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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To:   | Delegations                        |

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| Subject: | Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (COP-17)<br>Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (COP-12)<br>Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (COP-12)<br>(Geneva, 28 April - 9 May 2025)<br>- Compilation of statements |
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Delegations will find in the Annex, for information purposes, a compilation of statements as delivered at the abovementioned meetings (including at the joint session). Unless indicated otherwise, statements were delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED AT THE JOINT SESSION****OPENING STATEMENT**

Thank you, Madame President,

This statement is on behalf of the European Union and its Member States as well as the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Presidents of the Conferences of the Parties, the Bureaux and the Secretariat for their work to organize this meeting. We thank Switzerland for its generous hospitality in hosting this important event.

We meet here in Geneva at a critical juncture in the global environmental agenda. The triple planetary crisis — of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution — continues to accelerate, and poses a major threat to the health of our planet impacting current and future generations.

Over the past decades the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have been crucial multilateral instruments to tackle these global crises by ensuring the sound management of chemicals and waste and strengthening international cooperation. Today, we are called upon to address emerging challenges with even greater ambitions. We strongly support the theme of these COPs “Make Visible the Invisible”, which highlights the often-overlooked but profound impacts of chemicals and waste on our health, ecosystems and livelihoods. Raising visibility of these issues is not only essential to driving action, but to ensuring that policy, science, and public awareness align with the urgent need for pollution prevention and resource efficiency.

Regarding the Basel Convention, we are hopeful that a conclusion can be reached on the review of Annex IV at COP17 building on progress in previous meetings. We also look forward to fruitful discussions on a number of technical guidelines, on how to improve of the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure, as well as on plastic waste and on the implementation of the recent e-waste amendments. We believe that this work contributes to improving the effectiveness of the Basel Convention.

Furthermore, given the importance and current relevance of the issue of textiles and textile waste, we propose to take into account this topic in the discussion on the scope of the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2026-2027.

As regards the Rotterdam Convention we are increasingly concerned that the list of chemicals that are recommended for listing but for which the Conference of the Parties was not yet able to reach consensus on their listing continues to grow. This trend is alarming since the growing list translates into growing damage to the vast majority of Parties that would like to benefit from the protection offered by the Convention whilst trading chemicals but are prevented from such benefits by a small number of Parties that block the listing.

But we are optimistic since we can make the difference at this Conference of the Parties. To do so, we call on all Parties to give priority to the objectives of the Convention by sharing responsibility and making cooperative efforts to achieve the best outcome for those that suffer most from poor management of chemicals.

The Stockholm Convention aims to protect the people and the planet from persistent organic pollutants and the positive effects of the action taken under this Convention are of highest value in particular for future generations since these toxic chemicals accumulate in the environment if releases are not eliminated or minimised.

We have three chemicals on our agenda that should be added to Annex A with the objective to eliminate or minimise releases. Since these chemicals are still used and their phase-out takes some time, we cannot list them without exemptions. But these exemptions should be as limited as possible regarding scope and duration to not jeopardise our common objective under this Convention, which is the protection from persistent organic pollutants.

In this context we would like to highlight the recent success of the Secretariat to get the approval by the Global Environment Facility of a project on PCB elimination. This project will substantially support many Parties in their efforts to eliminate all use of PCBs and to ensure environmentally sound management of all waste that contains PCBs.

Eliminating the use of DDT still remains a challenge for some Parties and the EU and its Member States appreciate the efforts done and would like to congratulate Parties for the positive developments. We welcome the recommendations towards a focused phasing out of DDT.

We welcome the initiation of the process of the third evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the recommendations set out in the report on the second evaluation. We welcome the work done on the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants.

All three of the conventions that we are working on this week strike a balance. They allow for all parties to benefit, and they allow a genuinely global approach to be taken to global problems. But to maintain this balance, we need to keep the conventions relevant to modern chemicals and to modern waste issues by updating listings and tackling emerging problems. This is the challenge that we should rise to in this COP.

We look forward to the reports of the Basel and Rotterdam compliance committees, and we are convinced that the new compliance mechanism including the committee for the Stockholm Convention will contribute to the successful implementation of the Convention by all Parties.

We wish to reiterate our grave concern about the environmental damage caused by ongoing armed conflicts. In addition to gross violations of international law, they cause not only massive loss of life and damage to health, including of civilians, but also long-term environmental degradation. We would like to emphasize that these wars undermine global security and stability and have serious negative impacts on energy and food security. They pose an imminent threat to effective global action to address the triple planetary crisis and must be urgently and decisively addressed by the international community. We therefore enter this COP with a sense of responsibility and urgency.

The tasks ahead are complex and challenging, but with shared commitment and multilateral dialogue, we can ensure that the BRS conventions continue to deliver on their objectives.

We look forward to two productive weeks of negotiations and to delivering a successful and ambitious outcome.

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## **MATTERS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

### **BC Item 4(b)(i); SC Item 5(c) Technical guidelines (POP wastes)**

#### ***Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs***

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and the SIWG for their efforts in updating the technical guidelines. We appreciate the work carried out by the SIWG on the draft technical guidelines presented and can generally support the text proposed in these documents.

There are however still some outstanding issues we would like to discuss. Notably there are still low POP content limit values to be agreed upon for some POPs. In this respect, we are supportive of establishing a single low POP content value for each POP. Therefore, we think that the technical guidelines should be discussed in a contact group.

