
SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP: ILLEGAL TRANSFRONTIER MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Facilitators: Brad May
Silvia Nonna
Rapporteur: Peyton M. Sturges

GOALS

Discuss ways that INECE can improve networking for the control and monitoring of illegal trans-border shipments of hazardous wastes.

1 INTRODUCTION

This session had two questions raised by the facilitators: How can we improve networking in the control and monitoring of Illegal Transfrontier Shipments of Hazardous Wastes and to what extent can INECE contribute to this effort?

2 PAPERS

- Ruud MA De Krom, *How to Optimize the Control of Hazardous Waste Enforcement in Argentina* (6th Conference Proceedings, Volume 1).
- W. Snells and T. Liebregts, *Enforcement of the Regulation on the Supervision and Control of Waste Shipments Within, Into and Out of the European community (EU259/93): Collaboration on the Processing of Waste Substances* (6th Conference Proceedings, Volume 1).
- Maria Eugena Di Paola, *Governmental Coordination and Hazardous Waste Enforcement in Argentina* (6th Conference Proceedings, Volume 1).

3 DISCUSSION SUMMARY

This workshop discussed the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal and developed a propos-

al to establish a Network/Contact Database that would enhance environmental enforcement and compliance of Basel Convention by improving control and monitoring of confirmed and alleged cases of illegal transfrontier movements of hazardous wastes. This workshop also explored challenges to identifying, targeting, and intercepting illegal transfrontier movements; identified country-specific differences in classification of illegal hazardous waste; and discussed possible approaches for the rapid dissemination of intelligence through effective use of Web and network/contact database at the local and regional level.

The group identified several themes, including the need to encourage informal exchanges of information and information sharing, the desire to harmonize the definition across countries and regions of the terms used to describe hazardous wastes and recycled products, the need to encourage further training of inspectors and further education of the public, and the challenges posed by overlapping treaties and regulatory requirements.

Most members of the group have experienced problems involving inadequate control of hazardous waste shipments, whether PCBs, contaminated soils, lead wastes, or various substances masquerading as useful materials or beneficially recyclable materials. Several recounted how special problems can arise with "transit" shipments, where waste transportation

modes or waste ownership changes as the waste moves or is transformed through complete or partial treatment. Although the Basel Convention is the broadest most significant legal baseline in this arena, it cannot solve transfrontier shipment problems in a vacuum. The shortage of confirmed cases of illegal shipments entered by the administrative body established under the convention, as well as the fact that some major waste producers are not a party to the convention, suggest more needs to be done to utilize networking capabilities, both formal and informal, to raise the degree of compliance.

3 CONCLUSION

The group concluded that INECE can play a significant role on the information harmonization and dissemination fronts, as well as contribute to training needs of customs authorities, because of its informal networking expertise. In addition, proven capabilities of INECE might lend themselves to additional projects involving creation of various data bases, including one covering confirmed and settled cases that might even incorporate data from non-signatory countries, and an INECE member sources network. It was even suggested that a database of cases could provide sufficient information to allow its use in risk analysis and in developing illegal shipment profiles.