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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixteenth session

Bonn, 5–14 June 2002

Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda

OTHER MATTERS

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF CROATIA UNDER ARTICLE 4.6 OF THE CONVENTION

Submission from a Party

Note by the secretariat

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its fifteenth session, noted the request from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to review the methodology used by the Government of Croatia to estimate its base year emissions as described in document FCCC/SBI/2001/MISC.3. It invited Parties to send their views on this matter to the secretariat by 15 February 2002 for compilation into a miscellaneous document (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/8, para.54 (a)).
2. One submission* has been received. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.4

GE.02-61117

SUBMISSION BY SPAIN
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES

BRUSSELS, 18 FEBRUARY 2002

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA UNDER ARTICLE 4.6 OF THE CONVENTION

Spain, on behalf of the European Community and its member states, welcomes the opportunity to send its views on the request of the Republic of Croatia for considering its special circumstances under Article 4.6 of the Convention (see document FCCC/SBI/2001/MISC.3), in accordance with the request of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its fifteenth session (see document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/L.8).

The EU recognizes the special circumstances of the Republic of Croatia, and its right to apply for article 4.6 of the Convention. As described in FCCC/SBI/2001/MISC.3, Croatia was part of former Yugoslavia until 1991, when it gained its independence. The lack of sufficiently disaggregated data makes it difficult for Croatia to estimate greenhouse gas emissions for the year 1990 and before. The EU acknowledges that Croatia is confronted with these difficulties and that there may be a need to allow some flexibility in the methods used to estimate base year emissions.

The Republic of Croatia has taken as the basis for estimating its base year emissions per capita emissions from fuel combustion in former Yugoslavia; emissions from non-energy sources located in the Croatia territory are then added to obtain a final figure of 39.4 Mt eq-CO₂ in the year 1990 (FCCC/SBI/2001/MISC.3).

The first National Communication of Croatia was submitted on February 7, 2002. In this regard, the EU notes that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice requested the secretariat to organise a review of the National Communication of the Republic of Croatia as soon as possible to consider this matter at its sixteenth session, in accordance with FCCC/SBSTA/2001/L.8. The EU welcomes the prompt organisation of the in-depth review of Croatia's National Communication, from 4th to 8th of March.

The EU notes that Croatia is developing a national system (funded by GEF and the European Community) that should be able to provide improved inventory estimates over the next three years. The base year estimate could be submitted and reviewed when the national system has been developed. If there are not sufficient data, base year emissions could be estimated using methods consistent with IPCC Good Practice for reconstructing missing data.

The EU stresses that greenhouse gas emission estimates should always be subject to review in accordance with relevant Decisions adopted by the COP. Consequently, the EU believes that established review procedures should be completed before SBSTA considers further the request by the Republic of Croatia.

Finally, the EU considers that some other countries that were part of former Yugoslavia might face similar problems to Croatia when estimating base year emissions. It encourages those Parties to submit greenhouse gas emission inventories and national inventory reports consistent with IPCC Good Practice Guidance, as they may have a bearing on Croatia's situation. These inventories should then be reviewed in the usual manner according to COP decisions and SBSTA may wish to consider this issue further following the outcome of the expert reviews.
