1. In accordance with the relevant decision taken at the resumed session of the Preparatory Meeting (CEP/WG.3/1998/2, para. 8), a meeting on the database was held from 19-20 February 1998 in Warsaw at the invitation of the Government of Poland. The Meeting was attended by representatives of Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the secretariat.

2. The Meeting was opened by Mr. S. Garlicki, of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry. The Meeting was informed about the main steps in the development of the database. The Internet version of the database was introduced by Mr. A. Kraszewski (Poland) and the stand-alone version by Mr. A. Tesli (Norway).
3. The profile of possible users, the content, updating procedures, manpower requirements, user panel and trial period and the evolution of the database was discussed on the basis of a paper prepared by the delegation of Norway. The delegation of Poland and the secretariat provided additional information on the technical aspects of the database.

4. The Meeting discussed the financial aspects of operating the database on the basis of papers prepared by the delegations of Norway and Poland and by the secretariat.

5. The Meeting discussed the content of a draft decision for the first meeting of the Parties and requested the delegations of Norway and Poland to prepare such a draft decision for finalization and adoption at the first meeting of the Parties.

6. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the delegation of Poland for the excellent arrangements made.