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**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

Working Group on Waste Management Policy

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Cancun, Mexico, 1-3 November 1999

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The Working Group on Waste Management Policy:

1. Adoption of the Agenda ENV/EPOC/WMP/A(99)2
expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States for hosting this meeting in Cancun;
adopted the draft Agenda without any modifications; and
noted that document [ENV/EPOC/WMP(99)7] does not exist and that the Secretariat has several issues to inform under Item 10.
2. Summary Record of the previous meeting ENV/EPOC/WMP/M(99)1
approved the Summary Record of the 48th meeting without any modifications.
3. Review of major events in Member countries and international organisations during the last six months
noted the written statements by participants on major events during the last six months, concerning waste management and in particular transfrontier movements of wastes.
4. Consolidation of Council Acts ENV/EPOC/WMP(99)4/REV1
welcomed the second draft of the consolidated Council Act prepared by Australia, Canada, Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States with the help of the Secretariat;
confirmed that the purpose of this exercise is to streamline as well as update all Council Acts related to transfrontier movements of wastes, except the Decision C(92)39/FINAL and that the new Act would include principles and lay down a basis for the management of all transboundary movements of wastes and it will cover all other transboundary movements of wastes within, into and out of the OECD area, except those destined for recovery operations between the OECD countries covered by Decision C(92)39/FINAL;
recognised that during the meeting all contentious issues, based on earlier comments from several Member countries, were discussed and majority of them were solved;
concluded that discussions reflected a positive attitude towards reaching the goal of this work, although divergent opinions were expressed in relation to the extent of harmonisation: direct reference to the Basel decisions II/12 and III/1 (known as the Basel ban) was supported by some European Member countries and the Commission, while other Member countries questioned the need for such a reference; furthermore, some countries supported a direct incorporation of Basel and national definitions of waste and hazardous waste, while some others supported the maintenance of the self-standing OECD definitions of C(88)90(Final); and
decided to address the remaining bracketed issues at the next meeting which the Czech Republic has kindly offered to host in Prague on 10-14 April 2000.

5. Amendment of the Council Act C(92)39/FINAL

ENV/EPOC/WMP(99)5

noted that the purpose of the amendment work is to streamline and simplify the OECD Control System on transboundary movements of wastes, and harmonise it with that of the Basel Convention, as appropriate;

welcomed the invited presentations and written submissions by the Electronic Industries Alliance and the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association to contribute to discussions on the facilitation and enhancement of the product take-back and closed-loop recycling programmes;

recognized that the Group addressed all contentious issues and found consensus language for most of them;

concluded that most difficulties concern the relations between the Basel lists and the OECD control system, since all European Union Member States and the Commission supported the direct adoption of Basel lists into the OECD Control system, unless there were a consensus of Member countries to apply a different level of control in exceptional cases (if no consensus could be reached in these exceptional cases, Member country(ies) could "opt out" of direct adoption of the Basel lists on a case-by-case basis.), while other countries supported the direct adoption of the Basel lists only in those cases where no Member country objects; in the exceptional cases where such an objection is made, the Basel listing shall not apply until Council so decides; in these cases decisions on the level of control to be applied would be based on existing OECD risk-based criteria;

decided to address the remaining bracketed items at the next meeting on 10-14 April 2000 in Prague meeting in April 2000, the goal being to conclude discussions at the 51st meeting on 2-4 October 2000 in Vienna and provide EPOC with two new draft Council Acts at its meeting on 27-29 November 2000; and

agreed to encourage Germany to take the lead in preparing and submitting applications to the Basel "Review Mechanism" for further harmonisation of OECD and Basel waste lists.

6. Outcome of the Workshop on Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes (ESM)

Working paper No 1

welcomed the organisation of an ESM Workshop, expressed gratitude to the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States for hosting the Workshop and encouraged the Secretariat to publish the Workshop Proceedings by early January 2000;

endorsed recommendations from the Workshop (Annex 1) with the exception that a compilation of Member country experience on ESM should be published as a free distribution document rather than an official OECD publication and that only one waste stream (personal computers) should be addressed in developing pilot ESM standards; the Bureau should be consulted before selecting further waste streams for study; and

welcomed Austria's offer to host the second ESM Workshop in Vienna on 28-29 September 2000.

