

## **STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT OF EMISSIONS TRADING PROGRAMS INECE PARTNERS WITH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (ENGLAND AND WALES)**

*Washington, DC, 20 March 2004* – INECE is leading a critical effort to ensure effective enforcement of emissions trading programs and recently co-hosted a high-level Conference on the subject.

Emissions trading programs represent a promising mechanism to fight environmental problems such as global climate change. They offer economic efficiencies that reward countries and industries that reduce emissions below target levels. However, little attention has been paid to an essential element of any emissions trading program — enforcement.

“Without appropriate attention to enforcement, even the most sophisticated emissions trading program is nothing more than hot air,” says Durwood Zaelke, Director of the INECE Secretariat.

In response to the European Union's (EU) decision to cap greenhouse gas emissions and launch an emissions trading program beginning January 2005, the Environment Agency (England and Wales) and INECE co-sponsored a Conference to examine enforcement and compliance issues associated with emissions trading programs. The UK has set the pace for the EU emissions trading program by being the first country to publish its National Allocation Plan, which outlines how it will allocate its EU Emission Allowances.

The Conference was held at Worcester College at Oxford University on 17-19 March 2004. Key participants included the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Environment Agency (England and Wales), government ministers, officials from the European Commission, high-level officials from environmental agencies, executives from the industrial sector, and representatives of civil society groups.

INECE will continue its work to strengthen enforcement of emissions trading programs, including pressing forward on the Conference recommendations. Conference participants agreed on the necessity of follow-up research and development on 1) identifying "best practices" for compliance and enforcement in emissions trading and 2) assessing capacity building needs and costs for countries with economies in transition. The upcoming project by the IMPEL network of European environmental regulators and policy-makers on emissions trading will also make an important contribution in this area.

### **ABOUT INECE**

The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) is a partnership of government and non-government enforcement and compliance practitioners from over 100 countries. INECE contributes to a healthy and clean environment, sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of ecosystem integrity through effective compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws. INECE's goals are: raising awareness to compliance and enforcement, developing networks for enforcement cooperation, strengthening capacity to implement and enforce environmental requirements. See <http://inece.org/> and <http://inece.org/emissions>.

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