

Agenda Item 8.3.2: Considerations on the Tenth Anniversary of ASCOBANS

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Submitted by: Secretariat



ASCOBANS

NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Considerations on the Tenth Anniversary of ASCOBANS

1. On 12/13 September 2001, ASCOBANS will be able to celebrate its 10th anniversary (signing of the Final Act). A reception on this occasion would provide a welcome opportunity to promote the Agreement and raise awareness of its aims. This effect could be further enhanced if the anniversary were marked with an ASCOBANS exhibition (or an event of some other kind) open to the general public.
2. A number of possible dates and venues for the 10th anniversary celebration of ASCOBANS could be envisaged:
 - Reception on 13 September 2001, venue subject to offers from Parties.
 - Reception held on the occasion and at the venue of the 8th meeting of the Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS (presumably on the Danish West Coast).

The advantages of this solution would be that all or most Parties and Range States would be represented and no additional travel expenses would be incurred. For promotional reasons it might, however, be more advantageous to stage a separate event to commemorate the signing of ASCOBANS rather than to combine it with the AC meeting. In addition, this meeting will likely convene earlier in the year than September, so that the celebration would take place ahead of the actual anniversary.
 - Reception on 13 September 2001 in Bonn.

A reception given at the seat of the Secretariat/CMS Agreements Unit, would highlight the connection between ASCOBANS, CMS and the other European Regional Agreements (EUROBATS; AEWA) also located in Bonn and could be scheduled to take place on 13 September. A separate event would presumably get more publicity than a celebration on the occasion of AC 8, would, however, cause greater expenses.
3. In the first draft budget proposal for 2001 – 2003 the Secretariat had proposed an increase in the budget line for hospitality for 2001 to cover the cost of a reception on the occasion of the 10th anniversary. The governments represented at the AEWG on 24 August 1999 (Germany, Netherlands, UK) however agreed that the cost of this celebration should be covered by voluntary contributions. For this reason, the draft budget proposal presented by the Secretariat as Annex 1 to Draft Resolution No. 2 (Financial, budgetary and administrative matters, AC7 Doc. 30) does not provide for this item.