7. Financial Arrangements for 2000

ENV/EPOC/WMP(99)6

noted the need of 915 000 FRF of voluntary contributions to be able to carry out fully the planned waste management work in 2000; and

indicated kindly the following sources of voluntary contributions: Canada 30 000 CAD, Germany 40 000 DM, The Netherlands 12 500 GLD and The United States 25 % of the required 915 000 FRF (40 000 USD).

8. Co-operation with the WCO concerning the Customs Codes for C(92)39/FINAL

Oral report

noted the report by the Secretariat that no official document could be provided at the meeting, since there are still 5 items on the Green list and 7 items on the Amber list, for which no corresponding Customs Code has yet been found; assistance has been requested from BIAC by January 2000, to solve these 12 remaining issues;

further noted a detailed list of the problematic items which was distributed to delegates; and

decided to address this issue again at the next meeting.

9. Date of the next meeting

welcomed the offer of the Government of Czech Republic to host the next meeting in Prague;

agreed to have the next meeting in Prague on 10-14 April 2000 in such a way that the first two days are devoted to the "Review Mechanism" issues and the last three days for the regular WGWMP meeting;

noted that the main items on the WGWMP Agenda will be the second draft of the amended Decision C(92)39/FINAL and the third draft of the consolidated Council Act.

10. Other business

i) Participation of NGOs in WGWMP's future activities

authorised the Bureau to decide on the participation of NGOs in WGWMP's future activities, according to the guidance provided by the WGWMP in October 1998 [ENV/EPOC/WMP/M(98)4]; and

encouraged the Secretariat to invite to future meetings also North American ECOs.

ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the OECD/ENV and SBC

noted that the Memorandum of Understanding between OECD's Environment Directorate and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has recently been renewed, to be in force until 31 December 2000.

iii) OECD website on wastes

noted that the OECD's Waste Management Programme has its own website:
<http://www.oecd.org/ehs/Waste/Index.htm>.

iv) Review of meetings

ENV/EPOC/WMP/RD(99)1

noted that as a follow-up to the review of the OECD committee structure [CE(98)3], all subsidiary bodies have to make a self-evaluation of their own work and meetings on the basis of a questionnaire which has been circulated to delegates; results are attached to this Summary Record (Annex 2).

v) Reorganisation of EPOC

noted the report by the Secretariat that reorganisation of the environment programme committee structure is presently under discussion within EPOC [ENV/EPOC(99)32]; full Group discussions, which will also refer to relocation of the WGWMP, will start in November 1999, continue in April 2000 and will be completed in November 2000, since the new structure should be functional from the beginning of 2001.

vi) Bulgaria's Request for Observership in WGWMP

noted the report by the Secretariat that Bulgaria is seeking observership, among others in EPOC, WPPPC and WGWMP and that the Head of Pollution Prevention and Control Division has supported Bulgaria's observership in WPPPC and WGWMP.

ANNEX 1

Working Paper No. 1

RECOMMENDATIONS TO WGWMP CONCERNING THE FUTURE WORK ON ESM

INTRODUCTION

During the discussions it became evident that the understanding of the scope and content of ESM varies greatly among the participants. The concept of ESM clearly needs further clarification, as well as the level of ESM application, whether at the international (OECD), national or facility level. However, it was recognised that ESM contributes to the wider notion of sustainable development, and has a link to waste minimisation and product policies.

In general, there is a need for member countries to ensure that they have the proper infrastructure for ESM; and for a procedure to assess ESM when considering an export.

The participants also recognised that ESM will be the focus of the Basel Convention for the next decade, and in that regard, wanted to ensure that the OECD maintains close co-operation with the Basel Convention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The workshop recommended the WGWMP conduct the following:

The collection of experience within member countries on how to assess ESM at the national level, including elements of waste minimisation, government infrastructure, enforcement, licensing of facilities, etc. This would serve to provide a framework for assessing ESM.

The development of a series of questions (standardised questionnaire) that could be asked when considering an export of hazardous wastes. These questions would focus on the proposed management of the hazardous waste at the facility level.

