

# INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

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Assembly



Distr.  
GENERAL

ISBA/4/A/16  
27 August 1998

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Resumed fourth session

Kingston, 17-28 August 1998

## COMMUNICATION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Submitted by the delegation of Austria  
on behalf of the European Community

1. It is clear from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Art. 1 and annex IX) that the participation of an international organization in the Convention would in no case increase the rights and obligations pertaining to its Member States if only they were parties to the Convention.
2. As regards the amount of the contributions by international organizations to the budget of the International Seabed Authority, it must be recalled that these organizations do not enjoy the same rights as States members of the Authority, and their contributions may be seen as indirectly increasing the financial contributions to the Authority of their Member States.
3. It is therefore to be stressed that the contribution to the budget of the Authority by the European Community is different in nature from the assessed contributions of States members, and has to be agreed upon between the Community and the Authority before its final determination.
4. The Draft Financial Regulations of the International Seabed Authority, as contained in document ISBA/4/C/L.3 of 21 August 1998, thus provide that the funds of the Authority shall also include agreed contributions, as determined by the Authority, made by international organizations members of the Authority in accordance with annex IX of the Convention" (Art. 5 (b)).
5. In view of that proposal by the Finance Committee and the importance that the European Community and its member States attach to an adequate funding of the Authority in order to ensure its proper functioning, a contribution to its budget for 1999 by the European Community,

amounting to US\$80,000, was agreed to on the understanding that the special nature of the contributions of international organizations will be fully reflected in the Financial Regulations. As already agreed in 1997, the European Community will furthermore contribute an amount of \$4,000 to the Working Capital Fund of the Authority in 1999.

6. Whether the contribution by the Community may need adjustment in the future will have to be agreed upon from time to time between the Community and the Authority.

98-50746