

**PANEL 5:
GLOBAL ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION ON CHEMICALS
AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

Moderator: Catherine McCabe, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Panelists: Jonathan Allotey, Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana

Dr. Iwona Rummel-Bulska, Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Environmental Law Branch, UNEP

Walker Smith, Director, Office of Regulatory Enforcement, Environmental Protection Agency, United States

Bert Wijbenga, Chief of Police, Flevoland Police, The Netherlands

Arwyn Jones, National Enforcement Manager, National Enforcement Service Environment Agency of England and Wales

Rapporteurs: Jo Gerardu, INECE Secretariat

Tim Whitehouse, INECE Secretariat

Summary Report:

This panel explored why global cooperation is necessary to combat illegal trade in chemicals, hazardous wastes, and environmentally-regulated products. Panelists discussed compliance issues associated with the import and export of ozone depleting substances; non-conforming pesticides; PCBs in transformers or ships; hazardous waste; electronic waste; scrap metal contaminated with radiation; and non-road engines and motor vehicles.

Jonathan Allotey, Director of Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency, talked about import problems in Ghana. These include the importation of mislabeled products containing ozone depleting substances, illegal pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Electronic wastes coming in from Europe as used products are also problematic.

Dr. Iwona Rummel-Bulska, Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Environmental Law Branch of UNEP, talked about the Probo Koala incident in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in August 2006. This incident highlighted significant gaps in the Basel Convention and in the ability or willingness of countries to cooperate on tracking suspect shipments of hazardous waste. The incident resulted in deaths, massive

displacement of people, and the formation of a new government in Cote d'Ivoire. The facts of this case are detailed in a paper submitted as part of the Conference Proceedings.

Dr. Rummel-Bulska highlighted the problem of dumping used electronic equipment in Africa. She said that 50 million metric tons of electronic wastes are generated globally, and much of it finds its way to Africa as charitable donations. Between 25% and 75% are useless. In Nigeria alone, about 500 containers full of electronic waste pass through the port of Lagos.

Walker Smith, Director of the Office of Civil Enforcement at the United States Environmental Protection Agency talked about the United States' focus on non-compliant imports. She talked about efforts in four areas: pesticides, chlorofluorocarbons, scrap metal, and non-compliant engines. Specific products discussed were pesticide chucks, silly string, radioactive steel, and engines. She pointed out that 48,000 engines have been seized recently for not being compliant with the Clean Air Act.

Bert Wijbenga, Chief of Police of the Flevoland Police Force in The Netherlands, pointed out that environmental crimes provide some of the easiest ways to make money. He noted that environmental crimes are not victimless. He underscored the need for:

1. Specialized full-time detectives for environmental crimes.
2. Improving the intelligence by which operations are led.
3. Introducing the possibility of anonymous reporting.
4. Mandatory training for all officers working in environmental crimes.

Arwyn Jones, Programme Manager for the Environment Agency for England and Wales, noted that this is a hugely complex problem that will grow as trade grows. He pointed out the need for clarity as to where the problems lie and to include stakeholders in the solutions.

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