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### PARTNERS' MEETING

## GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE (GCI)

### REPORT

PARIS, FRANCE, 27 JANUARY 2005

GreenCustoms



Organized by:

OzonAction Branch  
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## **A. INTRODUCTION**

UNEP hosted in its office a meeting of the Partners to the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) on 27 January 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to review the status of the GCI, review the role and contribution of each partner, plan the next steps, and introduce new partners (designated as “observers) who might be considered for addition to the group.

### **I. WELCOME BY MONIQUE BARBUT**

DTIE Director Ms Monique Barbut welcomed and thanked the participants. She emphasised the uniqueness of this first effective practical project collaboration between these chemical conventions whose fundamental issues are applicable to conventions like the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well. She underlined the importance of combating illegal trade through the co-ordination of the environmentally-related customs activities and through strong penalties for illegal traders and smugglers.

Furthermore she thanked the participants for committing resources of various kinds to help the Green Customs Initiative take off. Ms Barbut particularly thanked the Government of Norway for providing financial input and also announced that UNEP’s Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) and the Government of the Czech Republic would provide funds for several training workshops.

Finally, she highlighted that it is essential to involve the whole chain of enforcement officers to make training against illegal trade most effective. She enhanced the need to build the capacity especially of judges and prosecutors to fully implement multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in close co-ordination with customs administrations.

### **II. RAJENDRA SHENDE’S PRESENTATION**

The Head of the DTIE OzonAction Branch, Rajendra Shende, gave an overview of activities and achievements of the GCI for the period 2002 until 2004. He highlighted that with relatively small resources provided by the Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC), the initiative not only took roots, but could carry the activities to build the blocks for the coming years. He outlined the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting. He emphasised the need of strengthening the enforcement and compliance chain, focusing on capacity building for prosecutors and judges in the Green Customs Initiative. The need for a common resource mobilisation strategy and a common communication and information approach as well as the possible expansion of the partnership was stressed.

## **B. PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS**

### **I. PRESENTATIONS OF PARTNERS TO THE GREENCUSTOMS INITIATIVE**

To open the meeting, the participants provided input and background on the status of the initiative within their area of expertise, focussing on highlights of activities, challenges and barriers since the first Partners meeting in October 2001.

The presentations were provided by (in order of their presentation):

- Mr. Stephen Nash, Chief of Unit, Capacity Building, Secretariat of CITES
- Mr. Carl Bruch, Legal Officer, UNEP DEPI
- Ms. Donata Rugarabamu, Senior Legal Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention
- Mr. Gilbert Bankobeza, Senior Legal Officer, UNEP – Ozone Secretariat
- Mr. Mark Measer, Crime Intelligence Officer, Secretariat General Interpol
- Ms. Laura Meszaros, Rotterdam Convention
- Mr. Suresh Raj, Capacity Building Manager, OzoneAction Branch

Ms. Anette Bonde, technical Officer, WCO, had sent a written statement prior to the meeting.

Dr. Gilbert Bankobeza from the Ozone Secretariat moderated the session.

#### ➤ **CITES**

Stephen Nash presented the CITES' view on illegal trade and customs. He reminded that CITES focuses primarily on regulating legal trade, rather than combating illegal trade. Within CITES training sessions, customs officers only amount to 5% of the audience. To reflect this, CITES decided to use their training budget to aim at self-instruction training. In this context Mr Nash presented CITES' interactive CD-ROM on customs training.

He also emphasised the need to increase dialogue between customs officers and national Management/Scientific Authorities, as those are the specialists the customs officers should contact in case of any uncertainties.

One of the challenges for combining CITES customs activities with other MEAs is that for wildlife the illegal trade by majority takes place by air, whereas illegal trade in chemicals or hazardous waste is conducted mostly by land or sea.

Finally he pointed out, that the priority in his view for the Green Customs documents would be awareness raising of customs officers, rather than a detailed training programme.

#### ➤ **DEPI**

Carl Bruch gave some background information on how DEPI came to this initiative. He mentioned the Guidelines adopted in 2002 by the UNEP Governing Council. Those guidelines set out various tools to increase compliance with and enforcement of MEAs. Expanding on these guidelines, DEPI has developed a Manual in collaboration with many of the Secretariats and other participants through a process of regional capacity building workshops. This Manual expands upon the various approaches set forth in the Guidelines, including ways to enhance capacity and effectiveness of customs officers. Mr. Bruch also reviewed the pilot activities that DEPI is undertaking and supporting to improve implementation of MEAs, such as its support for the Green Customs Initiative.

Carl Bruch also mentioned that Vijay Samnotra from the UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC) regretted he could not join the meeting today, but remains interested in this Initiative.

➤ **Basel Convention**

Donata Rugarabamu gave background information and an update about past and planned activities. Last year the Basel secretariat signed an MoU with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); thus the two organisations now collaborate at the institutional level. Ms Rugarabamu gave background information on the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP), which took place in Geneva, 25-27 October 2004. For the future, the Basel Secretariat hopes to develop long-term projects and legislation together with MEAs covering chemicals and other partners. She also mentioned, that the Basel Secretariat hopes to conduct a regional meeting in Panama, where the GCI training manual could perhaps be tested.

The Basel Convention has 14 regional centres to deliver training at the regional level.

As moderator of the session, Dr. Bankobeza underlined that resources could be pooled by several MEAs to enable such regional workshops to happen.

➤ **Ozone Secretariat**

Gilbert Bankobeza presented highlights of activities conducted and challenges met by the Ozone Secretariat. He noted that UNEP DTIE is the implementing arm for customs training in the Montreal Protocol, thus explaining the role of DTIE within the Green Customs Initiative.

A major challenge for Parties to the Montreal Protocol, are the continuing activities in illegal trade in ODS which is encouraged because the prices of ODS have remained low compared to the cost of ODS alternatives.

Furthermore he was concerned about very low reporting of cases of illegal trade by the Parties compared to what is mentioned in the media. As per a MOP decision, Parties are requested to report such cases to the Ozone Secretariat. However, he noted that some countries such as the United States have undertaken impressive efforts in catching smugglers.

He also acknowledged the difficulty in achieving sustainability of customs training and that it is difficult to make sure, that information delivered through the training in trickling down to the whole structure.

➤ **Interpol**

Mark Measer provided the presentation of Interpol's activities and views on the Green Customs Initiative. He is one of the two individuals at Interpol responsible for environmental pollution and crimes. Mark Measer is in charge of pollution crimes.

Up to now, Interpol offers environmental crime train-the-trainers programmes. These trainings take 4 days and police officers, prosecutors and judges from different countries are invited to take part. The participants then go back to their home country and teach their colleagues. The teaching back in the trainees' home countries is taking place rather informally.

For the future, one main goal in capacity building is to achieve collaboration and information sharing between nations. Inter alia, Interpol aims at developing a clean seas programme with focus on combating oil pollution from vessels.

➤ **Rotterdam Convention**

Laura Meszaros gave a quick overview about ongoing developments under the Rotterdam Convention. Up to now, no training for customs officers is provided. The

Rotterdam Convention Secretariat wishes to look at possible synergies with the other conventions and learn more about the status of the GCI and what role the Secretariat could play.

Ms. Meszaros also conveyed that Elena Sabokina (from the Stockholm Convention Secretariat) had been unable to join the meeting as she was on sick leave.

### ➤ **UNEP DTIE**

Suresh Raj gave a review of ongoing proceedings at the Montreal Protocol customs trainings, as DTIE is the lead agency in this implementation sector.

First of all, a total amount of 5 million dollars, funded through the Multilateral Fund, GEF and bilaterals, has been provided to this programme.

In general, UNEP follows a two-phase customs training approach using the train-the-trainer methodology. Phase-I training is conducted by UNEP, followed up by national Phase-II workshop(s) organised by the country itself.

Before the training is conducted it is also considered essential to make sure that the right national legislation is in place (it is a requirement before the Montreal Protocol workshop can take place that Licensing systems are approved by the country).

In order to raise international awareness about the GCI, UNEP presented the GCI-concept at, *inter alia*, internal meetings of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), a workshop of the Basel Convention held in Romania and at the MOP, with great response from the respective participants. UNEP along with the partners also prepared some fact sheets that can be accessed from the web site. For the future a more intense outreach to public media should be envisaged.

For the Montreal Protocol involving other partners is one of the key challenges, it is very important but at the same time it is sometimes difficult, as the cross-cutting issues are not always at the top of the MEAs agenda.

The WCO also provided a written statement describing their action regarding the GCI and possible further involvement.

## II. INTRODUCTION OF INVITED OBSERVERS

Following the presentations of each partner and the discussions afterwards, the introduction of the invited observers took place. Each observer presented its most recent activities in relation to illegal trade and customs training as well as their views on the GCI.

The invited observers were (in order of their presentations):

- Ms. Magda Bauta Solés, Head, Implementation Support Branch, International Co-operation and Assistance Division, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- Ms. Angela Bularga/Krzysztof Michalak, Non-Member Country Division, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Ms. Margaret McCauley, UNEP Desk Officer, U.S. State Department
- Mr. Ken Markowitz, International Network for Environment Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) Secretariat
- Mr. Asad Naqvi, Programme Officer, Economics and Trade Branch, DTIE
- Ms Linn Persson, Research Associate & Project Manager, Ozone Layer Programme, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- Mr. Trond Grongstad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

- Mr. Bruce Pasfield, Assistant Section Chief, Environment Crimes Section, US Department of Justice

➤ **OPCW**

Magda Bauta introduced OPCW's activities and explained the tracking system of chemical weapons implemented by OPCW, controlling imports and exports of dangerous chemicals. OPCW has also recognised the necessity of adopting appropriate legal trade regulation.

OPCW has customs training programmes but finds it difficult to reach out to the constituencies of customs and they would like to cooperate with UNEP DTIE which specifically works with customs officers. OPCW invited UNEP DTIE to participate in one of its technical meetings in Buenos Aires on 6-8 September 2004.

A framework MOU between UNEP and OPCW is in progress (draft needs to be approved by the Executive Council of the OPCW). Ms Bauta emphasised the necessity of securing that this initiative is properly funded. OPCW itself is considering to commit some financial resources to the GCI.

➤ **OECD**

Angela Bularga presented the OECD work on environmental compliance assurance that focuses mostly on non-member countries, in particular on environmental inspectorates and their partners from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This programme area aims at raising effectiveness and efficiency of environmental enforcement authorities, and achieving higher regulatory compliance.

Among others, capacity building activities for environmental inspectors are implemented. These included the development of a "Glossary of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Terms" initially intended for environmental inspectors, but also distributed to other parties like NGOs, prosecutors and judges, etc. Recently, a "Toolkit for Environmental Inspectors" was published, which Ms Bularga offered to forward to the Partners is case of interest. Based on the Toolkit, training workshops were conducted in Caucasus (with participation of inspectors from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Kazakhstan, and Russian Federation. The next training is planned to happen in Kyrgyzstan in February 2005.

The OECD representative underlined the need to create a sustainable mechanism of training, giving as example one especially successful project in Kazakhstan, where the training programme for inspectorates is delivered by a self-financing independent training centre.

Ms Bularga also mentioned the EECCA Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network as a possible avenue for conveying the messages of the GCI.

➤ **INECE**

Ken Markowitz explained that INECE is a partnership of prosecutors, civil lawyers, judges and parliamentarians and others, rather than an NGO. Its main aim is to facilitate communication between different stakeholders and help organisations in the area of environmental compliance and enforcement.

INECE strikes for three main goals to combat illegal trade: awareness raising, building capacity and especially promoting networks. Mr. Markowitz highlighted the need of raising awareness regarding the compliance with the rules of law to achieve a mindset within the judiciary responsive to issues of international criminal environmental law. INECE's web site includes links to specific MEAs and literature

on compliance and enforcement. It also keeps a very active calendar on upcoming meetings and other activities.

Regarding capacity building INECE acknowledges the need to apply pressure at the right points in the enforcement chain. If 100% of illegal trade in ODS would be detected and only 5% prosecuted, enough incentive for enforcement might not be there. Within the judicial training one should focus on reaching a common understanding of these themes around the world.

INECE offers a "Principle of Environmental Enforcement"-course including text and training exercises in the areas of development of legislation and implementation.

Mr. Markowitz informed the Partners of INECE's triennial workshop taking place 9-15 April 2005 in Marrakech and invited them to join the meeting. More than 200 practitioners will participate.

#### ➤ **US State Department**

Ms. McCauley expressed satisfaction on behalf of the State Department to see the involvement of US authorities on this subject. She emphasised the possible risk of illegal trade developing in the field of MEAs having recently entered into force, such as Rotterdam or Stockholm. She highlighted the experience of the US working with Canada and Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to ensure that customs and enforcement officers are aware of the stakes of MEA-related illegal trade. She mentioned the possibility of US funding for this initiative in upcoming months and years. Finally she stressed the importance of developing support groups and networks to follow-up on the training workshops.

#### ➤ **DTIE ETB**

Mr. Naqvi offered ETB's view on ways of combating illegal trade from the experience of the joint UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force (CBTF).

Mr. Naqvi gave examples of successful approaches in CBTF, such as: learning-by-doing approaches for training, focus on economic instruments as means of implementation, accountability-building at the national level, creation of networks and inclusion of principles in national educational programmes.

One of their main concerns is to think from the recipient's end. In this area assessment is needed, as the supply of information should be precisely targeted. Methodological issues should be defined, such as: how to build balance between various types of training; what instruments are the most useful and effective ones.

For the future a link up of the GCI with the WTO should be considered.

#### ➤ **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)**

Linn Persson introduced the work of SEI. SEI is an international environmental institute specialising in sustainable development and environment policy issues.

Within their Atmospheric Environment Programme, SEI deals with emissions of ODS and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). SEI identified the need for collaborating with customs officers and thus created a network of ozone officers in Southeast Asia and Pacific with participation of 22 countries, which is operated by UNEP from the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific. Meetings take place twice a year. SEI focuses not on front line officers but on customs officers from higher authorities. The participating countries gave positive acknowledgement to this approach. In the future it will be discussed how this could be done in a broader scope, which could be relevant for other MEAs as well.

➤ **Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Trond Grongstad expressed his support to the initiative on behalf of the Government of Norway. Green Customs is considered a very important initiative as it strengthens national implementation of MEAs and makes MEAs work together through a practical approach. Mr. Grongstad mentioned that the support from Norway was coming from the ODA budget and that discussions were being held with UNEP for 2005 contributions, but that it was still too early for any further commitment. He emphasised the priority areas of Norway, among other things in: assistance to Africa; and capacity building for MEA enforcement.

## **C. DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The meeting did not formally agree to adopt conclusions. However, the following is a summary of the key messages from the participants and their approval on follow-up activities to be conducted by the partners/participants.

The participants agreed that following an integrated approach is the most important matter. A workplan of activities for the GCI was developed. This includes five prioritised items:

1. Training Courses – dedicated Add-on to meetings/workshops planned by participants
2. Training Manual
3. Co-ordinating – Fundraising – Networking and ensuring sustainability of the initiative
4. Judges – Prosecutors – Training, postponed to 2006
5. Information and Communication

### **I. MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED**

#### **1. Training Courses**

##### **a) Modalities of the Training**

- **Training approach:** DTIE OzonAction Branch suggested following the train-the-trainers approach, as UNEP have found this method to be successful in relation to Montreal Protocol training.  
The CITES Secretariat recommended training experts to become better trainers, rather than to train laymen to actually become trainers. From their experience expert knowledge is essential, as customs officers address the trainers with specific questions that need to be answered on the spot.
- **Trainers:** One of the questions raised was whether one trainer could adequately deliver training related to several MEAs. Participants recognised that specialists well versed in the details of each of the Conventions should be present, to be able to respond to specialised questions.  
The Basel Convention Secretariat addressed the importance of including focal points in customs training to increase effectiveness.  
In the view of the CITES Secretariat, their focal points do not know well the customs' issues so they would prefer a competent customs officer to do the training.

Furthermore it was considered, that one convention could do the training and the others participate with various sorts of contribution and commitment from other partners.

