

INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS Meeting, 4th November 2005, London

Participants (attending, except where indicated)

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| Australia | Garry Wall |
| Austria | Karin Feiler |
| Canada | James Riordan |
| China | Li Tienan |
| Czech Republic | Alena Markova |
| France | Evelyne Bisson |
| Germany | Christian Loewe |
| Ghana | Philip Acquah |
| IEA | Richard Bradley |
| Italy | Milena Presutto |
| Japan | Toshiyuki Sakamoto, Shuji Okuda |
| Netherlands | Arnold Tukker |
| UK | Chris Baker, Terence Illott, Amy, Glover, Martyn Webb |
| USA | Larisa Dobriansky (apologies) EPA (apologies + paper) |
| UNDP | Benoit Lebot |
| UNEP | Bas de Leeuw |
| Secretariat | Melanie Slade, Philip Wright |

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was opened with a recorded welcome from Elliot Morley, UK Environment Minister (transcript at Annex A).

Background

After introductions, apologies and adoption of the Agenda (Annex B), Chris Baker thanked all those present and including those who were supportive of the initiative but who were unable to join the meeting.

The Chair presented for discussion and agreement the background and rationales for the initiative. These include, principally, Government policy commitments made at the 3Rs conference in Japan, the G8 Summit in Gleneagles and the WSSD Meeting in Marrakech. There was general agreement that these references provided an acceptable policy base and that it was appropriate to refer to it as a 'Marrakech' initiative. The Chair invited TF Members to consider if there were any other policy commitments to which this initiative should refer and, potentially, report progress. [**Action: All**]

Aims: The Chair suggested a framework for the morning's discussions which would help shape the initiative including, importantly, an initial Work Plan. The Chair invited consideration of a possible set of working Aims for this Task Force (Annex C) with a view to their adoption and publication. The meeting later concluded that these Aims were helpful and could be referred to in developing a Work Plan. [**Action: Secretariat**]

Objectives: In addition to the Aims, it was agreed the Task Force should have some clear, high-profile objectives which are easy for politicians and the general public to relate to. For example, plastic bags no longer being a waste problem in Africa; incandescent light bulbs are

no longer being produced. The Chair invited the Task Force to propose objectives along these lines. [Action: All]

What is the scope and opportunity for more international co-operation?

The Secretariat presented three draft working papers for discussion and approval. The proposal is to map current activity and opportunities for co-operation in the following strategic areas:

1. Science

- Policy research to determine sustainability risks, issues and priorities
- Identifying effective, forward-looking, strategic product policy responses

2. Policy

- Developing legally reliable performance measurement methods (e.g. formal measurement standards)
- Using product information (e.g. labels, lists)
- Applying performance requirements (e.g. for regulation, procurement, endorsement etc).

3. Mechanisms

- Mapping cooperative networks and mechanisms which have the capacity to operate in areas (1) and (2)

The meeting agreed that these papers were helpful and should be developed and maintained with a view to their publication as open Task Force documents. [Action: Secretariat]

The Chair invited participants to review the working documents, to consider the questions at the head of each and to propose additional information and amendments as appropriate. [Action All]

What are the priorities and what action could be taken?

Following presentation of the working papers, there was a wide ranging discussion on how the Task Force might operate, on priorities and on items for the Work Plan. The Chair expressed his thanks to the US EPA, who were unable to join this meeting, for their paper, which added to the discussion. There was general agreement on the following:

Priorities: The Task Force should focus, initially, on globally traded products, energy and on increasing co-operation between developed and developing countries. While energy currently provides the strongest policy focus, the Task Force should aim to extend the scope of these activities to take into account wider sustainability issues e.g. standards that encourage re-use and recycling, assess and reduce the remote impacts of supply chains e.g. health and safety issues associated with production and disposal.

Science and Policy: Important sectors for more co-operation in developing understanding, determining priorities and setting standards include:

- Buildings as a product – systematic approach not looking at individual components
- Heating systems as a product
- Automobiles
- Food
- Household use of pesticides and toxic chemicals
- Plastics – particularly water packaging (Africa in particular)
- Electronics
- Lighting
- Motors, drives, pumps and fans

Mechanisms: two were discussed in some detail as having immediate potential for development:

- The Australian led “Communities of Practice” initiative: providing a mechanism for governments, NGOs and various other stakeholders to collaborate to develop reliable, harmonised test procedures for energy performance which are suitable for use in local, regional or global policy measures. The aim is to reduce burdens on business, encouraging trade in energy efficient products and to help governments to develop more effective product policy measures. There are currently active international working groups on Compact Fluorescent lighting, Digital Set Top Boxes and Standby power consumption. There is scope to increase participation and, possibly, to look at non-energy issues (e.g. mercury content of CFLs).
- The IEA is a well organised, established international organisation carrying out a wide range of co-operative policy support activities. Currently, the IEA is developing its proposals for a study, responding to specific G8 commitments to determine the scope for more co-operation in developing energy efficiency labels and standards. While the IEA’s remit is to address energy issues, there is clearly scope for integration with other networks that are addressing wider sustainability issues. In particular a major review of lighting products is soon to be published and the results of the G8 scoping study could both provide a substantial input to the Task Force’s mapping requirements.

