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

**Fifth meeting**

Rome, 23–27 March 2009

Item 4 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda \*

**Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention:  
review of notifications of final regulatory actions to ban  
or severely restrict a chemical: endosulfan**

## **Endosulfan**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Addendum**

### **Rationale for the Committee's conclusion that the European Community's notification met the requirements of the Convention**

1. The documentation provided by the European Community in support of its final regulatory action on endosulfan was circulated for consideration at the third meeting of the Chemical Review Committee in documents UNEP/FAO/PIC/CRC.3/10/Add.1 and Add.2.
2. The annex to the present note contains the rationale for the Committee's conclusion that the notification met the criteria set forth in Annexes I and II to the Rotterdam Convention.

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\* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.5/1.

## **Annex**

Excerpt of document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC3/15: Rationale for the conclusion by the Committee that the notification for endosulfan (CAS No. 115-29-7) from the European Community meets the criteria of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention

## **Rationale for the conclusion by the Committee that the notification for endosulfan (CAS No. 115-29-7) from the European Community meets the criteria of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention**

1. In reviewing the notification of final regulatory action by the European Community, together with the supporting documentation provided by the Party, the Committee was able to confirm that the action had been taken in order to protect human health and the environment
2. The notification and supporting documentation identified endosulfan as a pesticide. It was used in the European Community as an insecticide on arable crops and for greenhouse use in agriculture, horticulture, orchards, forestry and nurseries. Crops included citrus and pome fruits, grapes, root and tubular vegetables, tomatoes, cotton and glasshouse crops. It was also used on tsetse flies in Southern Europe.
3. The Committee established that the final regulatory action had been taken on the basis of a risk evaluation and that the evaluation had been based on a review of scientific data. The available documentation demonstrated that the data had been generated in accordance with scientifically recognized methods and that the data reviews had been performed and documented in accordance with generally recognized scientific principles and procedures. It also showed that the final regulatory action had been based on chemical-specific risk evaluations taking into account the conditions of exposure within the European Community.
4. Regarding human health, it was determined through exposure modelling that workers applying endosulfan in a number of scenarios would be exposed to levels above the acceptable operator exposure level (AOEL), even when using standard personal protective equipment. The level was based on the lowest relevant toxicity endpoint.
5. Regarding the environment, toxicity exposure ratios based on the no-observed-effect concentration (NOEC) for the most sensitive aquatic organism (bluegill sunfish, *Lepomis macrochirus*) and predicted concentrations resulting from spray drift and run-off entry indicated an unacceptable long-term risk, even with the application of buffer zones. There was also a potential high risk to terrestrial birds and mammals, honey bees and earthworms. In addition, the risk evaluation revealed the occurrence of an unknown metabolite in soil and water or sediment degradation that might cause concern.
6. The Committee concluded that the final regulatory action taken by the European Community on the basis of the available supporting documentation provided a sufficiently broad basis to merit including endosulfan in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention in the pesticide category. It noted that the action had led to a decrease in the quantities of the chemicals used in the notifying Party. All uses of endosulfan had been banned, with noted exceptions allowed in a small number of Member States until the end of 2007 to allow for the development of alternatives. Therefore, continued exposure would be reduced to zero in the European Union as from 2008. Hence, the risk for human health and the environment in the European Community had been significantly reduced.
7. There was no indication that there were any industrial uses of endosulfan in the European Community. The Committee also took into account that the considerations underlying the final regulatory action were not of limited applicability since all uses had been banned. On the basis of information provided to the members at the third meeting of the Chemical Review Committee and other available information, the Committee concluded also that there was evidence of ongoing international trade in endosulfan.
8. The Committee noted that the final regulatory action was not based on concerns about intentional misuse of endosulfan.
9. At its third meeting, the Committee concluded that the notification of final regulatory action by the European Community met the information requirements of Annex I and the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention.