

# **SESSION 7 - CLOSING SESSION FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This session is divided into five parts:

1. Future Activities of the Ad Hoc International Working Group on Contaminated Land
2. Future Activities - "tour de table"
3. Handing Over of the Secretariat of the Group to France
4. Current Activities in France

# FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE AD HOC INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON CONTAMINATED LAND

**Speaker:** *Mr. Urs Ziegler*  
*Swiss Agency for the Environment*  
*Switzerland*

The last forty-five minutes of what remains for this meeting is for the last session but not an unimportant one because we will try to find out how to work in the group.

Shall it continue in the future? Of course, it is assured that it will continue but we will have a short discussion about the topics that should be discussed in the group and maybe in between the meetings, or if possible, initiatives on certain sub-groups of the Working Group. I would ask you to participate in this discussion because it is going to define the way the group will continue for the next two years.

You see the title, "Future Activities of the Group". First of all, let's look back on the topics that have been treated by the group so far. There have been a high number of topics discussed since the first meeting in Washington and then the Vienna meeting.

The group talked about:

- ♦ registration, risk assessment, risk management, remedial measures, technological choices, natural attenuation, persistent pollutants, and hydrocarbon-related pollution;
- ♦ economic issues, cost-benefit considerations, land use issues, spatial planning, land management, Brownfield recycling, and third-party financing;
- ♦ providing world-wide overviews, produced some country profiles according to the questionnaire sent out to all the members.

We had activities, specifically with CEE Countries and we had an interim meeting in Warsaw where we produced a report followed by a study financed by our Danish colleagues which resulted in quite a comprehensive overview on the situation in CEE Countries with respect to contaminated sites.

A very important topic that has also been discussed at several meetings was the groundwater protection strategies that should be applied. We also discussed diffuse contamination policies and strategies that have to be adopted there - the last time being in Copenhagen.

We also discussed sustainable remediation, and today, we talked about the Polluter/Developer/Owner Pays Principle, and about future land contamination. We covered a whole spectrum of issues around contaminated land and most of the findings we had in the group you will find in the old reports and the report that will be coming out soon.

So what shall we be discussing in the future? I mean what is important to you? What are important issues to regulators as the majority of us are?

I have written down a few ideas that have been on the list for a certain time which have not been discussed so far. We could discuss the problems of the implementation of all the pieces of legislation we have. It stands there on paper, but is it successful or do our legislations fail or what should be changed? What are the reasons for the successes and failures? We have never talked about long-term monitoring. What does it mean? This would also be an interesting topic from the legislative side.

We have never talked in-depth about problems related to mining sites, military sites, nor radioactive sites. Although in many different countries this is covered by different pieces of legislation, we have never had any case studies, as far as I can remember, so this would be very interesting to discuss.

These are just a few ideas. We are waiting for your propositions and just let me add one thing before handing the microphone over to Adrien Pilon again.

There might also be activities between plenary meetings. The next meeting will be in March or April, 2003 in Canada, so we have about 18 months to go. There is a lot of time and I also think it would be very valuable to keep this network going, to have a living exchange, on all the issues that are of concern to all the members. We could also discuss that.

Could there be an interim meeting somewhere with the Common Forum or wherever else and of course, what should be done about the web site we have? We will maintain it, and we will be happy to put your information on it, but in order for us to do this, you have to send us your information and as we would really like to do it, please help us in doing it and keeping this network as alive as it is right now, at this moment.

So going back one slide, discussing "Possible New Issues", Adrien is proposing to do a "tour de table" so everyone of you, in one or two sentences can say what the major points of concern are.

**Note:** This text was prepared by the compilers from Mr. Urs Ziegler's recorded presentation.

# FUTURE ACTIVITIES - “TOUR DE TABLE”

Moderated by **Canada** and **Switzerland**

The country members have expressed their interest to maintain the activities of the Ad Hoc International Working Group on Contaminated Land. A consultation with the participants led to the following areas of discussions and topics of interest. Several countries have expressed a particular interest in presentations of case studies with examples of applications of solutions in different countries. The organising committee is submitting all of them and will later regroup them in preparation for the next meeting.

## The following themes were suggested by the participants during the “tour de table”

- ♦ Mining/Radioactive/Military Sites
- ♦ Looking at **sectors**, rather than specific industry, for Industrial Licensing that are covered by IPPC Directives. What are the likely contaminations expected from different sectors such as:
  - intensive agricultural
  - pharmaceutical
  - metal
- ♦ Sectorial approach is useful for junior regulators.
- ♦ Sectorial approach is also useful for site characterisation/benchmarking.
- ♦ Ecological Harm
  - Definition
  - What is acceptable?
  - Environmental liability directives
- ♦ Is it possible to extend the liabilities of “Our” companies to their operations in countries not in the Ad Hoc Working Group or outside our jurisdiction?
- ♦ Implementation of legislation for contaminated sites and water.
- ♦ Uniform environmental quality criteria: development of soil and groundwater quality criteria for possible unification and what are the future developments.
- ♦ Indexes of soil properties are providing protection functions of soil in the environment.
- ♦ Mining, military and radioactive sites.
  - Could it be possible to include a topic on remediation technologies for sites contaminated with rocket fuel?
  - Sectorial approach being adopted by NATO/CCMS
    - mining and military are interesting, long-term monitoring
    - experience in other countries dealing with mine problems
    - accelerating and reducing cost of de-mining 400,000 ha. Now 2.5 € for 1 sq. m.
    - method for discovering depleted uranium which is very dangerous
- ♦ Brownfields
  - Brownfields Redevelopment
  - CABERNET Project

- ♦ Implementation of Environmental Legislation and Soil Protection Policies
- ♦ Issues with new EU Water Framework Directives for 2004. Good timing for next Ad Hoc Working Group meeting
- ♦ Need to go deeper on some topics already covered: Sustainable Remediation, Future Land Contamination, Polluter/Owner Pays Principle, Responsibility Questions.
  - water issues re: Directives
- ♦ List of valuable checkpoints applicable to be reviewed, validated and applied in the legislation.
- ♦ **Orphan sites** funds, financial support and how to give priority to fund allocation.
- ♦ Take benefit from US experience and other countries with **Brownfields** financing and prioritising at Montreal Meeting.

## Quality Criteria

- ♦ In the process of developing sets of standards for air/water/soil contamination.
- ♦ Research and development for developing soil and groundwater quality criteria used for site characterisation and risk assessments.
- ♦ EU protection of groundwater, soil and drinking water

## Risk Assessment/Communication

- ♦ Using risk assessment method, need cross-media control to set acceptable levels of one contaminant in all media.
- ♦ Ecological risk assessment, started in CLARINET in workshops with Canada and US need to follow up:
  - define soil functions to be preserved for different land uses;
  - harmonise points of view.
- ♦ Bioavailability and ecosystem protection.
- ♦ Risk assessment/decision tools/improve accuracy of tools.
- ♦ Risk communication: social consequences, American experience, etc.:
  - Funds available to groups with questions/concerns with environmental issues.
  - Public relations is an important subject of common interest.

## Evaluation of Remedial Solutions

- ♦ Methods to evaluate remedial solutions not only through economic glasses, but also through environmental merit criteria.
  - Develop parameters for evaluating performance of existing and emerging technologies, including ecological parameters.

## Scientific and Technical Issues

- ♦ UNSATURATED ZONE:
  - Spreading of volatiles through unsaturated zone.
  - Find a method for estimating soil pore water concentrations affected by percolation through contaminated vadose zone.
  - What will be the future contaminants of soil or groundwater contamination? Can we predict future problematic compounds?
  - To what degree contamination is transferred to groundwater?
- ♦ Research and development plus technology, sensing and measurement techniques development to support implementation of new Water Framework Directives.
- ♦ Reuse of excavated soils.

## Case Studies

- ♦ Results/Case studies of countries, success and failure stories on overall policies from one phase to the other.
- ♦ Practice/experience with new EU policy.
- ♦ Implementation of legislation.
- ♦ Successes and failures of implementation in American/European/Third-World systems.

## Liability

- ♦ Effects of liability and third-party financing (how is the cost divided in the end?).
- ♦ Application of Polluter Pays Principle - exchange practical application experience.
- ♦ Regarding insurance products, what is available? Do countries have a full array?