We also extend our thanks to Canada and the SIWG for preparing the compilation of available information on low POP content values for HBCD. We support the notion of summarizing key information for POPs for which a low POP content limit should be established. The EU and its Member States consider that the compilation on HBCD provides a comprehensive overview of the rationale behind the proposed low POP content values. While we would be willing to contribute to further work on compiling information for other POPs where such limits have been proposed, we recognize that this would require substantial effort from SIWG members and would therefore propose to only work on another compilation of available information on low persistent organic pollutant content values for one other POP in the coming intersessional period.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### BC Item 4(d), RC Item 5(e), SC Item 5(f)

Thank you, Madam President,

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work undertaken and for preparing the related documents. We recognise the importance of providing technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the actions undertaken by Parties to implement the conventions. We have a long-standing tradition offering such support and remain committed to assisting Parties in need of such assistance.

The European Union and its Member States support the decision on technical assistance, and the draft text is generally acceptable. However, we would like to emphasise that it remains the priority for us to ensure the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts. Therefore, we support regular evaluations of implemented programs and actions, particularly as regards their national impact. This includes ensuring that the implementation of the BRS Conventions is evaluated regularly to assess the impact of the technical assistance plan.

Additionally, the European Union and its Member States will continue to advocate for maintaining the eligibility of the BRS Secretariat for ODA-DAC funding. We fully recognise the importance of mobilizing additional financial resources, including voluntary contributions and alternative funding mechanisms, to enhance the effectiveness of technical assistance programs.

The Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres continue to play an important role in supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Conventions. We have noted the evaluation reports prepared by the Secretariat and welcome the good work carried out by many of these centres. Strengthening regional partnerships and capacity-building centres remains crucial, as they are integral to delivering technical assistance effectively.

The European Union and its Member States support a decision on regional centres that is simple, streamlined and operational.

In conclusion, the European Union and its Member States are committed to ensuring that technical assistance under BRS Conventions continues to be effectively delivered to those who need it most, through strong regional cooperation, ongoing evaluation and the mobilization of financial resources.

We look forward to further discussions in a contact group.

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## FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

### BC Item 4(f); RC Item 5(f); SC Item 5(g)

Thank you, Mister President,

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for the documents and the work undertaken. We would also like to thank the Global Environment Facility Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Special Programme for their reports and their work in support of the implementation of the Conventions.

The implementation of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste remains a key priority, in particular at the national level.

The European Union and its Member States support the suggested draft decision to take note of the report from the council of GEF to the parties of Stockholm Convention. The European Union and its Member States acknowledge the important role of the GEF in supporting the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, particularly its capacity to leverage co-financing from recipient countries and the private sector. The GEF's focus should remain on strategic, cost-effective, and catalytic actions. Broader remediation efforts may require complementary funding sources and increased national engagement.

We take note of the report on the assessment of funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention from 2026 to 2030. It emphasizes the significant funding required for commitments related to eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). We appreciate the GEF Council's approval of the Global Elimination Program for PCBs (GEP-PCB) and commend the BRS Secretariat for their successful application.

Furthermore, the EU and its Member States take note of the report on findings concerning the possible development of a non-State actors resource mobilization strategy. We would like to highlight the significant role that non-state actors can play in aiding the implementation of BRS conventions. We advocate for the development of this strategy to be driven by the integrated approach to financing and consider it essential to complement existing funding mechanisms such as the GEF.

We value the identification of primary funding sources that are crucial for leveraging additional resources by connecting public and private funding, as this function is vital for mobilizing resources from non-state actors and for promoting discussions on innovative methods of financing. At the same time, we appreciate the recognition of barriers and facilitators for financing activities under the three conventions. It is essential to achieving an effective non-state actor resource mobilization strategy.

Finally, we take note of the report on the Special Programme activities. We reaffirm the Programme's crucial role in institutional strengthening for the sound management of chemicals and waste under the relevant conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals. We welcome its extended duration and the inclusion of the GFC. However, we note with concern the Programme's precarious financial situation. To ensure the Special Programme's continued success, we urge a significant injection of funds and encourage contributions from all signatories, Parties, governments, and other stakeholders with the capacity to do so.

We are ready to constructively engage with all Parties in a contact group on the financial mechanism.

Thank you very much

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## **COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

### **BC Item 5(a); RC Item 6(a); SC Item 6(a)**

The European Union and its Member States place high importance on the coordination and cooperation with other organisations, and in particular between the BRS and the Minamata Secretariats.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Minamata Convention. We thank the Secretariat for the presented outline of future activities.

The European Union and its Member States believe that the planned activities provide efficient implementation of the Programme of Work.

The European Union and its Member States would like to further encourage activities in the area of outreach and communication as well as knowledge management and trade control, including combating illegal traffic.

The European Union and its Member States support the adoption of the decision, which will help to ensure and further develop the cooperation between the Minamata and BRS Secretariats to enhance efficient work on the four Conventions.

## COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### **BC Item 5(b), RC Item 6(b), SC Item 6(b) (this relates to section 1.(b) in the position paper on horizontal issues)**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the insightful report on efforts towards fostering cooperation and coordination with other international organizations.

We appreciate the comprehensive efforts made by the Secretariat to improve multilateral collaboration, emphasizing the significance of collective action in tackling global challenges.

Thus, we welcome the extension of the collaboration to the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Montreal Protocol, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The European Union and its Member States appreciate the ongoing involvement of the Secretariat in supporting the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee developing a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and the Open-Ended Working Group on establishing a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention. This engagement is of paramount importance for both initiatives since it brings valuable expertise and promotes a complementary and collaborative approach to environmental governance, preventing any unnecessary overlap in efforts in health and environment protection and sound chemical management.

Therefore, we emphasize the importance of the Secretariat's presence at the resumed third session of the ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group, scheduled to take place in Uruguay in June 2025, and the resumed 5th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee, which will take place in Geneva in August 2025.

The European Union and its Member States appreciate the actions taken by the Secretariat to contribute to the **Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)** including the development of a report with recommendations on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions could contribute to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals and including the proposed activities supporting the implementation of the Framework in the programmes of work of the conventions for the biennium 2026–2027. We look forward to considering this report and the proposed activities in the Programme of Work. We appreciate the development, with the GFC Secretariat, of a joint report on the contributions of the chemicals and waste frameworks and agreements towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

We look forward to continued and enhanced collaboration between the Secretariat and the GFC in its next biennium. We also look forward to a progress report for COP 2027.



The European Union and its Member States welcome the upcoming entry into force of the Hong Kong Convention in June 2025. We take note of the provisional guidance adopted in the context of the International Maritime Organization and underline the need for further work and collaboration between the Basel and the Hong Kong Conventions. It is instrumental that the Parties to the Basel Convention contribute to this work to ensure further clarity and certainty. To this end, we support the process included in the draft decision. However, we would suggest considering altering the deadline for submission of comments on the draft guidance on implementing the Hong Kong and Basel Conventions with respect to the transboundary movement of ships intended for recycling from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

Activities undertaken in the area of cooperation underscore the vital role of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions in addressing broader sustainability goals, tackling the triple planetary crisis challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals together with other international partners.

To build upon this, the European Union and its Member States would like to encourage further Secretariat efforts to reinforce international cooperation, policy coherence, and science-based decision-making to enhance awareness of synergies among various multilateral environmental agreements and related frameworks.

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## **ENHANCING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS**

### **Clearing house mechanism for information exchange**

**BC Item 6(a), RC Item 7(a), SC Item 7(a) (this relates to section 2.(a) in the position paper on horizontal issues)**

Thank you, Madam President.

The European Union and its Member States express gratitude to the Secretariat for their efforts in advancing the implementation of the joint clearinghouse mechanism and acknowledge the proposed work plan for the biennium 2026-2027.

We appreciate the Secretariat's focus on maintaining existing information tools while implementing new solutions to enhance access to critical data in chemical management.

We welcome the Secretariat's continued work to improve cooperation and coordination activities in the area of information exchange. We value the goal of ensuring complementarity while avoiding duplication of activities, tools, and mechanisms with existing partners like the Minamata Convention Secretariat and new collaborators, including academia.

We also recognize the Secretariat's regular review of the strategy to take into account lessons learned, as well as relevant developments regarding the international agenda on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

For the European Union and its Member States, emphasizing ongoing activities while focusing on maintaining current systems is crucial. Thus, we support the approval of the proposed draft decision.

### **Mainstreaming Gender**

**BC Item 6(b), RC Item 7(b), SC Item 7(b) (this relates to section 2.(b) in the position paper on horizontal issues)**

Thank you, Madam President.

The European Union and its Member States support the proposed action and express appreciation for the Secretariat's work related to gender mainstreaming, to which we attach high importance, and we encourage the Secretariat to pursue its efforts in this matter.

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for preparing a draft of a new gender action plan setting out potential activities and opportunities for greater inclusion of all stakeholder groups and proposing possible actions by Parties and other stakeholders about gender mainstreaming.

The European Union and its Member States would like to request the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the proposed new gender action plan to the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings and encourage Parties and other stakeholders to implement the new plan during the biennium 2026–2027 and share with the Secretariat the experience and good practices derived from that process.

Additionally, the European Union and its Member States would like to express their appreciation and support for the inclusion of a gender component in existing training, such as training on mercury-added products, training for negotiators and potential contact group chairs, and training on mercury waste.

### **Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes**

**BC Item 6(c), RC Item 7(c), SC Item 7(c) (this relates to section 2.(c) in the position paper on horizontal issues)**

Thank you, Mister President,

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the detailed report and the proactive measures taken to support the Parties in their ongoing endeavours to prevent and combat the illegal trafficking and trade of hazardous chemicals and wastes.

We appreciate the Secretariat's continued cooperation with a variety of enforcement organizations and networks in the area of preventing and combating illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes.

We take note of the Secretariat's report on amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System under the Stockholm Convention and support further work to explore the needs related to identifying substances and products containing listed chemicals.

We express our appreciation for the workshops organised by the Secretariat and its engagement with key partners such as the Green Customs Initiative and the OECD, including the OECD Working Group on Waste and Illegal Pesticides.

We would like to highlight the work of the OECD network to fight illegal trade in pesticides, which safeguard both public health and the environment, and we encourage all Parties to implement the OECD tools like the Council recommendation on "Countering the illegal trade of pesticides" or "Best Practice Guidance to Identify Illegal Trade of Pesticides,".

Additionally, we expect that the IOMC Toolbox, which we would like to recommend to all Parties that are looking for information on tools to improve chemical management at the national level, will soon include a tool on illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals.

