

## **Item 11 – Inspection Mechanism**

### **Input BE**

Belgium would like to thank the secretariat for its work on this note and wishes to make the following remarks.

First we would like to define what Belgium understands under remote monitoring. Remote monitoring is the collection and transmission of operational and environmental data on and around the extraction operation by sensors installed on the extraction vessel and equipment and on the contractor's environmental monitoring equipment. This is the industry standard in dredging around the world.

It's our opinion that inspections consists of two activities. The first is monitoring, which can be done continuously through remote monitoring. Although Belgium, as an Sponsoring state, will be monitoring remotely in real-time the activities of our contractor, we do not recommend that this task should be left to the Sponsoring states alone, as some would claim these States not to be impartial. Since real-time monitoring requires full-time inspectors and specialized equipment, our recommendation would be that a thorough study be made on the optimal monitoring system.

The second task consists of investigating specific cases at the request of the LTC, which could be done by inspectors selected from the register of inspectors, where needed. Supported by inspectors of the sponsoring state.