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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed
Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Chemical Review Committee**

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 10–13 March 2008

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention:
report of the bureau on the preliminary review of notifications
and proposed priorities for chemicals scheduled for review by
the Chemical Review Committee**

**Report of the Bureau on its preliminary review of notifications of
final regulatory action for chemicals scheduled for consideration
by the Chemical Review Committee at its fourth meeting**

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its second meeting, the Chemical Review Committee agreed on a procedure for identifying priorities for its intersessional work, based on a preliminary review of the notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict chemicals that had been submitted in line with Article 5 of the Convention, with the understanding that the procedure was a work in progress and would be amended in the light of experience gained.
2. At its third meeting, the Committee agreed that the procedure for dealing with notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical contained in the annex to document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.3/INF/3, did not require any amendment and could be used by the Bureau in preparing for the Committee's fourth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.3/15, paragraph 34).
3. In accordance with that procedure, the Secretariat and the Bureau undertook a preliminary review of the notifications of final regulatory action and supporting documentation submitted for the chemicals scheduled for review by the Committee at its fourth meeting. The annex to the present note

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.4/1.

contains a report of the Bureau on the results of that review. The report includes recommendations on priorities for the work of the Committee, including, in particular, the creation of intersessional task groups. The report has not been formally edited by the Secretariat.

Annex

Report of the Bureau on its preliminary review of notifications of final regulatory action for chemicals scheduled for consideration by the Chemical Review Committee at its fourth meeting

In line with the procedure for the prioritisation of its intersessional work, and in accordance with the information requirements of Annex I and the criteria set out in Annex II, the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau has undertaken a preliminary review of the notifications of final regulatory actions and associated supporting documentation for the six chemicals scheduled for review by the fourth meeting of the CRC.

For those notifications where it appears that the requirements of the Convention had been met, intersessional Task Groups are to be established prior to the session of the Committee, in line with the agreed process for drafting decision-guidance documents. The goal of this preliminary review and priority setting is to help ensure that those notifications that were the subject of preliminary work in Task Groups are those where it appeared that sufficient information was available to determine that the criteria of Annex II had been met. The Committee is obliged to review all of the notifications and supporting documentation.

A tabular summary of the proposed priorities for the evaluation of these chemicals by the CRC may be found in Table.1. The leads among members of the Committee are also listed in this table.

a) Priority setting among candidate chemicals

GROUP 1: includes those chemicals for which there are notifications from two or more PIC regions that appear to meet the requirements of the Convention.

- For these chemicals the Bureau recommends that intersessional Task Groups be established
- Members of the Committee will lead the intersessional Task Groups, prepare an initial review and rationale as to how the notifications and supporting documentation meet the criteria of the Convention.
- The Task Group coordinators will present the findings of the Task Groups to the Committee and lead the discussion on the individual chemicals during the meeting

GROUP 2: includes chemicals for which there are notification(s) from only one PIC region that appears to meet the requirements of the Convention.

- For these chemicals the Bureau recommends that intersessional Task Groups be established
- The Bureau also recommends that
 - i) for those notifications that appear to meet the requirements of the Convention a rationale be drafted,
 - ii) for the other notifications conclude that they do not appear to meet the requirements of the Convention
- Members of the Committee will lead the intersessional Task Groups, prepare an initial review and rationale as to how the individual notifications and supporting documentation meet the criteria of the Convention.
- The Task Group coordinators will present the findings of the Task Groups to the Committee and lead the discussion on the individual chemicals during the meeting

GROUP 3: includes chemicals for which there are no notifications that appear to meet the requirements of the Convention.

- The notifications state that the final regulatory actions from Bulgaria and Japan for chrysotile asbestos were **NOT** based on a hazard or risk evaluation. Based on the conclusions of previous meetings of the CRC these notifications cannot meet criteria (b) of Annex II.
- In the light of this the Bureau recommends that the intersessional work be limited to the lead expert(s) confirming the fact that the notifications were **NOT** based on a risk evaluation and report to the Committee. The Bureau also recommends that these notifications be assigned low priority and given little or no detailed consideration by the Committee.

Table 1 Summary of the outcome of the preliminary review

CHEMICAL NAME	NOTIFICATIONS	CRITERIA OF ANNEX II	TASK GROUPS
Group 1			
Alachlor	European Community	All criteria met	Mr. K. Berend
	Canada	All criteria met*	Mr. L. Juergensen Mr. H. Al Hasani Ms. H. Chin-Sue Mr. M. Nichelati
Aldicarb	European Community	All criteria met	Ms. H. Chin-Sue
	Jamaica	All criteria met	Mr. K. Berend Ms. K. Choi Ms. N. Nudelman Mr. E. Mashimba
Group 2			
Carbaryl	European Community	All criteria met	Mr. M. Khashashneh and Mr. M. Nichellati
	Jordan	Not criterion b) iii) and c) ii)	Mr. M. Hajjar Mr. O. Sow Ms. A. Chouhy-Gonella
Methyl parathion	European Community	All criteria met **	Ms. N. Nudelman and Ms. K. Kranj
	Dominican Republic	Not criterion b) iii)	Mr. A. Katamari Ms. K. Choi Mr. A. Valois
	Guyana	Not criterion b) iii)	
Mirex	Canada	All criteria met *	Mr. M. Nystrom and Mr. O. Sow
	Guyana	Not criterion b) iii)	Mr. E. Mashimba Mr. M. Nichellati Ms. N. Nudelman
Group 3			
Chrysotile	Japan ***	Not criteria b) i) ii) and iii)	Mr. K. Berend
	Bulgaria ***	Not criteria b) i) ii) and iii)	

* evaluated by CRC.2 and rationale prepared

** evaluated by CRC.1 and rationale prepared

*** notifications state that the reported final regulatory actions were **NOT** based on a risk or hazard evaluation and as such cannot meet criteria (b) of Annex II. These notifications will be assigned low priority and given little or no detailed consideration by the Committee.