The European Union and its Member States would like to highlight the potential synergies with the Global Framework on Chemicals. This framework features Target A4, which articulates a clear commitment from stakeholders to undertake decisive actions aimed at preventing the illegal trade and trafficking of chemicals and waste. This commitment is further reinforced by the Bonn Declaration, which advocates for a planet free from the harm caused by chemicals and waste.

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## **PROGRAMMES OF WORK AND BUDGET**

### **BC Item 7; RC Item 8; SC Item 8**

Thank you, Mr President

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2026-2027 and for proposing two scenarios for the operational budget of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

However, given that the proposed Zero Nominal Growth scenario implies a net increase of the budget, the EU and its Member States are committed to seeking clarification on the lack of a real zero nominal growth scenario proposal, as the request for such a specific scenario was made in decisions on budget adopted during COP 2023. A real zero nominal growth scenario would allow Parties to assess the extent to which the budget cuts would affect specific activities, thereby clearly illustrating the magnitude of the challenges posed by a zero percent budget increase for the next biennium.

We aim to reach agreement on a realistic budget for the 2026-2027 biennium that reflects the agreed priorities of the Parties and ensures the realisation of the agreed activities adopted by the Parties at this and previous triple COPs. This should be achieved through sound and transparent management of the budget, taking into account the increasing workload of the Secretariat, in particular with regard to the tasks of the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, as well as the work under the Basel Convention.

Furthermore, we need to ensure that the necessary resources are allocated to support the work of the newly established Stockholm Convention Compliance Committee. We look forward to the discussion in the contact group on this topic.

The European Union and its Member States look forward to fruitful discussions during the negotiations and to the adoption of the programme of work and budget that reflects all the essential needs of the three Conventions.

Thank you

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## VENUES AND DATES

### BC Item 8; RC Item 9; SC Item 9

The European Union and its Member States can agree on the proposed date for the upcoming COP meetings.

We would like to express our gratitude to Panama for its generous offer to host the conferences of the Parties in 2027, and we fully support this decision.

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## CLOSING STATEMENT

Thank you, Madam President,

Distinguished Presidents, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The EU and its Member States **thank the Secretariat** for the preparation, organisation and support during this Triple BRS COP. We would like to thank Switzerland for their hospitality. We also want to **thank the Presidents**, together with the Co-Chairs of the Contact Groups, for managing a broad agenda with open and excellent participation. Finally, we also want to express our **gratitude to all Parties and Observers** for their contributions to the lively debate on matters pertaining to the common good of all. The EU and its Member States came to Geneva **with the commitment**, shared with other Parties to make progress in the protection of human health and the environment from POPs, unwanted imports of certain hazardous chemicals or hazardous waste and their disposal in a spirit of cooperation and openness.

Before turning to the substantial matters, we would like to express our deep concerns that the CEE region was not in a position to nominate the candidates for the elections of officers under the three conventions. Consequently, the region will not be appropriately represented in various bodies.

This Triple COP has had successes, and it has had failures. Let us focus first on the positive outcomes of this meeting.

We have successfully **listed three new chemicals** under Annex A to the Stockholm Convention. The ban of these persistent organic pollutants represents a notable step forward in the elimination and full substitution of extremely hazardous substances, along the path to alleviate their burden on humans and the environment. We agreed on the phase out of a remaining use of a chemical in complex articles, showing that the Stockholm Convention is capable of adaptation to industrial realities.

**On the listing of chemicals in the Rotterdam Convention**, our glass is half full or half empty. We have successfully listed only two out of ten substances recommended by the Chemical Review Committee for listing under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. This disparity between scientific advice and concrete action is regrettable. It is important to note that the fact that a chemical is not listed does not mean that it is safe.

Nonetheless, we see the listing of the two pesticides fenthion and carbosulfan as a success that should lead to further listings in the future. However, we have now an outstanding list of 8 chemicals where the COP has failed to reach the necessary consensus. This reality has led again to reflection on the effectiveness of the Convention. This can be positive, but we need to opt for genuine solutions.

Coming now to the Basel Convention. We welcome the decision on trade of textile wastes. We look forward to engaging with all Parties on this new strand of work. This shows that the **Basel Convention** is equipped to deal with emerging challenges. We want to make clear that this should be complementary and of course not replace efforts to improve the effective implementation of the Basel Convention. This remains a priority for us, and we welcome in that respect the decisions on e-waste, plastic waste and the improvement of the PIC procedure. We also want to stress the importance of the work by the compliance committee to facilitate implementation of the Convention. We are satisfied that the COP was finally able to agree to revise Annex IV of the Convention. We regret that there was no consensus on the inclusion of “preparing for re-use” in that Annex, but we also noted growing support for it and welcome that it will be further discussed in future.

We welcome the work done by the Secretariat in supporting the INC process, notably on chemicals in plastic.

To implement our conventions requires a **Secretariat** with the resources needed to do its job; in other words an adequate and affordable **budget**. The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat and Co-Chairs for helping the budget contact group to reach an outcome, and all Parties for their flexibility and their desire to reach a compromise that should satisfy all Parties.

We agreed on a **Technical Assistance and Financial Mechanism decision** that will be conducive to effectively implementing the conventions at all levels, nationally and internationally, by providing parties with the necessary tools and assistance to improve implementation and enforcement. We support the decision on the **framework to develop a resource mobilisation** strategy from non-state actors and we thank the African region for their proposal.

The European Union and its Member States truly **believe in multilateral solutions** being the path to address the huge environmental challenges ahead of us, such as the sound management of chemicals and waste. Overall, we are encouraged by the results of this Triple COP. This sets the way for a successful adoption in the coming months of the Science-Policy Panel and of a new internationally legally-binding instrument on plastic pollution.

We are grateful for the offer of Panama to host the triple COPs in 2027 and are looking forward to having our next conferences of Parties in Panama.

Thank you Madam President

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED AT THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION**

**STRATEGIC ISSUES**

**BC Item 4(a)(i): Strategic framework**

The EU and its Member States wish to thank the lead country Canada, the Secretariat and the Small Intersessional Working Group for their work. We welcome the revised draft of the renewed strategic framework and can agree to it almost entirely.

The EU and its Member States are ready to reach an agreement on the text of Goal 2, Objective 2.1., potentially through discussions in a contact group, so that the COP can adopt the Renewed Strategic Framework at COP17.

Thank you

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**BC Item 4(a)(ii): Improving the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure**

This is an important issue for the EU and its Member States. The EU and its Member States wish to thank the lead country, France, the Secretariat, and the Small Intersessional Working Group for their work on the report of findings and recommendations to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure.

This is an important and balanced report that will help to improve the functioning of the PIC procedure at the global level. We believe that, as a variety of challenges have been identified in the draft report, a variety of measures will be needed to address these challenges.

We strongly support that COP takes action along the lines of the recommendations made by the SIWG.

Finally, we would like to stress the importance that improving the functioning of the PIC procedure remains consistent with the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, as well as with the work of the ICC on transit and on updating contact details of focal points and competent authorities.

We look forward to participating in further discussions on these issues in a contact group, if it is created.

Thank you

## SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS

### BC Item 4(b)(i): Technical guidelines

#### ***Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and of other waste batteries***

The EU and its Member States welcome the revised draft of the updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries (WLAB). The EU and its Member States regret that it will not be possible at this COP to agree on these updated Technical Guidelines as these updates are needed to better manage WLAB and as this means work under the Convention is piling up and there is limited capacity to address all challenges. In our view, the new chapter on 'Health & safety' should be reviewed to place greater emphasis on the requirements and systems that must be in place to manage WLAB safely.

We also welcome the work on the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of other waste batteries (OWB). The EU and its Member States support maintaining the chapter on the 'repair and repurpose of OWB for reuse'. While we agree that not all repair operations qualify as waste treatment, such operations can be applied to waste items. Repair is an essential part of the waste hierarchy and it helps to keep resources in the economy longer. We furthermore welcome the streamlining of Section I and II, the more descriptive parts of the Technical Guidelines, and welcome the proposed restructuring of Section III. We think that these technical guidelines should be discussed in a contact group.

Thank you

#### ***Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres***

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the SIWG and the Secretariat for the work done so far on this guidelines. We consider it essential that the updated technical guidelines provide guidance on repair and retreading operations, as well as the management of used tyres. The existing technical guidelines from 2013 provide in-depth guidance on retreading and repair activities. Removing these from the scope of the updated guidelines would significantly limit their scope and fail to provide necessary guidance on waste treatment in line with the waste hierarchy. We look forward to discussing these issues further in a contact group.

Thank you

#### ***Technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8)***

The EU and its Member States, in principle, support updating the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8).

However, in consideration of the overall workload for the next biennium and the significant number of technical guidelines currently under development, we consider that these guidelines should not be prioritised for the next biennium.

Thank you



#### **BC Item 4(b)(ii): Classification and hazard characterization of wastes**

The EU and its Member States appreciate the work carried out by the Secretariat and welcome the report on the status of the work of the World Customs Organization (WCO) on the Harmonized System related to the Basel Convention. We support the Secretariat's continued work and cooperation with the Harmonized System Committee and relevant subcommittees of the WCO in order to facilitate the inclusion of wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS).

The EU and its Member States accept the elements in the draft decision.

Thank you

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#### **BC Item 4(b)(iii): National reporting**

The EU and its Member States welcome the elements in the proposed decision aimed at enhancing reporting by Parties. Specifically regarding the electronic reporting system, the EU and its Member States think that the current system does not provide for sufficient means to compare data. We would like to suggest considering to develop the system in a manner that allows more data to be introduced in a structured manner. This would ultimately enhance data comparability. We would like to add specific wording to the draft decision to point 5(a), which reads:

*To continue to maintain [we would like to add the phrase] 'and further develop' the electronic reporting system, to support Parties in using it and to update, subject to the availability of resources, the existing system to enhance its compatibility with current standards of information technology.*

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#### **BC Item 4(b)(v): Further consideration of plastic waste**

The EU and its Member States believe that the Basel Convention is an important instrument to address plastic pollution.

Good work has been done with the adoption of the technical guidelines on plastic waste, where the focus should now be on implementation.

We are also in favour of the continuation of the partnership on plastic waste, that will be discussed later.

When looking at possible future activities, we believe that it is important to set priorities. In that respect, we believe that the focus should be on the assessment of the effectiveness of the amendments on plastic waste agreed in 2019. These amendments were adopted to better regulate the transboundary movements of plastic waste and contribute to their environmentally sound management. Six years after their adoption, we think that it is timely to assess if these aims have been met and if improvements should be considered. To this end, we support the proposed way forward contained in document UNEP/CHW.17/INF/18, when it comes to launching intersessional work to perform such assessment.

