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Special Announcement >>>

The URL of the UNEP DTIE Paris web site is being changed from www.uneptie.org to <http://www.unep.fr>

Please use the <http://www.unep.fr> and <http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction> to visit our Programme

GLOBAL

1- IPCC/TEAP Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System: Issues Related to Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons

This Special Report prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) provides information relevant to decision making in regard to safeguarding the ozone layer and the climate system - two global environmental issues involving complex scientific and technical considerations. Scientific evidence linking chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) to global ozone depletion led to the initial control of chemicals under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and to amendments and adjustments in the 1990s that added additional ODSs, agreed phase-outs, and accelerated those phase-outs. As various approaches to the phase-out of ODSs were developed it was realized that some actions taken to reduce future depletion of the ozone layer, in particular the introduction of HFCs and PFCs, could affect global warming. When the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in 1997, countries had new incentives to take account of how choices among Substitutes could affect the objectives of both protocols.

The potential of each ODS substitute to influence the climate system depends not only on the physical and chemical properties of the substance itself, but also on the factors that influence its emission to the atmosphere, such as containment, recycling, destruction and energy efficiency in particular applications. This report provides the scientific context required for consideration of choices among alternatives to ODSs; potential methodologies for assessing options; and technical issues relating to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission-reduction opportunities for each of the sectors involved, including refrigeration, air conditioning, foams, aerosols, fire protection and solvents. The report also addresses the future availability of HFCs.

The Special Report provides invaluable information for researchers in environmental science, climatology, and atmospheric chemistry, policymakers in governments and environmental organizations, and scientists and engineers in industry. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The UNEP Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) was established by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The Panels provide authoritative international assessments of scientific information on climate change (IPCC), and on the status of technology to protect the

stratospheric ozone layer (TEAP). This report was produced by IPCC and TEAP on the invitation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Montreal Protocol.

The Special Report is published by Cambridge University Press <http://www.cambridge.org> (ISBN 0521682061 / 0521863368, available from December 2005), and the digital version can be accessed via the website of the IPCC Secretariat <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

2- Antarctic Ozone Hole May Have Peaked, UN Agency Says

GENEVA (Reuters) - Depletion of the ozone layer above Antarctica, caused by emissions of industrial chemicals, seems to have peaked, indicating that global environmental pacts were working, U.N. scientists said on Tuesday.

The seasonal hole above the South Pole and Antarctica is now shrinking after falling short of the record years of 2003 and 2000, the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its latest bulletin.

It peaked at 26.9 million sq kms on September 19, it said, against 29 million sq km in September 2003, which most scientists say was the record.

"It is the third largest ever, more or less as one would expect from present levels of chlorine and bromine in the atmosphere," Geir Braathen, WMO's top ozone expert, told a news briefing.

"It doesn't look as if the ozone hole is going to get any bigger (in coming years). It seems like we have reached a plateau...," he added.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) containing chlorine and bromine are blamed for thinning the earth's protective layer -- which filters harmful ultraviolet radiation that can cause skin cancer and cataracts.

They were banned 20 years ago under the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol of 1987.

"As the amount of chlorine and bromine will continue to decline over the next decades, but very slowly, one expects the ozone hole to get smaller and smaller," Braathen said.

But uncertainties remained regarding the pace of the ozone's recovery, according to the Norwegian expert.

"At the same time there is this issue of climate change which will lead to higher temperature on the ground -- the globe is warming up -- but in the stratosphere temperatures will decrease. That will encourage more ozone loss in the Arctic and the Antarctic," he added.

Source: Reuters, 19 October 2005,
http://today.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2005-10-18T164949Z_01_DIT860570_RTRUKOC_0_US-ENVIRONMENT-OZONE.xml

North America

3- Southern Foods Group to Pay EPA Penalty for Leaking Air Conditioners

The EPA announced it has filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order against Southern Foods Group, L.P., the owner and operator of the Oak Farms Dairy facility in Dallas, in resolution of alleged violations

of the Clean Air Act. Southern will pay a penalty of \$6,875 and fund a supplemental environmental project valued at \$20,625.

"EPA is using every tool available to bring clean air to north central Texas. This agreement helps propel us toward our goal," EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene said. The Oak Farms Dairy facility at 1114 North Lancaster St. in Dallas, Texas, processes milk and related dairy products. Southern allegedly violated the Clean Air Act by failing to repair leaks of a comfort cooling appliance containing more than 50 pounds of a stratospheric ozone depleting substance.

Depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere increases ultraviolet radiation at ground level, which accelerates the formation of photochemical smog.

For the supplemental environmental project, Southern will pay to convert four Dallas County school buses from gasoline fuel to liquid propane gas (LPG). Use of LPG fuel helps prevent ground-level ozone formation by reducing the volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen emissions associated with conventionally fueled vehicles. When combined with sunlight and hot, stagnant weather, these pollutants form ground-level ozone.

Source: Environmental Resource Center, October 2005, <http://www.ercweb.com/etip.htm#Fines>

SOUTH ASIA

4- Use of Ozone Layer Depleting Substance Falls 53pc in 4 Years

The use of substances that depletes the Ozone Layer of the atmosphere has decreased by 53 per cent in Bangladesh during the last four years Environment Directorate officials said Saturday, reports BSS. The highest ever 946.80 tonnes of Ozone depleting substances (ODS) was used in 1999. That has come down to 460.50 tonnes this year. The Environment Directorate director general (DG) told the news agency that the government had taken massive initiatives on environment issues according to 'Montreal protocol' under the United Nation Environment Programme(UNEP) for reducing the use of Ozone Layer depleting substances. "National ODS phase out plan has been formulated with an aim to decrease the use of the Ozone layer depleting substances by 85 per cent in 2007 and by 100 per cent in 2010", he said. According to environment experts, the use of ODS in Bangladesh as in other developing countries are minimal compared to that of the developed ones.

Source: Financial Express, 16 October 2005 <http://www.financialexpress-d.com>

EUROPE

5 - Romania to Accept Beijing Amendment

Beijing Amendment was accepted by Law No. 281/5 October 2005 in Romania, it has been promulgated by Decree No. 983/ 5 October 2005 and published to the Official Journal of Romania No. 914/ 12.10.2005. Ministry of External Affairs is enabled to official forward ratification instruments.

Beijing publicat in Monitorul Oficial - Monitorul Oficial Nr. 914 din 12.X.2005

http://www.dsclex.ro/legislatie/2005/octombrie2005/mo2005_914.htm

Lege 281/05 octombrie 2005

pentru aprobarea Amendamentului la Protocolul de la Montreal privind substantele care epuizeaza stratul de ozon, adoptat la Beijing la 3 decembrie 1999

Decret 983/05 octombrie 2005

privind promulgarea Legii pentru aprobarea Amendamentului la Protocolul de la Montreal privind substantele care epuizeaza stratul de ozon, adoptat la Beijing la 3 decembrie 1999

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FEATURED READING >>>

- **UNEP's Action to Meet the Challenge of Illegal Trade in Chemicals** – The scope of the problem Environmental crime is a big and increasingly lucrative business. Local and international crime syndicates earn an estimated US\$ 22-31 billion annually from illegal trade in “environmentally sensitive” commodities such as ozone-depleting substances (ODS), toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes and endangered species. Illegal trade in these items? directly threatens human health and the environment? undermines the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements by circumventing rules and procedures agreed in international treaties? results in revenue loss for governments? also falls, in the current post-9/11 context, into the area of environmental security. Illegal trade threatens the successes already achieved by countries to manage chemicals, and it undermines the evolving international framework for chemical management. «Sustainable development depends on having the global capacity for the sound management of chemicals» Klaus Toepfer, UNEP Executive Director.
Download a pdf @ <http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/library/mmcfiles/4488-e-illegal-trade.pdf>
- **Antarctic Ozone Bulletins** - The Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization issues bulletins containing information on the state of the ozone layer in the Antarctic at roughly two-week intervals from August to November. The bulletins are based on data provided by WMO Members which operate ozone monitoring stations in the southern hemisphere and satellites to observe ozone globally. **Read latest Bulletin at <http://www.wmo.ch/web/arep/gawozobull05.html>**

The United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction Programme provides OzoNews as a free service for internal, non-commercial use by members of the Montreal Protocol community. The goal of OzoNews is to provide current news relating to ozone depletion and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to stimulate discussion and promote cooperation in support of compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. The views expressed in articles written by external authors are solely the viewpoints of those authors and do not represent the policy or viewpoint of UNEP. While UNEP strives to avoid inclusion of misleading or inaccurate information, it is ultimately the responsibility of the reader to evaluate the accuracy of any news article in OzoNews. The citing of commercial technologies, products or services does not constitute endorsement of those items by UNEP.

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