

ANNEX 12

Report of Central & Eastern European Regional Group Meetings

Report of Central & Eastern European (CEE) Regional Group Meetings 15-18 October 2000

The meeting was attended by the representatives of 14 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

Participants of the meeting expressed their gratitude to the Brazilian government, in particular, for the excellent preparatory work and organization of the meeting.

Prof. Ungvary, Vice-President of IFCS opened the meeting, and welcomed the participants.

Appointing rapporteurs for the group

Dr. Rusnak of Slovakia and Dr. Tompa of Hungary were proposed and elected as rapporteurs for the CEE regional group.

Adoption of the Agenda

The programme of the Meeting was carried out according to the "Detailed Time Schedule" (04w Agenda item 3) and the President's instructions (Briefing Note for Vice-Presidents).

The program of the meetings:

1. Work schedule
2. Appointing a rapporteur for the group
3. Introduction and discussion of agenda items 3 and 4
 - (a) Forum Standing Committee (FSC) Terms of Reference
 - (b) Election Process
 - (c) Role of the President
 - (d) Regional Roles and Responsibilities of Vice-Presidents
 - (e) Guidelines for National Focus Points
 - (f) Forum Standing Committee
4. Election Facilitating Committee
5. Nomination of officers and members of the FSC
6. Agenda item 6 (Priorities for Action Beyond 2000)
7. Agenda item 7 (Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products)
8. Agenda item 8 (Barriers to Information Exchange for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and Information Exchange for Chemical Production Decision - Making)
9. Agenda item 9 (Emission Inventories)
10. Agenda item 10 (Raising Awareness and Raising the Priority of Chemicals Management Capacity Building Issues at Political Levels)
11. Capacity Building Network

Election Process

Ms. Manuela Godden (IFCS Secretariat) and the Vice-President acquainted the participants with the process for the election on the basis of the relevant Room Document (IFCS/FCS/00.44).

Mr. Fran Marovic (Croatia) was elected to the Election Facilitating Committee. Hungary was nominated as Vice-President. Russian Federation and Slovenia were nominated as the members of the Forum Standing Committee. Participants took into consideration the sub-regional distribution of the region.

The tone of the meeting

The tone of the meeting was co-operative and friendly. Each document was presented briefly by the Vice-President or another member of the group, then discussed in detail. Discussion was constructive and lively.

Some members of the Region participated in different *ad hoc* working groups (e.g. Priorities for Action beyond 2000, Bahia Declaration, Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products). Azerbaijan gave a report on the oil industry in the country. Rapporteurs prepared reports on the daily activity of the regional group. These reports were presented to the FSC or the Plenary session.

In the case of those topics that were prepared by the CEE countries (e.g. Priorities for Action beyond 2000, Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products in CEE, Raising Awareness and Raising the Priority of Chemical Management Issues within countries with economies in transition), the interest was particularly high. For these topics the members of the CEE Region attached modifying and new recommendations.

Closing remarks

The Vice-President gave a brief summing-up and noted the meeting's success in helping to prepare participants for their future activities in the field of chemical safety. He expressed his appreciation to the rapporteurs, to Mr. Karel Blaha for his active help in the coordination of regional meetings; to Dr. Kovacicova for the active contribution in preparation of one of the room documents (Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products in CEE). Finally, the Vice-President expressed his hope that Hungary would be able to organize FORUM IV, and his appreciation to each member of the region for their active work, for their support and confidence in electing him as a Vice-President, and for their unanimous support for Hungary in obtaining the right to host FORUM IV.