- **Regional versus national training:** Advantages of national level could be that it is easier to test the manual for the first step of training. On the national level, one can also be more country-specific, i.e. provide detailed training also on national legislation. Furthermore, it secures that the training reaches the in-country officials and it prevents from conducting an extensive and difficult follow-up, necessary when doing regional training.  
However, one reaches more countries with just one training event if it is conducted on the regional level. Widespread knowledge due to training could be achieved faster and at a lower cost.
- **Needs assessment:** To make sure that the training is effective, it needs to be demand-driven. One has to have a close look on the target countries; i.e. what legislation do they have in place, in which area does illegal trade appear mostly in their country and which is the level of interest of customs officials and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Sustainability:** One issue is customs staff turnover. Not only do people move on over time but also the issues evolve over the years. MEAs with Amendments and Appendices that get amended regularly are intensely affected by that. These alterations fundamentally change what customs officers are expected to do. Thus it is very difficult to keep front line customs officers up-to-date. Possible solutions may be distribution of newsletters, conduct repeated training, offer a regularly updated web site and in general, try to get out as much information as possible. To achieve effective and widespread sustainability one should be able to rely on in-country representatives. Thus it is important to involve the national institutions to include Green Customs related training in their training curricula.

#### b) Possible opportunities for Add-on GCI training

In this session, the participants discussed the possibility of introducing the GCI on different occasions and possibly testing the Draft Manual at some meetings.

Please find below the schedule of upcoming meetings and what might be done:

- **Ozone Secretariat, Workshop on Illegal Trade, 2 April 2005 (tentative date)**  
This will be an expert meeting held by the Ozone Secretariat on illegal trade. The organisation of this meeting was initiated by a MOP decision that suggested developing a tracking system for illegal trade.
- **INECE Conference, 14 April 2005**  
INECE holds a Conference in Marrakech from 9-15 April 2005. Mr Markowitz invited all participants to attend the meeting. He suggested using one of the workshop sessions to vet the Draft Customs Training Manual. A short presentation and then gaining some feedback should be intended.
- **SIDA & ROAP, 25-27 April 2005**  
The Swedish International Development and Co-operation Agency (SIDA) and the UNEP's Regional Office, Asia and Pacific (ROAP) will hold a meeting at the end of April for customs officers on ozone (Regional Network). 22 countries of South East Asia will participate in this networking customs and ozone training workshop. The format for introducing the GCI at this event should be discussed at the regional level.

- **DEPI & ROWA, 2-6 May 2005**  
DEPI will organise a meeting on compliance and enforcement in Beirut in co-operation with the help of the Lebanese Government and UNEP's Regional Office of West Asia (ROWA). This is part of the series of workshops on DEPI's MEA Compliance and Enforcement Manual. There would be a possibility for inviting additional customs officers and organise parallel and specific customs sessions at the meeting.
- **Interpol, 2-3 June 2005**  
Interpol will organise a meeting in Lyon and offered to provide a presentation on the Green Customs Initiative. Representatives of Interpol's National Bureaus from each country will participate.
- **Easter Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia's Regulatory Environmental Programme Implementation Network (REPIN), first week of October 2005**  
This meeting, organised by the OECD, brings together policy and enforcement officials from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia as well as OECD countries. It will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The OECD offered to use the Network to disseminate information and collect feedback about the GCI and various activities planned under its umbrella in the EECCA region.
- **OPCW, October 2005**  
OPCW intends to hold a meeting of officials at the decision-making level in October, discussing the requirements of CWC on implementation in terms of imports and exports. The presence of observers would be welcomed.

## 2. Training Manual

- **Raising awareness versus detailed training:** It was suggested that raising awareness should only be the first step to target. Further, drafting a manual that is dealing with all MEAs in a detailed way did not seem to be feasible in the short term. It would be too voluminous and would double work already done by those Secretariats that already have training material in place.  
Everyone agreed that two aims should be having customs officers know whom to ask when questions arise and providing them with tool kits to act on issues related to MEAs.
- **Level of previous knowledge of trainees:** This needs to be assessed. Mr. Naqvi argued that we do not start the training from scratch. Trainees could be frustrated when confronted with basic information.
- **Language of training material:** The Basel Secretariat explained that they always provide their training material in six different languages as stipulated by the Parties.  
At least it should be provided initially in three different languages, English, French and Spanish.
- **Toolboxes:** Development of training "toolboxes" was suggested. The advantage of a toolbox would be that it could be modified according to the needs of countries participating in the training.
- **Addressee of the Manual:** The draft outline circulated was primarily meant to address trainees. Specific materials for the trainers should also be adopted.

