

OZONews

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1- 106 Countries Meet to Further Improve the Montreal Protocol

The 22nd meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-22) of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer convened in Montreal, Canada, from 23-25 July 2002. Approximately 277 delegates representing 106 governments as well as UN agencies, industry and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting. Delegates to OEWG-22 discussed a range of issues in preparation for the 14th Meeting of the Parties (MOP-14) to be held from 25-29 November 2002, including: replenishment of the Multilateral Fund; illegal trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS); chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) production for metered-dose inhalers (MDIs); the fixed-exchange-rate mechanism; and other matters arising from the report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) ...

Full text @: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/download/pdf/enb1918e.pdf>

Source: Earth Negotiations Bulletin, ENB Vol. 19 No. 18 OEWG-22 (Ozone) - Final Summary

2- Ozone Threat: The Risk to Humankind (UK)

... Leicester University's Space Research Centre is leading a £1million research project examining the thinning of the ozone layer over northern Europe and the risk it poses to health ... Dr John Remedios, project co-ordinator, said: "Initial predictions suggest that we will have quite strong ozone depletion over Europe over the next 30 to 50 years. There is a risk that the ozone thinning over Europe will lead to increased levels of skin cancer. "What we are trying to assess is just how great that risk is ... As part of the research, specially-adapted spyplanes will be used to fly into the stratosphere and collect data on ozone levels. And the European Space Agency satellite Envisat will collect more data. The European Union is funding the project to find out how it will develop over the next 10 years. The Leicester University team, which is working with scientists in other parts of Europe, will analyse data from an EU data-gathering mission called Vintersol, due to start in November ...

Article

@:

<http://www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=104417&command=displayContent&sourceNode=104395&contentPK=2140531>

Source: Leicestershire - News, 17 July 2002, By Liz Heron

3- Philippines Agrees to Decrown Pineapple for Australia

The Department of Agriculture is now willing to comply with a requirement imposed by Australia to decrown, or remove the outer leaves from, the country's pineapples prior to exporting the fruit. However, the department's Bureau of Plant Industry has agreed to the decrowning of its pineapples only on a temporary basis, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said in a statement. The decrowning will be adopted pending scientific proof that the Philippines pineapple industry can manage Australia's risk concerns regarding weed seeds that may be present in crowns, Montemayor said. The Philippines is hoping to gain Australian market access for its pineapple and banana exports. Early this month, Australia released an import risk analysis, or IRA, on Philippines pineapples. The IRA was conducted by Biosecurity Australia which assesses quarantine risks in plant and animal imports. In the IRA on pineapples, Australia listed 10 requirements including decrowning and the use of methyl bromide. The Philippines initially said it would object to the decrowning requirement, saying the process shortens the fruit's shelf life. The DA yesterday submitted the country's official comment on the IRA. Montemayor said the Philippines will continue to object to Australia's proposed use of methyl bromide to fumigate pineapple exports.

Article @: <http://www.mb.com.ph/news.php?art=16243§=2&fname=BS02073116243o.txt>

Source: The Manila Bulletin Online, 31 July 2002

4- Researchers Decry NASA Decision (USA)

Researchers at Hampton University (HU) in Virginia recently protested a decision by NASA officials to decommission the Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment (SAGE) II satellite. HU said its scientists have sent several letters to NASA in an effort to save the nearly 20-year-old satellite, which measures air particles and examines how they interact with the Earth's protective ozone layer ... NASA plans to progressively lower the satellite's orbit over the next several weeks to an altitude that would allow it to naturally fall into the Pacific Ocean within the next three to five years ... "The HU researchers said the satellite is valuable to many scientists because it is used to verify data from a recently launched satellite that is monitoring similar issues. McCormick suggested that NASA keep SAGE II in orbit at a lower altitude for another six months to give researchers time to adjust satellite instruments and collect "overlap data" that will offset the effects of the shutdown.

Article @: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-29386sy0jul24.story?coll=dp%2Dnews%2Dlocal%2Dfinal>

Source: The Daily Press, 24 July 2002, By Michael Hines

5- ODS Essential-Use Determinations (USA)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is amending its regulation on the use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) propellants in self-pressurized containers to make it consistent with other laws. FDA is setting the standard it will use to determine which FDA-regulated products that utilize an ozone-depleting substance (ODS) are essential under the Clean Air Act. Under the Clean Air Act, FDA, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is required to determine whether an FDA-regulated product that utilizes an ODS is essential. FDA is also removing current essential-use designations for products no longer marketed and for metered-dose steroid human drugs for nasal inhalation. FDA will add or remove specific essential-use designations for other products by engaging in separate notice-and-comment rulemaking. DATES: Effective Date: This rule is effective January 20, 2003. Applicability Date: The removal of the essential-use exemption for metered- dose steroid human drugs for nasal inhalation applies as of August 25, 2003 ...

Article

@: http://hoovnews.hoovers.com/fp.asp?layout=query_displaynews&q=OZONE+LAYER&so=&dc=&ro=&ed=&sd=&s=1&boldtext=OZONE+LAYER&sym=&doc_id=NR20020724665.1_105a00c9a51c8391

Source: Hoovers Online, 24 July 2002

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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If you have questions, comments, ideas for future articles, or you want to discontinue receiving this update, please contact: Mrs. Samira de Gobert, Tel. (+33) 1 44371452 Email: samira.degobert@unep.fr

Prepared by: Samira de Gobert, *Information Assistant*

Reviewer: Jim Curlin, *Information Officer*