We are ready to discuss these matters in a contact group.

Thank you

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#### **BC Item 4(b)(vi): Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste**

- The EU and its Member States appreciate and support the work carried out by the Secretariat in preparing draft updates of the documents listed in paragraph 1 of decision BC16/12 to reflect adjustments resulting from the adoption of amendments to Annexes II, VIII, and IX of the Basel Convention.
- The new e-waste entries, that were adopted at COP15, became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> January of this year. This COP is the first meeting of the Basel Convention since then. The EU and its Member States believe that it is important that this COP sets the right motion to contribute to a smooth implementation of the new entries and that this issue should be discussed in view of the upcoming biennium of the Basel Convention.
- First, the EU and its Member States would like to seek information from the Secretariat on the state of play of the implementation of the new e-waste entries. We understand that a number of Parties have submitted a notification to the UN Depository indicating that they are unable to accept the Amendments on e-waste prior to their entry into force on 1 January 2025.
- The EU and its Member States want to express their hope that the countries concerned will soon be in a position to implement the new e-waste entries.
- Moreover, the EU and its Member States would like to recall that for shipments of e-waste between those Parties that have accepted the Amendments, all the steps in the prior informed consent procedure should be carefully followed.
- In addition, we are aware that a number of questions on various aspects linked to the identification of waste covered by the new entries on e-waste have been raised in recent months. It would be useful that all Parties and Observers are able to exchange on these points, so as to facilitate a smooth implementation at the global level.

- To this end, we support to keep the item “Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste” in the work programme of the OEWG for the next biennium; the focus should be on sharing best practices to ensure proper implementation of these amendments. We will also raise this issue when the COP discusses the work programme of the OEWG. In light of this, the EU and its Member States have tabled CRP [add number after CRP is published] that explains our proposals to launch work to develop a guidance document on the identification of e-waste as well as on the distinction between
  - waste that is to be classified under one of the new e-waste entries and,
  - waste that is related to e-waste, but can be classified under another entry in Annex II, VIII or IX.
- In addition, the EU and its Member States believe that guidance should also be developed on the procedure to be applied when one Party applies the amendments and the other one does not. Such guidance should be included in the ongoing work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (ICC) on updating the Manual for the implementation of the Basel Convention (activity 4a of the work programme of ICC, see document UNEP/CHW.17/12/REV.1).

We do not intend to discuss these matters in a contact group, and hope that Parties can agree to this proposal.

Thank you

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## LEGAL, COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS

### **BC Item 4(c)(i): Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance**

The EU and its Member States welcome the work carried out by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (ICC). We appreciate the continued support of the ICC and the Secretariat for Parties that have no or only partial legislation, to help them fully implement the Basel Convention.

The EU and its Member States also wish to thank the ICC and the Secretariat for preparing the *Guidance on how individual Parties can integrate actions to address their needs under the Basel Convention into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks*.

The EU and its Member States welcome and agree with the draft decision.

Thank you

#### **BC Item 4(c)(ii): Providing further legal clarity**

The EU and its Member States welcome the work carried out by the EWG and recognize the progress made in the discussions on the review of Annex IV. In particular, we continue to consider that the amendments to Annex IV could provide legal clarity in the implementation of the Convention.

In previous discussions at COP15, OEWG13, COP16, OEWG14 and the meetings of the Expert Working Group on the Review of Annexes, significant time was spent on discussing the proposals to amend existing operations or add new operations. The EU and its Member States also have the impression that tangible progress has been achieved during the latest discussions in the Expert Working Group. Building on this progress, the EU and its Member States are hopeful that a conclusion can be reached on the review of Annex IV at COP17. That may either take the form of a structural revision of Annex IV, or may lead to only limited changes to the current Annex IV.

We support deferring further discussion to a contact group to allow for a more in-depth exchange of views.

Concerning amendments to Annexes I and III, we welcome the progress made in developing the recommendations of the EWG, however, given the limited progress achieved so far, we suggest limiting the discussion in the Plenary only or, if a contact group is established, to keep the discussion brief.

Thank you.

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#### **BC Item 4(c)(iii): National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic**

The EU and its Member States welcome the elements in the proposed decision.

Thank you.

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#### **BC Item 4(c)(iv): Proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention**

The EU and its Member States do not support the amendment of Article 6(2) of the Convention proposed by the Russian Federation. The proposal does not sufficiently address the problems that the EU and its Member States consider as priorities for improving the functioning of the PIC procedure. Moreover, amending the body of the Convention text requires a long and complex process. We consider it to be a disproportionate effort to initiate such process, for an amendment that has very little added value.

We would like to underline the importance of continuing the ongoing work under the Convention on improving the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. This includes the useful work done by the small intersessional working groups on the PIC procedure itself and on digitalising the notification and movement documents.

Considering the above, we would like to call on the Parties to focus on the work on improving the PIC procedure and not divert time and resources to an overly burdensome process to amend the Convention text.

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## **BASEL CONVENTION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME**

### **BC Item 4(e)**

#### ***Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste (PACE II)***

The EU and its Member States welcome the progress made by the working group of PACE II on the draft guidance documents following COP16.

Furthermore, we would like to thank the working group for submitting the draft guidance documents on the environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used and waste equipment of television screens, audio and video equipment and the environmentally sound management of their waste, and on the environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used and waste refrigerators and cooling and heating equipment and the environmentally sound management of their waste.

