

Comments from Switzerland

Review of annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX

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To: Juliette Kohler

Cc: Felix.Wertli@bafu.admin.ch; Marco.Buletti@bafu.admin.ch; Isabelle Baudin; mark.govoni@bafu.admin.ch

Subject: AW: Review of annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX: invitation to submit comments by 30 September 2017

Dear Juliette,

In accordance with the invitation of the Secretariat to provide comments on the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX, Switzerland would like to make the following comments and proposals:

- Switzerland congratulates and thanks Canada for the excellent work for the report “review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention”. This report is very useful and gives a good overview of the aspects that need to be addressed when addressing the Annexes mentioned.
- We would like to concentrate our comments on the way forward and next steps to address the issue and not on the content of the report. The report already gives the overview on the aspects that need to be looked at. The definition of the way forward is at the moment determinant before going into the details of the content.
- In our point of view it is necessary to define which outcome the group would like to deliver at the OEWG in autumn 2018 and the related approach, modality of work, working plan and a methodology.
- We suggest that the group thinks about establishing either 3 subgroups: one for the annex IV, one for Annex I & III and one for IX. This would allow to look independently at the annexes and would avoid to possibly mix different issues. An alternative is to tackle the annex discussions only in one group, starting first with a short general overview and the tackling the individual annexes one by one. This might help avoiding duplication of discussions. Today Switzerland is open to both ways forward and would be happy discussing this further, as a feeling today we think the second way forward would be more efficient.

When the general organization of the group(s) is defined Switzerland would like to propose the 3 following steps in order to start the work:

Step 1: Identification of the needs:

For each annex, the group should check every entry/item, one after each other and identify/decide which entry/items should be updated.

The outcome of step 1 would be a list of all the items that need special attention and that the group needs to address it more precisely.

Step 2: Structure: the group should then ask itself if it is necessary to work on the structure of the annex and to adapt it.

The outcome of step 2 would be a proposition of a revised structure for any or each annex.

Step 3: definition of a methodology: the group needs to decide how to address the items defined under step 1 this needs further clarifications.

I hope these first general comments are helpful and apologies for the delay.

Best regards,
Michel

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