- **Print version or electronic version:** The CITES Secretariat consciously avoided a paperwork training manual for customs officers, they have their electronic self-instructive CD-ROM and would like to leave it at that. The OPCW Secretariat mentioned they have had good experiences with electronic tools as well.  
On the other hand not all customs officers have access to computers or are used to working with them, especially in developing countries.
- **Additional Information:** The Basel Secretariat suggested to include in the customs training manual the information prosecutors and judges might require from the customs officers. It was also proposed to consider training of legislators and members of parliament in the long run.

### **3. Judges – Prosecutors Training**

DTIE raised the issue of including training for judges and prosecutors, as it is essential to ensure that the whole enforcement chain works together to effectively combat illegal trade. There was a general appreciation of the idea of implementing a training programme for judges and prosecutors as a component of the Green Customs Initiative.

Participants recognised the fact that integrating other members of enforcement chain would be beneficial as well. Mr. Pasfield pointed out, that especially investigators and prosecutors should hear each other and in particular the other's approach in dealing with a criminal case. Mark Measer from Interpol supported this "team-work approach" and emphasised that network building is the most important issue to effectively fight traffickers. He suggested developing or using a real crime scenario and discussing this together within training sessions.

OPCW emphasised the need to reach people who draft legislation. A key aspect within the enforcement chain is having the proper legislation. To achieve this, training should also reach out to the parliamentarians, as they have to approve the drafted legislation. In the past OPCW has trained and invested in this and would be happy to share these programmes.

### **4. Co-ordination - Fundraising**

To secure sustained funding for co-ordination of the Initiative will facilitate the delivery of the expected outcomes, e.g. co-ordinate workshops, exchanging information, enabling easy access to regularly up-dated information, co-ordinate distribution of outreach material.

### **5. Information and Communication**

Jim Curlin, OzonAction's Information Manger, gave a presentation on information and communication (I&C) within the GCI.

Mr Curlin presented DTIE's understanding of the I&C needs of the initiative: Inform the wider world about the initiative, Attract additional support (political, financial, in-kind), Deliver and/or reinforce training, Avoid duplication, and to Maintain a common knowledge base. He suggested the means by which these needs could be met: Branding (develop an easily-recognised identity for initiative e.g. logo, slogan), Web

activities (provide regularly-updated information about the initiative, deliver on-line training), Outreach materials (spread common messages & information e.g. a brochure, progress report), Media interaction (engage press & invite them to training events), Internal actions (promote internal understanding e.g. internal briefings, inform directors), Events (conduct special GCI outreach at COPs/MOPs, e.g. roundtables, exhibits).

He presented several existing UNEP DTIE information services that were already being marketed with the GCI "brand", including the Green Customs provisional logo. These items were: Green Customs website ([www.uneptie.org/ozonation/customs/](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonation/customs/)), Trade Names database ([www.uneptie.org/ozonation/library/tradenames/main.asp](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonation/library/tradenames/main.asp)), Nothing to Declare customs training video ([www.uneptie.org/ozonation/library/video/customs.html](http://www.uneptie.org/ozonation/library/video/customs.html)) He also presented a quick overview of the Green Customs website, launched in June 2003.

The main issues raised during the discussion were:

- Work arrangements for GCI I&C issues.
- The need for GCI to have a common I&C plan (including objectives, targets, messages, and resources) was discussed.
- The need for common outreach materials was identified as a priority, even in the form of a brochure or presentation.
- Web site. The website should be the repository for the Initiative. It will be to (a) host information about the GCI initiative itself that does not exist anywhere else (b) provide a short overview of each Partner's activities related to Green Customs (c) link to existing online resources on the Partners' web sites (i.e. not reproduce or house information already on the Partners' websites). The Partners should be the masters of the website content related to their organisation. All relevant Partner events should be listed on the GCI site.