However, we consider that the draft guidelines developed are not yet ready for adoption at this COP, and therefore think that further work by the PACE II working group on these guidelines will be needed. The EU and its Member States further think that before developing guidelines for other types of e-waste, it is important to finalise the current work and then evaluate the uptake of PACE guidelines and consider whether and how PACE II should continue its work after COP18. We would therefore like to propose a change in the draft workplan for the biennium 2026-2027, to focus the work on guidance to finalising the two currently developed guidance documents. We do not see a need to discuss these matters in a contact group.

#### ***Plastic Waste Partnership***

The EU and its Member States welcome the progress made on the implementation of the workplan of the Plastic Waste Partnership working group for the biennium 2024-2025. Furthermore, the EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the draft workplan for the biennium 2026-2027.

The EU and its Member States can accept Part IV of the draft decision relating to this Partnership.

## **WORK PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR THE PERIOD 2026-2027**

### **BC Item 4(g)**

The EU and its Member States support the OEWG work programme, provided it is in line with the substantive decisions. With regard the level of priority for some of the issues, we have some proposals we are ready to share with the Secretariat for your consideration.

In addition, together with Chile, we propose to add a new item of the work programme, on textile waste. As one of the main exporters of used textiles and textile wastes, the EU and its Member States consider indeed that it is important that the Basel Convention is able to deal with emerging challenges like textile wastes, which are traded between Parties. Recent exchanges on this issue showed that there is room for more in-depth discussions in the context of the Basel Convention, in order to better understand the impacts of this trade and assess if and how it would be relevant to address it in the context of the Convention. The EU and its Member States, and Chile, have therefore submitted a Conference Room Paper (CRP.3). Its aim is to launch a process for gathering views and inputs on this topic. Parties and Observers would be invited to provide such views and input, which would then be considered at the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) in 2026. OEWG15 would then consider these inputs, and, if relevant, provide further recommendations to COP18 in 2027. We look forward to discussing this proposal with all of you.

Furthermore, we support to keep the item "Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste" in the work programme of the OEWG for the next biennium, with a view to ensuring a smooth implementation of the entries for electrical and electronic waste. We want to draw your attention to another CRP (CRP5) that we have submitted on this issue, and which will be discussed under the agenda item relating to the e-waste amendment.

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED AT THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE**  
**OF THE PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**RC Item 5(a)**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on the status of implementation of the Convention.

We note that all Parties have nominated an **official contact point** and/or a designated national authority, which is crucial for the information exchange under the Convention. In this regard, we would like to encourage all Parties to keep DNA contact details up to date.

We would like to thank the 5 countries that are **not yet a Party to the Convention** for voluntarily designating official contact points and designated national authorities. This is very important and will facilitate the communication with non-Parties on trade in hazardous chemicals so that those countries can benefit from voluntary measures adopted by Parties.

Turning now to **export notifications**, we can confirm the rate of acknowledgements of receipt of export notifications received by exporting countries, since the rate was also about 74% for us. Considering the obligation of exporting parties pursuant to Article 12(4) to send a second export notification in the absence of an acknowledgement of receipt, we would like to urge all importing parties to comply with their obligation.

As regards the **submission of import responses**, we are happy to see that 48 Parties submitted 254 new or revised import responses for the chemicals listed in Annex III. Still, we would like to encourage all Parties to submit missing import responses as soon as possible.

In the absence of an import response, exporting Parties shall implement Article 11(2), in particular the **bilateral explicit consent** request. Similarly to the reported data, we also experienced a low rate of response when asking for explicit consent. The response rate to requests for explicit consent was only 66%, which is regrettable since importing countries miss the opportunity to benefit from this exchange of information.

Despite the important role of **notifications of final regulatory action** for the listing of chemicals in Annex III, we note the low number submitted recently, with only 109 as compared to 348 in the previous reporting period. We would like to thank all Parties that submitted notifications of final regulatory action and encourage all Parties to continue their efforts in this regard.

The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for carrying out the **reported activities** aiming at increasing the number of notifications of final regulatory action. The report shows that further efforts are needed to increase the number and quality of such notifications.

Since the listing of **Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations** in Annex III is also very important, we regret that no proposals have been submitted and would like to encourage developing countries to submit those proposals in accordance with Article 6, if they experience problems caused by that SHPF.

In this context, we would like to encourage all Parties to more actively use the final regulatory action evaluation **toolkit** and the IOMC toolbox, which are very useful tools assisting countries in meeting their obligations.

The European Union and its Member States consider that the draft decision suggested in document RC/COP.12/4 appropriately reflects the input needed from Parties and the work to be done by the Secretariat to further improve implementation of the Convention. Therefore, we support that decision.

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## LISTING OF CHEMICALS IN ANNEX III OF THE CONVENTION

### RC Item 5(b)

The European Union and its Member States agree to the confirmation of the appointment of the new experts designated for the Chemical Review Committee.

We would like to thank all outgoing experts for their contribution to the work of the Committee. Their contribution and dedication are crucial for the successful work of the Committee.

We would also like to thank Ms. Nolozi Gwayi for her dedication and commitment when chairing the CRC in the past years.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for holding the training workshops for new members of the Committee and support the request to the Secretariat to continue organising such workshops since we consider them very useful for the work of the Committee.

The European Union and its Member States would also like to thank the Secretariat for all the activities carried out to improve participation, openness and transparency in the work of the Chemical Review Committee. We are confident that those activities contribute to a better understanding of the Convention in general and in particular of the listing process.

