



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments

IWC.CCG.1206

Earth Negotiations Bulletin Reporting

The IWC has received an approach from IISD Reporting Services who produce the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB).

ENB is a non-profit, independent reporting service, established to provide neutral and timely coverage of environment and development negotiations. Since 1993 it has covered over 30 different negotiating processes, mainly within the UN system.

An earlier, exploratory conversation regarding the cost and options for ENB coverage of IWC meetings had ruled out this possibility on budgetary grounds. ENB have now approached the Secretariat with a proposal to raise and use their own funds in order to finance ENB coverage of IWC. They are keen to add the IWC negotiating process to their portfolio and are prepared to approach their donors and seek funds in order to do so.

ENB reports are distributed by e-mail to over 100,000 individuals with a professional interest in environment issues. Their presence will bring IWC in line with comparable inter-governmental organisations and would help achieve the stated goal of greater transparency. Of course there are already a range of different information sources regarding IWC meetings, including the Chair's Reports, IWC website updates and press releases, and material from national governments and non-governmental organisations. Nevertheless, there is space for a detailed, timely and neutral account of Commission meetings, particularly for anyone who is unable to attend the meetings in person.

There is no guarantee that ENB will be able to raise the necessary funds. However, if they are successful, and following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission I plan to invite them to attend IWC66 on a trial basis. Following IWC66 I will invite your feedback on the impact and value of the reporting service. Please contact either myself or Kate Wilson at secretariat@iwc.int if you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposal.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

C.C. Accredited observers to the IWC

Chair: Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)
Vice-Chair: Dr Joji Morishita (Japan)
Executive Secretary: Dr Simon Brockington