



Promoting compliance with environmental treaties

A Geneva Environment Network roundtable

Wednesday, 20 April 2005, 14.00 – 17.15
International Environment House II, Salle Rhin

All multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) seek to ensure that their member states comply with their legal obligations. To achieve this aim, many such treaties have established – or are in the process of developing – binding “compliance mechanisms”.

The mechanisms of the UNECE environmental conventions, for example, have all been functioning for at least a couple of years. The Basel Convention has a Compliance Committee, while the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is now codifying existing practices. The Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions are in the midst of negotiating their mechanisms.

Today’s roundtable will explore current thinking on how best to ensure that each MEA can benefit from an effective compliance mechanism.

Provisional agenda

14.00 Coffee

14.30 Welcome by Frits Schlingemann, UNEP Regional Director for Europe, and moderator Franz Perrez, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

14.40 Presentations by the panelists:

- **The Aarhus Convention Compliance Mechanism: the first two years**, by Veit Koester, Chairman, Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, and Chairman, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Compliance Committee
- **Codifying 30 years of CITES compliance practice**, by Marceil Yeater, Senior Legal Officer, CITES Secretariat
- **Compliance and technical and financial assistance: the interplay**, by Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva
- **UNEP’s Guidelines and Manual on Enforcement and Compliance**, by Elizabeth Mrema, Senior Legal Officer, UN Environment Programme

16.00 Discussion with panelists and participants

17.00 Wrap-up by the moderator

17.15 End



Panelists

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, a professor of international law, is the Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the University of Geneva. She is also a Visiting Professor at Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies. Ms. Boisson de Chazournes serves as a consultant and an expert with the World Bank, World Health Organization, UN Development Programme, International Labour Organization, UN Environment Programme, and others, and she is the author of many publications.

Veit Koester is Chairman of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and Chairman of the Compliance Committee of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. He also serves as an external professor at Roskilde University Centre in Denmark and visiting professor at United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan. He is a guest lecturer in international environmental law at Copenhagen University, Faculty of Law, Denmark and works as a consultant to various projects.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema is a Senior Legal Officer in the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) of the United Nations Environment Programme. She currently serves as Acting Chief of the Implementation of Environmental Law Branch and as Task Manager of the Partnership Programme for the Development of Environmental Laws and Institutions in Africa. Before joining UNEP 10 years ago Ms. Mrema was the Career Diplomat and Legal Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the Government of Tanzania, where she focused on issues such as the Law of the Sea, international human rights and humanitarian law and treaty law.

Franz Xaver Perrez is an official at the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape where he serves as Head of Section, Global Affairs, International Division. He was formerly legal advisor in the WTO Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and legal counsel to the Department of Public International Law in the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Perrez has published in the fields of international environmental law, WTO law and sovereignty.

Marceil Yeater is Chief of the Legislation and Compliance Unit of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Before joining CITES in 2000, she worked for nine years with UNEP's environmental law programme in Nairobi and with UNEP's chemicals programme in Geneva. In addition to her UN work experience, Ms. Yeater has over nine years of national experience as a trial attorney with the Environmental Crimes Section of the United States Department of Justice and the Attorney General's Office of the Territory of Guam.



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REGISTRATION FORM

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You are cordially invited to participate in this roundtable. Owing to the limited number of seats available, please indicate your participation in advance by completing this form and returning it by **18 April 2005** to Ms. Fatma Gordon at the address below by fax, post or email (Fatma.gordon@unep.ch).

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____