

6th Teleconference of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)

6 February 2017, 15:00 – 16:30 h (Geneva time)

Participants:

Ms. Leila Devia, BCRC-Argentina (Chair)

Mr. Helge Ziolkowski, Sweden

Ms. Ieva Rucevska, GRID Arendal

Mr. Yannick Beaudoin, GRID Arendal

Mr. Chris Dijkens, IMPEL

Ms. Gordana Vešligaj, Croatia

Mr. Luis Espinosa Salas, Ecuador

Ms. Dana Lapesova, BCRC Slovakia

Mr. Michel Seck, BCRC Senegal

Ms. Nancy Isarin, IMPEL

BRS Secretariat:

Mr. Matthias Kern, Ms. Juliette Kohler, Mr. Patrick Micheli, Mr. Tushar Srivastava

Regrets:

Mr. Blas Matias Michienzi, Latin American Network of Environmental Prosecutors

Ms. Viera Spalkova, Ms. Ivana Jasikova, BCRC Slovakia

Summary of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

- The Chair, Ms. Leila Devia, welcomed the participants to the 6th teleconference of the ENFORCE Network and indicated that the main topics of this meeting were the finalization of the ENFORCE progress report, the planning of the side event at the COP, discussion of the progress in the implementation of the roadmap, in particular an update on the website issue, and exchange of information.

2. Adoption of the agenda

- The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Preparation of COP 13

(a) Finalization of the ENFORCE information document (INF) with progress report

- The Secretariat had circulated the draft ENFORCE INF document in December 2016 to the ENFORCE members for comments. Until this teleconference, no comments were sent. The Secretariat summarized the information included in the draft progress report.
- In the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:
 - Some members mentioned that the progress report was focussing mainly on organizational matters and less on what ENFORCE has achieved.
 - It was suggested to include a description of how far ENFORCE has contributed to the mission and aim of the network as drafted in the ENFORCE

terms of reference. Also gaps and possible ways of how to close the gaps could be identified.

- The effectiveness of ENFORCE should be addressed. However, it was recognized that it is not easy to express how effective ENFORCE has been until now, but some general language on effectiveness could be included.
- Under the section on ‘Proposed way forward’ the ambition of the network and next steps could be highlighted.
- It was proposed to include, throughout the document, text expressing thanks to all donors for their financial contributions and to Brazil for hosting the face-to-face meeting in Sao Paulo in May 2016.
- The Secretariat was asked to expand the progress report to include the points raised at this teleconference and to send a revised version of the INF document to all members for consideration.
- Because the INF document has to be sent for processing and publication on the COPs document website as soon as possible, the Secretariat will circulate the revised INF document to all members for final comments and feedback within a few days.

(b) Agenda items for the ENFORCE side event

- The Secretariat indicated that it has requested a time slot at the 2017 COPs for a side event during the meeting for the Basel Convention. Final allocation of the exact time slot will be provided after the 3rd of March which is the deadline for side event request submission. The Chair requested inputs from the members on possible agenda items for the side event.
- The members suggested the following items to be discussed at the side event among others:
 - Training programme for prosecutors and case studies from the LAC region;
 - Communication products developed by GRID Arendal;
 - Updated tools and flyers from IMPEL;
 - The project on ‘Development of tools to counter illegal management and trade of waste’ (DOT.COM) coordinated by the UN University (UNU). The members agreed to coordinate with UNU first to find out whether UNU is interested in a joint side event or is planning a stand-alone event¹.
- It was agreed that the Secretariat will send out a request to the members for further suggestions for the side event agenda which should be sent within the next two weeks.
- Based on the feedback received, the Secretariat will prepare a draft agenda for the side event and circulate it to the members for comments. The agenda will be further discussed and finalized by e-mail exchange in due time before the COPs.

¹ In communication with the Secretariat after the teleconference, UNU indicated that they prefer a stand-alone side event for the DOT.COM project.

4. Review of the implementation of the Roadmap of activities

(a) Priority areas:

a. Website for disseminating tools and materials

- The Chair invited GRID Arendal to present their views on the website development that had been circulated prior to the teleconference by e-mail.
- GRID Arendal suggested both short term and long term solutions for hosting the ENFORCE website. A short term solution could include modifying an existing platform that had been developed for a GEF project with an architecture which could also support ENFORCE requirements. It would need some considerably small funding for adapting the platform. For long term, GRID Arendal expressed its interest in delivering value to the network through more strategic input to ENFORCE and in developing a respective project proposal with partners to secure the necessary resources.
- IMPEL indicated that last year they had allocated funds for the website maintenance, but because no co-funding could be raised these funds were reallocated elsewhere and are no longer available to ENFORCE.
- The members discussed the obstacle of finance and resources in implementing the website and agreed that the solution to this problem needs to have a longer term vision and to be strategically robust. This would need further discussion on plans, timelines, budget calculations and other specifics.
- Towards this end, the Chair proposed and the members agreed on the setting up of a small group that would work on the priorities for a more holistic approach with a longer term strategy. The following members volunteered to participate in the small group: Grid Arendal, IMPEL, BCRC Slovakia, BCRC Argentina. Other ENFORCE members are invited to join the small group.
- The Chair requested the Secretariat to compile the suggestions made by the members on the issue in this teleconference and to circulate a first draft to the small group. Thereafter, a teleconference of the small group will be organized to discuss and propose the next steps.

b. Fund raising

- The Chair indicated that attempts had been made to raise funds with donors through a project for prosecutors in Latin America but no pledge was made thus far. The Chair emphasised that the group should continue to explore funding options for the website development.

(b) Exchange of information:

a. Updates from organizations

b. Any other news from members

- It was agreed to discuss agenda items 4.(b) a. and b. together.

- The Swedish EPA is planning a four-year project with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in Palestine including climate change and Basel Convention hazardous waste characteristics and transboundary movement issues. The member conveyed the request made by project partners in Palestine for cooperation in training on the two topics mentioned.
- IMPEL introduced their updated waste watch tool to the group which will be made available as handy pocket version for inspectors. The updated version is still to be printed and multiplied. Further, a repatriation manual is under development and awaits approval for dissemination. As soon as it is approved the link to the manual will be shared with members. IMPEL also mentioned several ongoing and planned projects (enforcement actions project, landfill project, WEEE project, RDF project) and meetings (waste coordinators meeting and joint conference with multiple stakeholders).
- The BCRC Argentina was planning further trainings for prosecutors in the upcoming regional pre-meeting to the COPs in Brazil which may be substituted by webinars should a face-to-face meeting not be possible. A training program for prosecutors with UNEP in Sao Paulo is also under development by the regional centre.

5. Next meeting

- It was agreed to hold the next ENFORCE meetings as follows:
 - The agenda for the ENFORCE side event would be finalized through e-mail exchange. If needed, the Chair will call for another teleconference before the COP13.
 - Informal meeting during COP13 in April/May 2017.
 - Teleconference in July 2017 to discuss the outcome of the COP.
 - The 3rd face-to-face meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2017. However, until now no funds are available for the meeting. Therefore, the meeting might have to be postponed.

6. Other matters

- No other matters were presented or discussed during the teleconference.

7. Closure of the meeting

- The Chair highlighted that three important outcomes had been achieved during this teleconference:
 - The members agreed on the way forward to finalizing the ENFORCE INF document with the progress report;
 - The preparation of the ENFORCE side event at COP13 was organized;
 - A small group was established to work on the priorities for a more holistic project proposal with a longer term strategy.
- The Chair thanked all participants for the very constructive discussion during this teleconference and closed the meeting.