



**United Nations
Environment Programme**

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

Distr.: General
1 December 2005

English only

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

Second meeting

Geneva, 13–17 February 2006

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

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

**Methyl parathion: supporting documentation provided by the
European Community**

Note by the secretariat

1. The supporting documentation provided by the European Community in support of its final regulatory action on methyl parathion was circulated for consideration at the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee in document UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.1/19/Add.4.
2. The annex to the present note contains the rationale for the conclusions of the Committee that the notification had met the criteria of Annex II of the Rotterdam Convention.

* UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.2/1.

Annex

Excerpt from the report of the first meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC 1/28, Annex V)

Rationale for the conclusion on the Notification for methyl parathion (CAS No. 298-00-0) from the European Community.

Notification for methyl parathion (CAS No. 298-00-0) from the European Community

In reviewing the notification of final regulatory action by the EC to ban methyl parathion, together with the supporting documentary information provided by that Party, the Committee was able to confirm that the action had been taken in order to protect human health, in particular workers and the environment, in particular non-target organisms.

In both cases the main concern related to the toxic effects of the substance as a result of inhibition of choline esterase.

The Committee established that the final regulatory action had been taken as a consequence 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. The risk evaluation of the pesticidal uses of methyl parathion concluded that, on the basis of the results of several exposure models, there were unacceptable risks to workers and non-target organisms (insects, birds, aquatic organisms and mammals) due to the acute and chronic toxic effects of methyl parathion.

The Committee concluded that the final regulatory action provided a sufficiently broad basis to merit including methyl parathion 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 since all uses as a plant protection product were prohibited. Hence, the risk for human health and the environment in the notifying Party were expected to be significantly reduced.

There was no indication that there were any industrial uses of methyl parathion. The Committee also took into account that the considerations underlying the final regulatory action were not of limited applicability but of broader relevance since similar problems were likely to occur in other countries, particularly developing countries. On the basis of information provided to the members at the first session of the Chemical Review Committee and other available information, the Committee concluded also that there was evidence of ongoing international trade in methyl parathion.

The Committee noted that the final regulatory action was not based on concerns about intentional misuse of methyl parathion.

At its first session, 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.