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LC.2/Circ.438  
19 January 2005

**CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION BY DUMPING OF  
WASTES AND OTHER MATTER, 1972  
(LONDON CONVENTION 1972)**

**Preparation of an assessment of the potential risks and benefits for the marine environment  
of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in geological structures:  
Establishment of a correspondence group under the Scientific Group**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1 In November 2004, the 26<sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties considered the challenge of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and recognized that CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage in geological structures might offer important possibilities for making fossil fuel use more compatible with climate change mitigation policies. In this context, the Meeting agreed that the issue of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration should be included in its work programme and to initially focus on sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> in geological structures. Several activities were planned for the intersessional period to examine the legal, scientific and technical issues involved so that the next Meeting could review the progress and give guidance on what further work should be done to establish a clear position.

2 In this context it was agreed that the Scientific Group should make an assessment of the potential risks and benefits for the marine environment of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in geological structures, within the scope of the Convention and Protocol, and that the Group should begin with an initial assessment and identification of gaps in knowledge. It is recognized that the Scientific Group cannot undertake a wide-ranging review of the possible benefits of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and also that many of these issues are being examined in other Conventions and mechanisms. However, the Scientific Group should obtain the best information possible on which to reach a view on the implications of this technology for the marine environment.

3 It was furthermore agreed that a correspondence group should be established to assist the Scientific Group in this task and gather initial information, e.g. reports of relevant workshops and seminars which have already generated a great deal of material on CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration (LC 26/15, paragraphs 6.29 to 6.48).

**INVITATION**

4 Through this circular, Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972 are invited to nominate participants in the Correspondence Group on the Scientific Assessment of CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration that will assist the Scientific Group with the initial assessment and report to its 28<sup>th</sup> session (23 to 27 May 2005). The Chairman of the Scientific Group, Mr. Craig Vogt (United States), has offered to chair this Correspondence Group. Nominations should be reported to the Secretariat as soon as possible but **not later than Friday, 18 February 2005**:

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