

Convention: BC

Awareness-raising and training for countries of Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia on environmentally sound management of e-waste, monitoring and controlling transboundary movements of e-waste and used equipment, and the prevention of illegal traffic

LEGAL BASIS/MANDATE:

Work programme activity #: 27

Programme budget for 2012–2013

COP-decisions:

- BC-10/3: Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention
- BC-10/23: Capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel Convention

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The growing e-waste volumes produced worldwide together with the absence of well-organized collection and management systems has manifold impacts on the environment, the health of local communities and the economic system. In many countries e-waste is routinely disposed on uncontrolled landfills, where waste volumes are periodically minimized by setting them on fire. Thereby a whole range of toxic substances is released from e-waste, heavily contaminating air, soil and water resources. Besides pollutants, electronic equipment also contains a whole range of valuable metals like palladium, indium and germanium that are inevitably lost if not recovered in an early stage of waste treatment. From a global perspective, this loss of scarce metals has to be compensated by intensified mining activities, which again lead to severe sustainability impacts in mining areas worldwide.

The countries of Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia are increasingly facing challenges related to environmentally sound management of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment or e-waste as well as effective enforcement of the control procedures for transboundary movements of used goods and e-waste under the Basel Convention. There is a need for awareness-raising on hazards associated with unsound management of e-waste, expertise and technology transfer for environmentally sound management, including resource recovery and recycling. Furthermore, there are several challenges for effective enforcement of the national legislation regulating the transboundary movements of e-waste, including lack of national coordination between relevant authorities, definitional issues, selecting and targeting suspicious shipments of e-waste.

A number of tools and materials are available for awareness-raising and training on these issues. This includes materials available from the Secretariat as well as those developed by partners or under partnerships, e. g. the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) and Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), such as guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and recycling of used computing equipment and guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment.

The Secretariat will collaborate with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in implementing the proposed activity. The activity will also be supported by PACE and other partners.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED:

- Organization of awareness-raising event on environmentally sound management and transboundary movements of e-waste for regulatory and enforcement authorities, industry, and the civil society in Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- The main activity will be complemented by follow-up online training activities on specific issues, such as environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of e-waste, combating illegal traffic associated with e-waste, etc.

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED:

- Better understanding of environmental and health impacts from unsound management of e-waste;
- Exchange of information and experience on existing challenges related to management of e-waste and enforcement of the hazardous waste-related legislation;
- Strengthened cooperation between regulatory and enforcement authorities in participating countries;
- Improved implementation and enforcement of the Basel Convention provisions pertaining to preventing and combating illegal traffic of hazardous wastes, in particular e-waste;
- Better understanding of technical issues related to collection, recycling, material recovery and disposal of e-waste and guidance on legal frameworks to fully meet the requirements for measures related to and required under the Conventions.

BUDGET [USD]

| <i>BUDGET COMPONENTS</i> | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Training</i> | <i>50,000</i> |
| <i>Consultants and experts</i> | <i>3,000</i> |
| <i>Coordination and organization</i> | <i>4,000</i> |
| <i>Miscellaneous</i> | <i>3,000</i> |
| TOTAL FUNDS TO BE RAISED FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES | 60,000 |
| COP APPROVED BUDGET (BD trust fund) | 60,000 |