



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Delegations

Subject : Outcome of the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on
Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
(Montreal, Canada - 17 to 21 September 2007)

Delegations will find annexed information from the Presidency/Commission on the above subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 30 October 2007.

**Outcome of the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol
on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
(Montreal, Canada - 17 to 21 September 2007)**

The 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP-19) was held in Montreal, Canada, from 17 to 21 September 2007. It ran in parallel with the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, hailed by many (including Kofi Annan) as one of the most successful multilateral environmental agreements of our times.

More than 150 of the 191 Parties that ratified the Protocol were represented, along with representatives from United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, civil society and industry. Two of the Nobel Prize-winning scientists who discovered the cause of the ozone layer depletion also joined the 20th Anniversary Seminar which took place the day before the opening of the High-Level Segment.

Both the Commission and the Presidency delivered keynote speeches during the High-Level Segment. Because of the special occasion related to the anniversary, some other Member States also delivered (co-ordinated) keynote addresses. Statements generally focused on past successes, also at the national level, and on hailing the Protocol's robust governance based inter alia on scientific panels and on a very effective Multilateral Fund to which donors had contributed approximately 2 billion euros to date.

The Meeting took place in the remarkable spirit of co-operation which had come to characterise the Montreal Protocol meetings for many years now.

This also applied internally to the EU, where co-operation between the Commission (holding a negotiating mandate for all matters related to the Regulation), the Presidency, and Member States was excellent and enabled us to play a key role in the successful outcome of the meeting.

The spirit of cooperation and flexibility of all Parties indeed made it possible not only to look back at the past track record but also to achieve another “historic” agreement, notably on an accelerated phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Key features of the HCFC agreement include moving the phase-out date for developing countries from 2040 to 2030, bringing forward the baseline (2009-10) and freeze dates (2013) and the introduction of intermediate reductions for 2015 (10%), 2020 (35%) and 2025 (67.5%). The HCFC agreement is not only significant in the context of global efforts to protect the ozone layer but at the same time provides significant scope for combating climate change due to the fact that HCFCs have a high global-warming potential.

Through the adoption of 29 Decisions, the Meeting also enabled good progress to be made on further implementation of the Protocol, including on further significant reductions in the use of methyl bromide critical-use exemptions, on combating illegal trade, and on the terms of reference for the study of the 2009-2011 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund.

Finally, the Meeting adopted a "Montreal Declaration" which refers to the conclusion of a landmark agreement on the accelerated phase-out of HCFCs, whilst also acknowledging the global cooperation achieved over the past twenty years to restore and protect the Earth's ozone layer and reaffirming the Parties' commitment to phasing-out production and consumption of ODSs through a range of actions.

Discussions had started – but not yet been concluded, on proposals related to adapting the Montreal Protocol's provisions to future challenges, including refining institutional arrangements, the adoption of multi-year agendas for the MOP, etc. These discussions were deferred until the next Meeting.

The 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will be held in Doha, Qatar from 17 to 21 November 2008. This meeting will coincide with the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention (COP-8).