



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

INFORMATION NOTE

ASSOCIATIONS JOIN UNEP IN CALL TO CATALYSE CHANGE

PARIS, 21 - 22 September 2000 - The environmental agenda must bring together all stakeholders that are key to advancing sustainable development. This was a central message that emerged from discussion last week at the *UNEP Consultative Meeting with Industry Associations 2000*.

Fifty representatives of national and international industry associations joined officials from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to discuss the world environment agenda on 21 - 22 September in Paris. It was the 17th of this annual event hosted by UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE).

Recognising the challenge posed by issues such as globalisation and poverty, participants emphasised the need to involve both multinationals and small businesses in developing pro-active strategies. They welcomed *The Efficient Entrepreneur*, a calendar for 2001 in support of small businesses that is being launched by UNEP and the Wuppertal Institute.

Discussion on recent protests in Europe against high petrol prices highlighted the role of public awareness and innovation to address the long-term environmental problems that the world faces. Anders Wijkman, Member of the European Parliament, warned that the polluter pays principle which dates back to 1972, is still not being applied and that scarcity is still being dealt with as if there will always be substitutes. His keynote address followed discussion on the recent Malmö Ministerial Declaration and preparations for forthcoming events on the UN calendar.

Representatives welcomed the invitation from Mrs Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Director of the DTIE, to join UNEP in preparing sectoral industry reports for Rio+10 on the implementation of Agenda 21. It was argued that the involvement of UNEP brings credibility and balance. Participants agreed that rather than simply listing problems, there is the need to focus on case studies that display practical solutions and enable associations to learn from one another. This was a central message from group discussion on "Catalysts for change - how industry associations can promote sustainable development".

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The full agenda presented to participants included presentations on e-commerce and the environment, trade liberalisation and the environment, the Sustainable Business Alternatives Network that UNEP is about to initiate in a strategic partnership with the Global Environment Facility, the role of trade unions and the Global Reporting Initiative. In his keynote address Brad Allenby, an AT&T Vice President, argued that the example of e-commerce and the Internet demonstrates the unappreciated ignorance with which we are attempting to address the problems of an increasingly complex world economy. Highlighting the number of workers in the world that suffer fatal accidents or from diseases caused by exposure to hazardous substances each year, Lucien Royer of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) urged industry to develop partnerships with the work force in order to develop more sustainable forms of production.

Industry sectors represented at the meeting included petroleum, construction, mining, oil & gas, hotels, tourism, travel, post & telecommunications, food and fertilizers. Cross sectoral associations, environment focussed associations and national associations from various countries attended.

The participating associations were:

American Petroleum Institute (API), *USA*; American Portland Cement Alliance, *USA*; Association Internationale de la Savonnerie, de la Détergence et des Produits d'Entretien (AISE), *France*; Business Council for Sustainable Development (North Sea Region), *UK*; Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russia, *Russia*; Chamber of Mines of South Africa, *South Africa*; Confederation of International Contractors' Associations (CICA), *France*; Conference Board of Canada, *Canada*; E&P Forum – The Oil Industry International Exploration & Production Forum, *UK*; Entreprises pour l'Environnement, *France*; EPA BIR (Small Business Innovative Research), *USA*; European Telecommunication Network Operators Association (ETNO), *Brussels*; European Business Council for a Sustainable Future, *The Netherlands*; European Cement Association (CEMBUREAU), *Belgium*; European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), *Belgium*; Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), *Pakistan*; Global Crop Protection Federation (GCPF)/International Agri-Food Network (IAFN), *Belgium*; Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI), *USA*; Global Mining Initiative, *UK*; Green Group, Inc., *The Philippines*; Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa (IEF), *South Africa*; International Coffee Organisation (ICO), *UK*; International Hotels and Restaurants Association (IHRA), *France*; International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), *France*; International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI), *Belgium*; International Network for Environmental Management (INEM), *Germany*; International Primary Aluminium Institute (IPAI), *UK*; International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), *France*; International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), *France*; International Council of Tanners (ICT), *UK*; International Council on Metals & the Environment (ICME), *Canada*; International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), *Switzerland*; International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA), *France*; International Organization of Employers (IOE), *Switzerland*; International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), *UK*; Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF), *France*; Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), *Monaco*; Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum & International Hotels Environment Initiative, *UK*; Universal Postal Union, *Germany*; US Council for International Business, *USA*; World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), *Switzerland*; World Coal Institute (WCI), *UK*; World LPG Association (WLPGA), *France*.

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