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## Committee on Trade and Environment

### CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

#### Note by the Secretariat

The First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee (IC) for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety took place in Montpellier, France, from 11-15 December 2000.<sup>1</sup> Agreement was reached on certain actions to be taken "inter-sessionally", with the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee due to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1-5 October 2001. Action is to be taken on:<sup>2</sup>

- **Information sharing:** to establish a Biosafety Clearing House in a phased manner, beginning with a pilot phase;
- **Capacity building;**
- **Capacity building to develop a Roster of Experts<sup>3</sup>;**
- **Decision-making procedures:** to invite Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and governments to communicate their views on how to facilitate decision-making by parties of import, and to request the Executive Secretary to compile these views in a synthesis report for consideration by the IC at its October meeting;
- **Handling, transport, packaging and identification:** to, amongst other actions, (1) invite Parties to the CBD, governments and relevant international organizations to submit information on their existing practices, rules and standards relevant to Article 18<sup>4</sup> of the Cartagena Protocol, (2) request the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report on these practices, as well as devise options for coordinating work under Article 18 with the work of other relevant international bodies, all for consideration by the IC at its October meeting, and (3) convene a meeting of government-nominated technical experts in handling, transport, packaging and identification (subject to the necessary financial resources being made available) to consider developing measures for parties to meet their future obligations under Article 18. A report on their deliberations and recommendations would be presented to the IC at its October meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> See the report of the meeting, document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/9 (3 April 2001), at the following website: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/iccp-01.asp>. Annex II contains a chair's summary of three pages of the discussion held in Working Group 1 (information sharing, and handling, transport, packaging and identification), and Annex III a chair's summary of six pages of the discussion held in Working Group 2 (capacity-building, roster of experts, decision-making procedures, and compliance).

<sup>2</sup> See Annex I of the above-mentioned report.

<sup>3</sup> "The role of the experts, as set out in decision EM-I/3, is to provide advice and other support to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to conduct risk assessment, make informed decisions, develop national human resources, promote institutional strengthening and suggest strategies for risk management" (Annex III, page 29, of the report in footnote 1).

<sup>4</sup> Article 18 is on "Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification". See document WT/CTE/W/136 (20 March 2000) for the full text of the Cartagena Protocol.

- **Compliance:** to, amongst other actions, (1) invite Parties to the CBD and governments to communicate their views on elements and options for a compliance regime under the Cartagena Protocol, (2) request the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report on these views for the consideration of experts that meet in the intersessional period and of the IC at its October meeting; and (3) to organize an open-ended meeting of experts to review the synthesis report by the Secretariat. The meeting would be held back-to-back with the IC's October meeting.
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