



Brussels, 24 February 2003

INVITATION

European Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Education, Training, Public Awareness, Public Participation, and Access to Information about Climate Change)

6-8 May 2003, “Le Grand Hornu”, Mons, Belgium

To UNFCCC National Focal Points in Europe

Dear “Focal point”

On behalf of the federal and regional authorities of Belgium, we are pleased to invite you to nominate one (or two) representative(s) of your country to participate in a UNFCCC European Regional workshop on the Implementation of Article 6 of the Convention (Education, Training, Public Awareness, Public Participation, and Access to Information about Climate Change) on 6-8 May 2003 in “Le Grand Hornu”, rue Sainte Louise 82, 7301 Hornu (nearby Mons), Belgium.

The workshop is being organized in response to a request by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its fifteenth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/8, para. 45 (f)), reaffirmed at its sixteenth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/13, para.52(b)). It is co-hosted by the Belgian Federal State Secretary for Energy and Sustainable Development, the

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Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, the Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs, and the Minister for Transport, Mobility and Energy and the Minister for Physical Planning and Environment of the Walloon Region.

Thanks to the support of the Interministerial Task Force on Climate Change of France, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Russian.

The purpose of the workshop, in accordance with the above-mentioned SBSTA conclusions, is to contribute to the further development and implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session (Decision 11/CP.8), in the wider European region and to advance the work on assessing needs, identifying priorities, sharing experience and exchanging information on related activities between UNFCCC Parties and interested stakeholders in this region.

As called for in the New Delhi work programme, the workshop also aims at enhancing cooperation and coordination between Parties at the regional level in developing and implementing Article 6 activities, including the identification of partners and networks with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, the private sector, regional and local governments, and community-based organisations.

The workshop will be held at “Le Grand Hornu”, a former coal mining site near Mons, Belgium, from 6 to 8 May 2003. The meeting will begin on 6 May at 9:30 a.m. and is scheduled to end on 8 May at 6 p.m. A provisional programme for the workshop is attached.

As appears from this programme, a number of 15-minute time slots have been reserved in all the sessions for short presentations by participants on their national experiences with respect to the different topics covered by the New Delhi work programme. Participants who wish to make such a presentation are requested to submit the title and a short abstract of their proposed contribution on the enclosed Contribution Proposal Form to Mr Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE (fax: +32 10 47 47 22, or, preferably email : vanypersle@astr.ucl.ac.be) by **20 March 2003** at the latest. Contributions will be selected by the organising committee and included in the final programme based on these proposals, in order to ensure a balanced coverage of the different subjects as well as balanced geographical coverage. In addition, all participants will have the opportunity to make a very brief presentation (maximum 2 minutes) of key issues arising from national activities related to the implementation of Article 6 during the ice-breaking session on 6 May. Other contributions, if available on time, can be photocopied and shared with the other participants in written form. A web site will soon be available at www.climate.be/article6 to facilitate the sharing of information.

In view of the purpose of the workshop, Parties are invited to nominate as participants persons with special responsibility and expertise in the subject areas covered by Article 6, who are directly involved in the implementation of the New Delhi work programme at the national or sub-national level. The participation of educators and officials from authorities in charge of educational policy is of particular importance.

Back-to-back with the workshop, on Friday 9 May 2003, the Belgian federal and regional authorities are organising a national event to promote the implementation of Article 6 in Belgium, focusing on the theme "From research to education". This activity is designed for policy-makers, the scientific and educational community and other stakeholders. Interested participants in the workshop who are able to stay on are also welcome to attend. Simultaneous

interpretation for that day will be provided in Dutch, French and English, but not in Russian. Additional information will be sent to participants upon registration.

The host country authorities will provide financial support for a limited number of participants from Parties with economies in transition, in accordance with UNFCCC practice. Financial support will be available for only a single participant per eligible delegation. Focal points of eligible Parties are requested to submit the name of their nominated participant to the host country on the attached Financial Support Request Form as soon as possible, and **by 20 March 2003** at the latest. Please note that the host country will provide accommodation to participants eligible for financial support directly, plus daily subsistence allowance (DSA) to cover other expenses.

Other participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements. Group reservations have been made in hotels near the workshop venue. Participants are requested to indicate their preferences on the Registration Form.

All participants are requested to register by returning the attached Registration Form to Mr Fabrice HAVENNE (fax: +32 2 219 79 30, email: fhavenne@deleuze.eunet.be) **by 1 April 2003** at the latest.

This letter of invitation may be used for the purpose of obtaining a visa if one is required. However, if you do need a personalised invitation letter from the Belgian authorities, please contact Mr. Fabrice HAVENNE (Tel: +32 2 227 07 05, email: fhavenne@deleuze.eunet.be).

Should you require further information or wish to discuss matters relating to the programme of the meeting, please contact Mr Jean-Pascal VAN YPERSELE (Tel: +32 10 47 32 96 or 97, or preferably by email: vanypersele@astr.ucl.ac.be). For all questions concerning registration, accommodation, travel support and practical arrangements, please contact Mr Fabrice HAVENNE (Tel: +32 2 227 07 05, email: fhavenne@deleuze.eunet.be). Information will also be posted regularly on the official web site of the Secretariat (www.unfccc.int), where it will be accessible through a link in the UNFCCC calendar.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Wittoeck
Belgian UNFCCC Focal Point

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele
Belgian Article 6 Focal Point