## II. AGREED ACTIONS

### 1. Training Courses

To begin with there was a general understanding that the first few training courses conducted will be partly capacity building and partly vetting of the Manual. See below for details the meeting agreed on.

- **Regional or national training:** In the end participants agreed on following the subregional/regional training approach, as seems most important to reach as many countries and customs officers as possible and as soon as possible, in consideration of a limited budget.
- **funding and conducting workshops:**
  - **DEPI** offered funding for 5 regional courses with an approved budget of \$100,000. Requests already put forward came from:
    - South Asia
    - East Africa
    - West Asia
    - Caucasus
    - Latin America

The Czech Republic has also committed funding a training workshop in Central Asia. The OECD is interested to co-operate on training workshops in

Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. To use the funds of DEPI these workshops need to be carried out before October 2005.

- **Basel** offered to contribute resources for the organisation of the workshops, for example through its regional offices. The Basel Convention particularly emphasised that a workshop they had planned in Panama had to be postponed due to lack of funding and that there was a potential synergy with the GCI for a workshop there.
- **CITES** offered to contribute training materials for distribution.
- **DTIE** OzonAction could support the Initiative with 2 staff members.
- **Interpol** can offer the help of staff through the Secretariat or from its regional bureaux.
- The funds from **Norway** can also support these training workshops.
- **OPCW** is generally willing to commit funds for courses at the regional level. They have material in place and a resource person to do the CWC section. Only the MoU still needs to be approved.
- It was also mentioned that the Regional Offices from the WCO (**RILOS**) could be of assistance for the organisation of the workshops.

## 2. Training Manual

First of all, the need for development of a working version of the manual was ascertained.

- **Language of training material:** The first draft of the Training Manual should be in English, further translations will necessarily follow.
- **Awareness raising:** Common understanding, that the training manual should focus on awareness raising, rather than providing detailed training. However, it should also provide customs officers with contacts and tools for them to address trade related to environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by MEAs. The manual should focus on similarities between MEAs emphasising common approaches and techniques across MEAs.
- **Printed version:** Participants agreed to first develop a printed version and then consider extending training material to electronic version, as not every customs officer has access to a computer or is willing to study using electronic means.
- **Target group:** the target groups (within customs authorities, and within national MEA contact points/authorities) still need to be precisely defined by the participants.
- **Comments:** It was agreed that partners and participants provide their comments on the Draft Outline circulated by DTIE by 15 February 2005.

## 3. Judges – Prosecutors Training

In general participants were in agreement regarding the necessity for specific training sessions for each member of the enforcement chain, but also limited joint training to be a key element to combat illegal trade and build a “team spirit” among various enforcement officers.

At the same time the partners decided unanimously that it is too early to tackle this issue as the initial priority should be on customs training and particularly the development of the manual.

Existing initiatives will be surveyed to be able to link up with whatever is currently existing.

#### **4. Co-ordination - Fundraising**

Partners have different perception of the need for a strong coordination role. The importance of having dedicated staff to the coordination of the Green Customs initiative (preparation of workshops, reporting, communication between partners) was however emphasised. UNEP DTIE has played this role up to now and is ready to continue such a task, on the basis of the renewed commitment of all the partners to this initiative.

#### **5. Information and Communication**

The partners and participants agreed on the following concepts to be implemented:

- **“Focal Point”**: Partners agreed to nominate focal points (e.g. information officers) for communication on this aspect of the Partnership. Once the focal points were known, UNEP DTIE would organise a teleconference of those focal points.
- **Common I&C Plan**. Partners were open to the idea, but would wait for the focal points to be constituted before taking any decision.
- **Promotion**: Partners would consider promoting the GCI during MOPs/COPs and other meetings as well as promote internal understanding of the initiative, especially among heads of departments and directors.
- **Website**: Partners agreed to more regular and active contribution of information through the I&C focal points. Partners should draft a GCI summary text for their own website and link it to the GCI homepage. They should as well provide regularly updated information about GCI on their own website. Partners agreed on the choice for the GCI domain name (greencustoms.org). UNEP DTIE will purchase the domain name and inform the Partners.
- **Outreach material**: While recognising that there is a need for such materials, the Partners will leave it to the I&C focal points group to further study this issue.
- **Presence in Press**: Partners should invite the press to several events (for example training workshops) to increase public knowledge of GCI. They should include the Initiative in media information wherever possible.
- **Branding**: The Partners accepted the logo developed by UNEP DTIE as the official logo of the GCI.
- **Presentation**: Participants requested that the PowerPoint presentation on I&C issues be circulated.

**D: ANNEXES**

**ANNEX I:**

**Partners' Meeting  
Green Customs Initiative (GCI)**

**Paris, 27 January 2005**

**United Nations Environment Programme**

**Division of Technology, Industry and Economics - OzonAction Programme**

**Provisional Annotated Agenda**

**Thursday, 27 January 2005**

- 10:00 - 10.10      Welcome  
Monique Barbut, Director, UNEP DTIE
- 10.10 - 10:20      Introduction of Participants.  
each participant to very briefly introduce himself/ herself
- 10.20 – 10.30      Expectations from GCI Partners Meeting  
Rajendra M. Shende, Head, OzonAction Branch  
Presentation of the main milestones to date and challenges of the coming year. Brief introduction of the expected outcome of the meeting.
- 10:30 - 11:30      Status of the Initiative 2002-2004  
Each Partner will briefly present (5 minutes each) highlights of activities, challenges and barriers since the first Partners meeting in October 2001:  
*DTIE OzonAction: Suresh Raj*  
*CITES Secretariat: Steve Nash*  
*UNEP DEPI: Carl Bruch*  
*Stockholm Convention: Elena Sobakina*  
*Rotterdam Convention: Laura Meszaros*  
*Basel Convention Secretariat: Donata Rugarabamu*  
*Ozone Secretariat: Gilbert Bankobeza*  
*Interpol: Mark Measer*  
*WCO (invited to present by teleconference)*
- 11.30 - 11.50      Coffee break
- 11:50 - 12:20      Introduction of the invited observers  
Each observer will briefly present (5 minutes each) its most recent activities in relation to illegal trade and customs training as well as their priorities for the GCI.  
  
*OPCW: Magda Bauta*  
*OECD: Krzysztof Michalak or Angela Bularga*  
*United States State Department: Margaret McCauley*

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*INECE Secretariat: Ken Markowitz*

*French Customs Administration: Sophie Meynard and Emmanuelle Gallois*

*Sweden (SEI): Linn Persson*

*Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs): Trond Grongstad*

12.20 – 13.00

Brainstorming on the Work Plan

*Moderator: M Carl Bruch (invited) and Suresh Raj*

During this session, participants will highlight potential elements of a work plan of activities for the GCI. Partners will be asked to note which activities are priorities for 2005 and which are priorities for 2006 and beyond. Additionally, partners should note where they may be able to contribute resources.

13:00 - 14.15

**Lunch**

14.15 – 15:30

Summary of discussion on work plan & Discussion on financing the Initiative

*Moderator: Carl Bruch and Suresh Raj*

This session will draw from the participants' brainstorming and suggestions on the proposed work plan and will agree on a plan of action, including tentative dates and locations for integrated customs workshops in 2005 & resource kit. The funding of these activities will also be addressed with a focus on activities that may need additional resources. Options of funding sources will be discussed.

15:30 - 16:45

Coordination of specific GCI activities

- GCI Customs Training Manual

*Bruce Pasfield, US Department of Justice*

This session will present the status of the work on the Green Customs Manual and the approaches followed. An annotated outline will be available for comments. It will aim at agreeing on the participants' role in providing material and feedback on the draft manual. Partners will discuss additional resources apart from Manual.

- Information and Communication for the GCI

*Jim Curlin, UNEP DTIE*

Discussions will focus on the information and communication needs of the initiative, and possible means to achieve them, with focus on the existing web site. Issues needing resolution will be identified.

16:45 - 17:00

Conclusions and closing statement

*Monique Barbut, Director, UNEP DTIE*

17.00

*Cocktail Reception at UNEP DTIE offices*

ANNEX II:**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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