

REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

International Court of Justice

- The ICJ recently issued an order extending Colombia's deadline for filing its rejoinder in the Aerial Herbicide Spraying case (*Ecuador v. Colombia*) (<http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/138/16725.pdf>).
- Judges Hisashi Owada (Japan), Peter Tomka (Slovakia) and Xue Hanqin (China) were re-elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council as Members of the ICJ. In the same proceeding, Giorgio Gaja (Italy) was elected as a new Member of the Court. A fifth member of the court must also be appointed, however that process was stymied when no candidate received a majority of votes in both fora. That vacancy will be filled at a later date. The newly elected Judges will serve for a term of nine years.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- Public hearings have been held in the "Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal" (case No. 16).
- The Tribunal members have elected Judge Shunji Yanai (Japan) as President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and Judge Albert J. Hoffmann (South Africa) to serve as Vice-President for the period 2011–2014, with the possibility of re-election for a second term. Both judges have been members of the Tribunal since 2005. In addition, three new members, David Joseph Attard (Malta), Elsa Kelly (Argentina) and Markiyana Z. Kulyk (Ukraine) were sworn in as members.

International Tropical Timber Council

At its 47th session, the ITTC and its four Committees, meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, focused on the implementation of the Council's Biennial Work Programme for the years 2010–2011. The delegates also addressed in detail the manner in which the ITTC could link its work with that of other forest-related multilateral environmental agreements, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Report: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb2484e.pdf>.

Environment for Europe – 7

The UNECE's 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference was presented in Astana, Kazakhstan with the themes "Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems"; and "Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development", while addressing other environmental issues of shared concern. Website: <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/astana/welcome.html>.

**GEF Council**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council's 41st meeting focused on private sector engagement, both welcoming private involvement and seeking to control the extent to which private contributors influence GEF decision making. These discussions were undertaken with reference to the need to define operational modalities for private sector engagement for the Facility's 5th replenishment period. Documents and reports: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/451>.

Water and Health Protocol Compliance

The 7th meeting of the Compliance Committee to the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention, under the Chair of Veit Koester, focused much of its discussions on ways in which to cooperate with and involve the Human Rights Council, as well as other high-level bodies and NGOs. Report: www.unece.org/index.php?id=13557. (ATL)

Alpine Convention

The Convention remains in good shape with six States Parties participating while two others are backtracking on their commitments. The first case concerns Switzerland's National Council voting in 2010 to reject ratification of three protocols (see *EPL* 40(6): 345). Now, the Italian Parliament, by a small majority and under pressure from the transport lobby, has scrapped ratification of the Transport Protocol. Resumption of ratification negotiations by the new government under the current circumstances is now unlikely. Italy will assume the rotating Presidency of the Convention from Switzerland in 2013. (ATL)

Pakistan-India: Kishenganga Diversion

On 23 September the Court of Arbitration constituted under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 ordered interim measures in the arbitration under which Pakistan alleges that the Parties (the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India) had failed to resolve the ongoing dispute concerning the Kishenganga Hydro-Electric Project ("KHEP") pursuant to the terms of Article IX(4) of the Treaty. Order: <http://www.pca-cpa.org/upload/files/16.%20Order%20on%20Interim%20Measures%20dated%2023%20September%202011.pdf>.

Colombia and Guatemala Address UNCSD (Rio+20) and SDGs

As their inputs to the preparation of the zero draft of the outcome document for the Rio+20 Conference, the Governments of Colombia and Guatemala are proposing that a key outcome of the Rio+20 process be the definition and agreement of a suite of "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs). First formulated in the Chair's Text of the Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, the end result would be based on Agenda 21 and fully complementary with the MDGs. Inputs to Rio+20: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=115>. Proposal: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/colombiasdgs.pdf>. Chair's Declaration, pp. 12–17: <http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/ngoconference/shared/Documents/Final%20Declaration/Chair%27s%20Text.pdf>. (ATL)

China:**– Changes to Voluntary Environmental Law Association**

In conformity with new requirements regarding the management of non-governmental legal organisations, the China Law Society's Association of Environmental and Resources Law (CLS-AERL) comprising over 170 institutions and 800 individuals was recently transformed into the China Association for Environmental and Resource Law (CAERL). CAERL will be chaired by Cai Shouqiu who is joined by 17 Vice Chairs from various scholarly institutes. (ATL)

– New Secretary-General at Wuhan

Qin Tianbao will serve as Secretary-General of the CAERL Secretariat located at Wuhan University, which is proposed to have the following three commissions under its supervision: Research on Environmental Law Teaching, Environmental Law in Western China, and Practice of Environmental Law. (ATL)

EU: European Treaty on Forests

Representatives of the EU Member States, meeting within the Council, have authorised the Presidency of the Council to negotiate the provisions of a legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests in Europe. The negotiations are aimed at adding demonstrable value to the existing forest-related multilateral agreements and non-legally binding instruments, while ensuring a cost-effective implementation and avoiding further administrative burdens. Earlier reporting: *EPL* 41/3 p. 172. (ATL)

(All References by TRY unless noted otherwise)

