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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL  
Thirty-third Meeting  
Montreal, 28-30 March 2001

**STATUS REPORT ON THE STUDY ON ALTERNATIVES TO CFC  
IN RIGID FOAM APPLICATIONS**

1. In Decision 31/49, the Executive Committee approved the terms of reference for a study on CFC alternatives in the manufacture of rigid foam. Under the terms of reference the Secretariat is required to contract for the services of a qualified independent consultant experienced in conducting economic evaluations at the enterprise level and familiar with conversions to related technologies to carry out the study.
2. Against this background, prior to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting the Secretariat advertised internationally for expressions of interest in conducting the study. It also posted the advertisement on its web-site. These initial actions were reported to the Committee at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in a status report. Having decided to take note of the status report the Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to provide to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting more substantive information on progress, if possible with preliminary findings (Decision 32/81).
3. The following paragraphs describe additional efforts made by the Secretariat to move the study forward and the difficulties militating against achievement of the goals of the Executive Committee.
4. Additional to announcements made in the print and electronic media the Secretariat has discussed the study and distributed the terms of reference widely at an international conference on polyurethane technologies. However, only two responses were received, one of which was subsequently withdrawn. Alarmed by such inexplicable lack of response, the Secretariat has individually approached a variety of technical experts regarding their possible interest in undertaking the work. Only one expert has shown any inclination to take up the offer to prepare a proposal.
5. The Secretariat could infer from discussions with a few of the experts contacted that the required scope and depth of the terms of reference were such that a consultant working alone or even in some collaboration with other experts would find the effort too demanding to be able to achieve the required results within reasonable time.
6. In light of these difficulties, the Secretariat considered approaching the Executive Committee with a proposal to review or reconsider the terms of reference but has not pursued this course in view of the Committee's extensive and detailed work in preparing them. As an alternative, the Secretariat has approached an additional three consulting firms with the task of assembling the necessary independent team of experts and managing the conduct of the study. Each firm has expressed interest in undertaking the work. A proposal has been received from one firm, while those from the other two are pending.
7. The problems described above have delayed the conduct of the study and if the latest initiatives prove to be effective, the final report would be expected to be ready for submission to the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting.
8. The Executive Committee is advised that a preliminary assessment of the cost of the study points to a cost in the range of US \$50,000-US \$100,000.