The development of analyses and “test standards” of ESM for specific waste streams. As a priority, the OECD should consider waste streams that are frequently subject to transboundary movements, or that may have significant environmental impact. The workshop participants provided the following preliminary recommendations for such work:

Electronic scrap, particularly personal computers; and

Non-ferrous metals scrap.

The analyses and test standards shall be focused on the waste management aspects for these existing waste streams. However this should be done in the context of sustainable development (including waste minimisation and product policies);

The test standards should include potential ESM elements at the international (OECD) level for the use of domestic and international shipments recognising that some of these elements may have broader application than the initially targeted waste streams.

These “test standards” should be used as vehicles for exploring the nature of a potentially more comprehensive programme of ESM standards.

The OECD should rely on industry / government / NGO co-operation to provide information for these analyses; and

The OECD should consider holding a second workshop the objective being to develop a better common understanding of ESM, particularly to identify ways to foster ESM within OECD and Non-OECD countries.

SCHEDULE

In order to implement these recommendations, the Secretariat proposes the following schedule. The proposed activities are in line with the present mandate of the GWMP, which will terminate at the end of 2000:

Decide on the waste streams to be analysed during the GWMP meeting in November 1999;

Collect information, engage a possible consultant or lead country and prepare the collection of experience on ESM at the national level and the series of questions to be addressed when considering an export, and “test standards” by end of May 2000;

Seek comments from the Bureau on the drafts by the end of July 2000;

Revise and circulate to interested parties by the end of August 2000; and

Conduct the second workshop in October 2000.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed activities would require 12 consultant months within the OECD Secretariat and 5 outside consultant months in 2000. In case a Member country takes a lead in conducting this analyses there is no need for an outside consultant.

ANNEX 2

**Results of the Self-Evaluation questionnaire of the 49th Meeting of the
OECD Working Group on Waste Management Policy**

Cancun, 1-3 November 1999

12 responses of 20 Delegations and observers

PREPARATION OF MEETING

Agenda

- Too heavy/crowded
12 Correct balance of items
 Too light

Meeting objectives

- 9** Totally clear
2 Partially clear
1 Not clear enough

Topics addressed

- 10** Good selection of topics
2 Some topics missing or insufficiently addressed
 Some topics better addressed in written procedure

Preparation by Secretariat

- 10** Good
2 Fair
 Inadequate

Preparation by Chair, Bureaux

- 10** Good
2 Fair
 Inadequate

Preparation by Delegates

- 4** Good
8 Fair
 Inadequate

MEETING DOCUMENTS

Availability of English documents

- 10** On time
2 Somewhat late
 Very late

Availability of French documents

- On time
 Somewhat late
 Very late

Length of documents

- Too long on average
12 About right on average
 Too short on average

Quality of documents

- 8** Most/all were good
4 Average
 Many were poor

Quantity of documents

- 1** Too many
11 About right
 Not enough

Relevance to meeting

- 7** Most/all highly relevant
5 Some relevant, others not
 Many not directly relevant

MANAGEMENT OF MEETING

Running of meeting by Chair

- 10 Well managed
- 2 Average
- Poorly managed

Meeting focus

- 10 Meeting on track
- 2 Average
- Meeting lost focus

Meeting duration

- 1 Too long
- 11 About right
- Too short

Performance of Secretariat

- 8 Generally good
- 4 Average
- Below expectations

Contribution of Delegations

- 6 Generally good
- 6 Average
- Below expectations

Liveliness of meeting

- 6 Animated
- 6 Average
- Dull

ACHIEVEMENT OF MEETING OBJECTIVES

2 Fully met: The meeting gave clear directions for future work. Results were relevant, clear and specific.

10 Partially met: The meeting gave clear directions in some areas but not others. Results were clear in some areas but not others.

Not met: Results were disappointing. Many decisions were postponed or unclear. Directions for future work were not specific.

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH MEETING

- 2 Very satisfied
- 10 Generally satisfied
- Not satisfied

WRITTEN COMMENTS

What aspects of the meeting went particularly well?

One comment : "Firm Chairmanship".

What aspects of the meeting could be improved?

No comments

Other comments?

One comment: "The meeting room was too cold".

49th Meeting of the Working Group on Waste Management Policy

Cancun, Mexico 1-3 November, 1999

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