## Integrated and Sustainable Land Development

- ♦ Integrating contaminated land issues into soil protection policy.
- ♦ Integrated water management. What does it mean when dealing with contaminated sites?
- ♦ Spatial planning issues vs. environmental issues. How to apply quality standards for special land use?
- ♦ Integrated land management (polluted and non-polluted sites) – larger view – pesticides use, disposal, etc.
- ♦ Disposal of unused pesticides: incineration or landfills?

## Off-site and Trans-Boundary Contamination

- ♦ Trans-boundary contamination through rivers from neighboring countries (big European trans-boundary rivers).

## Format of the Meeting

- ♦ During previous meetings, the themes were covered through formal presentations or through discussions animated by the chairperson.

- ◆ Suggestions and comments were provided for conducting the future meeting.
- ◆ What is the best **format** to go deeper on some subjects? Perhaps through workshops at the next meeting, internet discussion groups between meetings vs. presentations.
- ◆ How/format: Maybe discussion groups on internet – Use of Group’s web site?

## **Ad Hoc Group Internet Site**

- ◆ The group’s internet site is being maintained by the Swiss colleagues.
- ◆ It currently holds the group’s Newsletter, the Geneva Meeting Agenda with hot links to presentation documents and relevant papers, the group’s “Raison d’être”, members lists, etc.
- ◆ This a valuable tool our Swiss Colleagues are ready to develop and expand with the content to be decided by the Working Group Members.
- ◆ The site can be found at : [www.adhocgroup.ch](http://www.adhocgroup.ch)

## **Role and Objectives of the Ad Hoc International Working Group**

- ◆ Who are we? European, North American, South American or World-Wide Working group?
- ◆ Where is Argentina? Japan? Thailand?
- ◆ More countries participated at prior meetings.
- ◆ Topics covered will have an impact on who we attract.
- ◆ Industry in third-world countries for example, etc.
- ◆ How do we know of their interests?
- ◆ How can we attract more countries?
- ◆ Need more world-wide subjects. In Canada 2003, there will be more South American countries.
- ◆ Less interest about European directives (IPP, Water Directives, etc.) for other countries.

## **Collaborations with Other Organisations**

- ◆ **UNIDO**
  - Collaborating with Ad Hoc Working Group could help spread information.
  - Case studies, special sessions for technical case studies but also on regulatory and economic issues.
- ◆ **CLARINET (ended october, 2001)**
  - Integrated problem solutions – based on risk management paper from CLARINET. Integrated by spatial planning, soil protection, etc.
  - Water and soil protection – review already covered issues - what has changed?
  - Elements of the European Water Framework Directive resembles Watershed/River Basin Management.
  - Information, communication and knowledge transfer – (HARMONICA) in this group and within our own countries.

## **Support and Assistance to Transition/Developing Countries**

- ♦ Information and knowledge transfer
- ♦ Priority is expert assistance in developing legislation
- ♦ Practical implementation
- ♦ Case studies – implementation, risk assessment to human health and the environment, and pollution prevention

**Note: This text was prepared by the compilers from the round table recorded discussions.**



# Handing Over the Secretariat of the Group to France

**Speaker:** *Mr. Adrien Pilon*  
*NRC – Biotechnology Research Institute*  
*Canada*

I would like to introduce France who has very gratefully accepted to take over the Secretariat of the Working Group.

Canada is extremely pleased to take over the Chairmanship and I would like Mr. Campomanes to tell you a little bit about the activities in France.

After that, I have a little slide show to present to you about the 2003 Meeting in Montréal and what you can expect there.

**Note:** This text was prepared by the compilers from Mr. Pilon's recorded presentation.

## Current Activities in France

**Speaker:** *Mr. Raoul Campomanes*  
*Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire de l'environnement*  
*France*

France is very happy to handle the Secretariat of the Ad Hoc Group. We will try to help Adrien Pilon organise the next session and we are pleased to know the following one will be held in France, maybe in Paris.

I just want to say that we will be publishing a document at the end of this month which is entitled "The French Approach to Contaminated Land Management".

It represents all the legal framework, all our methodological tools and it will be sent to all members of the Ad Hoc Group for you to see all current actions that are implemented in France.

We also have an internet database which contains all the contaminated sites and is referenced in this document, a copy of which you will be receiving at the end of this month.

That is all I want to say.

**Note: This text was prepared by the compilers from Mr. Compamanes' recorded presentation.**