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SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENCY TABLED DRAFT CONCLUSIONS CALLING FOR AT LEAST 85 PERCENT REDUCTIONS IN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF CFCs BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. UK SUPPORTED PRESIDENCY TEXT. STRONG PRESSURE FROM GERMANY, FRANCE, GREECE, IRELAND AND NETHERLANDS FOR MORE SWEEPING REDUCTIONS OR PREFERABLY TOTAL ELIMINATION BY THE END OF THE CENTURY OR EARLIER. PRESIDENCY TOUR DE TABLE, AFTER PROLONGED DISCUSSION, INDICATED THAT BALANCE HAD SHIFTED SHARPLY IN FAVOUR OF TOTAL ELIMINATION BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. UK JOINED CONSENSUS BUT FINAL AGREEMENT DELAYED FOLLOWING SECOND THOUGHTS BY BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY. TEXT IN MIFT FINALLY CONCLUDED.

DETAIL

2. SAENZ (PRESIDENCY) INTRODUCED DRAFT CONCLUSIONS CALLING FOR 85 PERCENT REDUCTIONS BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. SMET (BELGIUM) AND LORD CAITHNESS (UK) SUPPORTED. NIJPELS (NETHERLANDS) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD OPTED FOR A TOTAL BAN BY 1996. HE WISHED TO SEE THE TEXT STRENGTHENED ACCORDINGLY AT LEAST TO 95 PERCENT BY 1995. SAENZ STRESSED THAT THE TEXT SET 85 PERCENT AS A MINIMUM. LALONDE (FRANCE) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURING GLOBAL REDUCTIONS, NOT JUST RESTRAINT BY COMMUNITY COUNTRIES. HIS PREFERENCE WAS FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION. TOPFER (FRG) ARGUED STRONGLY FOR REDUCTIONS OF AT LEAST 95 PERCENT. GERMANY, AS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF CFCs IN THE COMMUNITY, WAS READY TO MAKE THIS CLEAR COMMITMENT. DYBKJAER (DENMARK) PREFERRED TOTAL ELIMINATION. FLYNN (IRELAND) AGREED AND SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD SHOW A CLEAR LEAD.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION RIPA (COMMISSION) ARGUED THAT THE TEXT ALREADY PROVIDED FOR ENCOURAGING THIRD COUNTRIES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS TO MEET LALONDE'S CONCERN AND REQUIRED THE COMMISSION TO PREPARE A MANDATE FOR RENEGOTIATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL WHICH COULD LEAD TO EVEN TOUGHER MEASURES. VALENTE (PORTUGAL) WANTED A

REFERENCE TO CALLING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE DANGERS OF CFCS. RUFFOLO (ITALY) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLOWING INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR CFCS, BUT CONCLUDED THAT HE COULD ALSO GO ALONG WITH A TOTAL BAN. KTANAS (GREECE) SAID THAT THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL SHOULD SEND THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE SIGNAL OF THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERN ABOUT CFCS. HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED CUTS OF 95 PERCENT, OR COMPLETE PHASING OUT, BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.

4. SUMMING UP THE DISCUSSION, SAENZ SUGGESTED THAT THE TEXT MIGHT BE AMENDED IN MINOR RESPECTS TO EMPHASISE THAT A GLOBAL 85 PERCENT CUT WAS REQUIRED AND THAT THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. THIS NEED NOT PRECLUDE FURTHER MEASURES WHEN THE COMMISSION BROUGHT FORWARD A NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR DISCUSSION IN JUNE. NIJPELS OPPOSED THIS APPROACH. HE NOTED THAT MANY DELEGATIONS COULD SUPPORT 95 PERCENT REDUCTIONS OR TOTAL ELIMINATION AND ASKED THE PRESIDENCY TO ESTABLISH WHETHER ANY DELEGATION COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A TEXT. NONE DID SO. LALONDE AND FLYNN URGED A TOTAL BAN. LORD CAITHNESS SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ANY FIGURE CHOSEN WAS BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE. THE CURRENT STATE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE INDICATED THAT 85 PERCENT WAS THE RIGHT OPTION. THERE WAS ALSO THE QUESTION OF CFCS NOT COVERED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. THIS NEEDED FURTHER THOUGHT. VALENTE AGREED, BUT ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS INDICATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A TOUGHER TEXT NOW.

5. SAENZ PROPOSED REVISED CONCLUSIONS CALLING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF CFCS COVERED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL BY THE LATEST AT THE END OF THE CENTURY AND STRENGTHENING THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL TO THIS END. FOLLOWING FURTHER CONSULTATION (TELECON HOBSON/POWELL) UK JOINED ALL DELEGATIONS IN AGREEING TO THIS CONSENSUS THE PRESIDENCY ADJOURNED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OVER LUNCH. GERMANY, BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS PULLED BACK AND TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS THE PRESIDENCY AMENDED AS IN MIFT. THIS WAS AGREED.

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