centres signalled that they are still considering the issue but cannot make any final decision at this point of time.
- The representative of a centre mentioned that the centre needs more technical specification and operational details before a respective decision could be made. It was agreed to organize a teleconference next week during the meeting of the Directors of the BCRCs and SCRCs in Geneva with the Chair, a representative of the centre and the consultant

who had lead the setting up of the website to discuss the details of the operation of the website.

- The Chair stressed that operation of the website remains a priority work area of Network and all members are encouraged to strengthen their efforts to find a long-term host and support for the website.

b. Fund raising

- It was mentioned that a regional project proposal for training of prosecutors in the Latin American region is under development. It is planned submit the proposal to the UNEP Special Programme. The project will be coordinated by two Regional Centres in the region.

(b) Exchange of information:

- a. Updates from organizations
b. Any other news from members

- Agenda items 4.(b) a. and b. were discussed together.
- UN Environment with support from GRID-Arendal and Environmental Technical Assistance and the Information Exchange Facility of the European Union cooperated with the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy to organize a four-day national training workshop on Combating Illegal Trade in Chemicals and Waste in Malaka, Malaysia. The workshop's objective was to increase individual and institutional capacity on combating illegal trade, share experience and strengthen cooperation between customs and competent authorities (<http://www.grida.no/news/blog.aspx?id=6804>).
- On 9 November 2016, the Ministerio Público Fiscal de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, the BCRC Argentina and the Latin American Network of Environmental Prosecutors are organizing a training workshop on illegal traffic and international trade of chemical and wastes in Buenos Aires, Argentina (<http://www.mpambiental.org/site/review/6566>)

5. Next meeting

- It was agreed to hold the next ENFORCE meetings as follows:
 - Teleconference in February 2017 to discuss the draft INF document;
 - Informal meeting during COP 13 in April/May 2017;
 - Teleconference in July 2017 to discuss the outcome of COP 13 and preparation of the 3rd face-to-face meeting, subject to availability of funds;
 - 3rd face-to-face meeting in October 2017 if funds are provided by a donor.
- The representative of the BCRC Slovakia confirmed the offer of the centre to host the next face-to-face meeting of ENFORCE in Bratislava, Slovakia. It was mentioned that until now the Network has not received any funding for the next face-to-face meeting in the voluntary trust fund. The Chair asked the Secretariat

to get in touch with potential donors and ask for their interest to provide funding or co-funding for the meeting.

6. Other matters

- The ENFORCE Network received a formal request from GRID Arendal to become member of ENFORCE. The request was circulated to all members before this teleconference. The representative of GRID Arendal indicated that GRID Arendal is collaborating with the UN Environment supporting informed decision making and awareness-raising through environmental information management and assessment, capacity building services and outreach and communication tools, methodologies and products. One of the strategic work areas is illegal waste shipments including among others auditing waste management. The centre is located in the city of Arendal, Norway (<http://www.grida.no/>).
- Several ENFORCE members supported the application of GRID Arendal. The Chair confirmed that a duly motivated request from GRID Arendal was received and discussed among the Members. It was agreed to accept GRID Arendal as new additional member of ENFORCE. The Secretariat was asked to include this new member also in the working document (see agenda item 3.(a)) where new members are welcomed.
- The representative of GRID Arendal thanked the members for accepting the centre as new additional member and looked forward to contributing to the work of the Network.

7. Closure of the meeting

- The Chair thanked all participants for the very constructive discussion during this teleconference and closed the meeting.