

Tighter controls for new ODS

At a meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, experts and diplomats from 178 countries reviewed options for further tightening the international regime for protecting the stratospheric ozone layer. Major concerns discussed include illegal trade in CFCs and other controlled substances, the lack of alternatives for certain small but essential uses and the development and marketing by industry of new ozone-depleting chemicals not yet covered by the Protocol.

The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel has already been asked to conduct an annual review of any new substance with significant ozone-depleting potential that may enter the market. Other issues on the agenda include:

- |> Reducing emissions from ozone-depleting chemicals used as process agents;
- |> Reviewing applications for essential-use exemptions for CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals for 2002 and beyond;
- |> Launching a study on monitoring and preventing illegal trade;
- |> Developing national management plans for reducing halons in critical uses; and
- |> Considering critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide to be implemented starting 2005.

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