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3 February 2003

NOTIFICATION**Liaison Group meeting of technical experts on the Biosafety Clearing-House
Montreal, 10-11 April 2003**

As you may be aware, Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention, in order to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and to assist Parties to implement the Protocol.

At its first meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) mandated the ICCP Bureau to draw upon appropriate technical advisory expertise to facilitate the development and implementation of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House. Pursuant to this recommendation, the Secretariat is convening a small liaison group of technical experts on the Biosafety Clearing-House to discuss the requirements for establishment of national components for participation in the BCH, and associated technical issues.

I am pleased to convey herewith the list of invited experts. The composition was determined by the Secretariat taking into account the participants' demonstrated expertise and experience with the Pilot Phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

cc: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points.
ICCP National Focal Points
BCH National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where biosafety focal points have not yet been designated)

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Composition of the Liaison Group Meeting of Technical Experts on the Biosafety Clearing-House, Montreal, 10-11 April 2003

Governments

Mr. Didier Breyer (Belgium)
Ms. Veronica Helguero (Bolivia)
Ms. Dora Ann Lange Canhos (Brazil)
Ms. Kristina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
Mr. Guy Rochon (Canada)
Mr. Guy Van den Eede (EC)
Ms. Liina Eek (Estonia)
Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
Ms. Martha Kandawa-Schulz (Namibia)
Mr. Cho Chan Hyeong (Republic of Korea)
Ms. Donna M. Roy (USA)
Mr. David L.N. Hafashimana (Uganda)
Mr. Albert Spielmann (Switzerland)

International Organizations

Mr. Mick Wilson (UNEP)
Mr. Piet Van der Meer (UNEP/GEF)
Mr. Dario Palmisano (ICGEB)
Mr. Masahiro Miyazako (OECD)
Mr. David Nowell (FAO)

Bureau Members (Observers)

Ms. Antonietta Gutiérrez-Rosati (Peru)
Mr. Eric Schoonejans (France)