

Ref.: SCBD/I&O/CHM/MS/36237

22 July 2003

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

Subject: Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-House Mechanism and European Community Clearing-House Mechanism joint regional meeting for Central and Eastern Europe, Prague, the Czech Republic, 9 to 11 September 2003

I am writing in connection with paragraph 4, of decision VI/18 of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties which urged the Executive Secretary to convene additional capacity-building workshops at the national, sub-regional and regional levels referred to in decision V/14 of the Conference of the Parties for clearing-house activities and training in support of national capacities to implement the Convention.

In support of this decision, a joint Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CBD-CHM) and European Community Clearing-House Mechanism (EC-CHM) regional meeting will be convened for the Central and Eastern European region, with the generous support of the Government of Belgium and the European Environment Agency (EEA). The meeting will provide countries of the region with the opportunity to identify their needs with regard to more effective promotion of technical and scientific cooperation in support of the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. The meeting will also offer countries of the region the opportunity to meet with countries that are members of the EEA, international thematic focal points and other international organizations to discuss potential joint initiatives to facilitate such technical and scientific cooperation across the programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. Finally, countries of the region will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the use of new information technologies in support of network development and information exchange.

This joint regional meeting will be held from **9 to 11 September 2003** in Prague, The Czech Republic. Invitations to the meeting are being issued by the European Environment Agency. Please note that the meeting will be held in the English and Russian languages.

To: CBD National Focal Points – Central and Eastern Europe
cc: CHM National Focal Points – Central and Eastern Europe
International thematic focal points
CHM Informal Advisory Committee
Relevant international organizations



The provisional agenda and annotated agenda will be available on the Secretariat's website in due course at: <http://www.biodiv.org>.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the work of the Convention and its Clearing-House Mechanism.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary