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INTERIM CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Fifth session

Geneva, 2 – 6 February 2004

Review of outcome of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

Identification of alternatives to chrysotile for review by International Programme on Chemical Safety

Note by the secretariat

1. At its tenth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee invited IPCS to undertake, as soon as possible, an evaluation of chrysotile and its alternatives. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) advised the Committee that IPCS had conducted an assessment of chrysotile in 1998 and conveyed the willingness of her organization to work on the health assessment of alternatives to chrysotile. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee agreed that the Interim Chemical Review Committee should identify appropriate alternatives for IPCS to review.
2. The decision guidance document for chrysotile indicated that the European Community had identified cellulose fibres, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) fibres and p-aramid fibres as alternatives, while Chile had identified cellulose fibres as an alternative.
3. The secretariat has contacted Governments inviting them to identify alternatives to chrysotile which they would consider appropriate to use but about which there were potential health concerns. Responses from Governments are annexed to this note. It was noted by one government that the assessment should consider a comparative risk assessment between chrysotile and its alternatives, and not just a risk assessment on substitutes considered separately.

Annex I

Responses from Governments regarding alternatives to chrysotile

State	Alternative
European Community	Cellulose fibres
	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) fibres
	P-aramid fibres
Chile	Cellulose fibres
Canada	Cellulose fibres
	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) fibres
	P-aramid fibres
	Polypropylene (CAS No. 9003-07-0)
Mauritius	Glass wool
	Man made mineral fibres
Japan	Man-made mineral fibres
	Glass fibre
	Glass wool
	Rock wool
	Slag wool
	Natural mineral fibre
	Sepiolite
	Wollastonite
	Aramid fibre
	Vynylon fibre
	Pulp
	Ceramic fibre
	Carbon fibre
Basic magnesium sulfate whisker	
Potassium titanate whisker	
Silicon carbide whisker	
Bulgaria	Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA)
	Polyacryl nitril (PAN)
	Aramid fibre
	Fibreglass
	Glass wool
	Rock wool
	Carbon fibre
	Graphite fibre
Wollastonite	