

An ad hoc Working Group of experts was established and held its first session in the Netherlands from March 26 to 30, 1984. A second session was held in Rome from January 28 to February 1, 1985, and a third session is planned in London for early 1987.

Canada is currently implementing a Provisional Notification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals that emerged from the first session of the Working Group. The Scheme is designed to assist importing countries in making timely and informed decisions and will provide information and experience to assist the Working Group in finalizing its draft guidelines.

Hazardous Wastes

On March 26-28, 1985 the OECD convened a Conference on International Cooperation concerning Transfrontier Movements of Hazardous Wastes with the object of recommending measures for international cooperation that are required in order to achieve effective monitoring and control of hazardous wastes moving across national frontiers. The Conference, inter alia, reaffirmed the need to prevent and reduce, so far as possible, the generation of wastes, to limit their hazardous character and to increase the proportion of wastes that is recycled or treated. The Conference recommended that an effective international system for the control of transfrontier movements of such wastes be developed and that it should include appropriate OECD instruments covering notification, identification and control of transfrontier movements, as well as a legally binding international agreement.

In addition, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes was established pursuant to a UNEP Governing Council Decision in 1982. The UNEP Working Group, which has held two sessions to date, has prepared a set of "Revised Draft Guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste". The Revised draft guidelines were forwarded to the OECD Conference mentioned above along with the report of the Working Group's second session for consideration by the Conference.