Work Plan

Focussing on specific product sectors, the meeting identified a number of areas with potential for action to improve co-operation:

Lighting

Science:

- Assess importance of end of life and health issues associated with manufacture, especially in developing countries, (e.g. mercury in CFLs)
- Develop measurement standards: scope to address non-energy issues.
- IEA lighting study: use as a platform for further co-operative actions.

Policy:

- Set standards for the specification and selection of materials (to aid re-cycling).
- Compliance: need to review and replicate successful compliance programmes which improve effectiveness of labelling and standards.
- Address WTO issues to ensure effective policy measures are developed.
- Ensure policy measures include criteria for product quality – e.g. to ensure policy outcomes are not undermined by poor lifetimes and other aspects

- Require more specific lifetime claims

Mechanisms:

- AGO led CFL Initiative – wider participation; extend to address wider sustainability aspects e.g. mercury content, solder, recyclability?
- Energy Efficient Lighting Initiative (ELI) – extend to include wider sustainability aspects, more countries?
- Improve dialogue with lighting industry – existing or new mechanisms should be more creative to stimulate involvement.

Motors and Drives

Science:

- Establish strategic priorities for developing countries (e.g. Africa and India ~40% electricity consumption for pumping water) good practice developed in Europe/North.
- What are the issues around environmental impact of rewind & second hand motors.
- New technique for copper die casting being trialed in India (GEF Project) - if it succeeds governments might support wide scale introduction of process. Technology developed in US - motor expected to be more efficient and less costly to produce.
- Applications for small brush-less motors and associated energy savings could be investigated.

Policy:

- Currently there are two main International test standards; NEMA (US) and IEC (EU) what are the barriers to harmonisation?
- In developing countries electricity saved can be channelled to Micro-enterprises and linked to MDGS.

Mechanisms:

- Establish dialogue with ICA.
- Establish dialogue with SEEEM Project Managers.

Electronics

This is the highest priority for international collaboration for China and US.

Science:

- Establish better information on actual Standby power consumption.

Policy:

- Define different categories of Standby e.g. for simple equipment where harmonisation of test procedures would be relatively straightforward (related to MEPS for those jurisdictions that use this approach), for more complex multifunction equipment where more complex test procedures would be necessary and for safety and monitoring equipment where Standby is essential and less important than their primary function.
- Develop policy initiatives to encourage recycling of plastic components.

Mechanisms:

- Extend IEA One Watt initiative to wider participation.
- Revive IEA Implementing Agreement (DSM Annex).

Monitoring, Communication and Outreach

It was agreed that we should develop a strategy for communications to include compiling a list of opportunities to promote the Task Force agenda and feed into other initiatives.

Opportunities identified included a Global Ecolabelling Network Meeting in New Zealand at which Li Tienan had been invited to speak, COP 11 in Montreal and EEDAL in London (June 2006). **[Action: China; All]** In the first instance a web site will be established where the Aims, Work Plan and other open reference documents would be posted. For convenience, we should also develop material (slides) which may be downloaded and used in presentations.

[Action: Secretariat]

Meetings: The Chair suggested that we should aim to take opportunities to hold side meetings of the Task Force at other international conferences and other meetings, as appropriate. In particular, we should aim to hold a full meeting in London at EEDAL06 which is planned for the end of June 2006 in London *[now confirmed w/b 19 June 2006]*.

Summary Actions

1. Propose additional policy commitments, not referred to in these minutes, to which this initiative should refer and, potentially, report progress. **[Action: All]**
2. Develop a draft Work Plan, referring to Aims and Objectives (when agreed). **[Action: Secretariat]**
3. Propose some clear, high-profile Objectives which are easy for politicians and the general public to relate to. **[Action: All]**
4. Publish and maintain Science, Policy and Mechanisms documents; as open Task Force documents. **[Action: Secretariat]**
5. Review and propose amendments and additions to the Science, Policy and Mechanisms documents. **[Action All]**
6. Identify conferences and other opportunities to present and promote the Task Force initiative. **[Action: All]**
7. Establish a web site, publish agreed Aims, Objectives, Work Plan and other reference documents including downloadable presentation material. **[Action: Secretariat]**

Annex

International Task Force for Sustainable Products Aims

Draft 4 November 2005

1. Refine and communicate a shared vision of sustainable product design and challenge industry to deliver it.
2. Determine where there are shared concerns about product groups, associated environmental impacts and wider sustainability issues
3. Strengthen and improve the coherence of performance measurement, labelling and product information systems to promote the availability of products which exceed specific performance requirements.
4. Establish and promote performance benchmarks, especially at minimum standards level, which could be applied widely in practical policy measures such as procurement, looking ahead to their future development.
5. Identify and promote existing, successful product policies which could be adopted more widely or extended and adapted to address wider sustainability issues.
6. Build capacity within the whole spectrum of industry to enable it to compete in local, regional and global markets to supply products which will meet projected sustainability requirements.
7. Establish sustainable design strategies with special regard to the needs of SMEs and micro-enterprises
8. Monitor and report progress