The European Union and its Member States support in principle the adoption of the draft decision as outlined in document RC/COP.12/5. However, since the procedure for election of the new chair of the Chemical Review Committee is not addressed in the draft decision, we suggest the following amendment that should be inserted as paragraph 4 bis:

“Requests the Chemical Review Committee to identify at its twenty-first meeting an interim Chair of the Committee for its twenty-second meeting, and decides to consider the election of the Chair of the Committee at its thirteenth meeting”.



## **RC Item 5(b): B. Recommendations on listing new chemicals**

### **RC Item 5(b): B.1 Acetochlor**

Regarding acetochlor, the European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Chemical Review Committee again for its work in reviewing the notifications submitted by 10 African Parties and the European Union and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of acetochlor in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

In this context, we would like to remind the findings of a study that is available on the Convention website, which found that no conclusive evidence of an impact of listing on the price and the international trade in certain pesticides could be observed.

### **RC Item 5(b): B.2 Carbosulfan**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Chemical Review Committee again for its work in reviewing the notifications on carbosulfan submitted by eight African Parties and the European Union.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of carbosulfan in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

### **RC Item 5 (b): B.3 Chlorpyrifos**

The European Union and its Member States thank the Chemical Review Committee for its work in reviewing the notifications submitted by Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the European Union and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of chlorpyrifos in the PIC procedure. It is absolutely clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

### **RC Item 5(b): B.4 Chrysotile asbestos**

The European Union and its Member States thank again the Chemical Review Committee for its work in producing the DGD.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in the PIC procedure since all criteria under the Convention are met and all the necessary procedures have been complied with.

We emphasise that chrysotile asbestos is not any different from other chemicals that qualify for inclusion. The name of the procedure is Prior Informed Consent in international trade. The very name shows that it is about communication in international trade, so inclusion in Annex III means that the chemical will be subject to certain rules when traded internationally and does not in any way constitute an international ban or an invitation to Parties to restrict its use. Parties will be free to decide whether or not to allow its use.

In the European Union, the last allowed use of chrysotile asbestos - in diaphragms for electrolysis installations under specific conditions – will be phased out on 1 July 2025. The export of chrysotile asbestos is still allowed and an explicit consent procedure is applied before an export to any country is approved. However, only 3 exports of articles containing chrysotile asbestos have taken place in the past 15 years.

The European Union and its Member States would like to highlight the positive outcome of the International Labour Conference in 2022 and the inclusion of “safe and healthy working conditions” in the ILO’s framework of fundamental principles and rights at work. The status of occupational safety and health (OSH) has therefore changed and all countries must comply with the core labour standards, whether they have ratified them or not. The listing of chrysotile asbestos, which has been recognized as carcinogenic, in the Rotterdam Convention could help countries to ensure safe and healthy working conditions through the Prior informed Consent.

#### **RC Item 5(b): B.5 Fenthion 640 ULV (SHPF)**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank again Chad for preparing and submitting the proposal for the listing of a severely hazardous pesticide formulation, fenthion 640 ULV.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of fenthion in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the proposal fully meets the criteria of Annex IV.

#### **RC Item 5 (b): B.6 Iprodione**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Chemical Review Committee for its work in reviewing the notifications on iprodione submitted by Mozambique and the European Union and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of iprodione in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

We would again like to recall that inclusion in Annex III means that the chemical will be subject to certain rules when traded internationally. A listing in the Rotterdam Convention does not in any way constitute an international ban or an invitation to Parties to restrict the use of the chemicals concerned.

In this context, we would like to remind the findings of a study that is available on the Convention website, which found that no conclusive evidence of an impact of listing on the price and the international trade in certain pesticides could be observed.

The European Union already applies a bilateral explicit consent procedure to exports of iprodione to all countries treating it as if it were already listed in annex III. We would like to emphasize that this mechanism operates effectively and promotes shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties to protect human health and the environment, while also supporting the environmentally sound use of this chemical in the importing countries.

Since the availability of alternatives has been mentioned in past discussions, we suggest consulting the website of the Convention, where some information is made available. In addition, we propose contacting the local offices of the FAO for any assistance as regards identification of alternatives to hazardous pesticides.

As you noted, Chairman, chlorpyrifos was listed in the Stockholm Convention with certain time limited exemptions at this Triple COP. In our view, inclusion of chlorpyrifos in the Rotterdam Convention now will support Parties in their efforts to better control and phase-out the use of chlorpyrifos, since we ensure with the inclusion of chlorpyrifos in Annex III that parties have full control on imports and will receive useful information on chlorpyrifos when traded for the exempted uses if allowed in accordance with the import response.

We would again like to recall that inclusion in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention means only that the chemical will be subject to certain rules when traded internationally.

The European Union already applies a bilateral explicit consent procedure to exports of chlorpyrifos to all countries, treating it as if it were already listed in annex III. We would like to emphasize that this mechanism operates effectively and promotes shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties to protect human health and the environment, while also supporting the environmentally sound use of this chemical in the importing countries.

#### **RC Item 5(b): B.7 Liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride (SHPF)**

The European Union would like to thank again Burkina Faso for preparing and submitting a proposal for the listing of a severely hazardous pesticide formulation, Gramoxone Super, which contains paraquat.

We would also like to thank again the Chemical Review Committee for its work in reviewing the proposal and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The European Union strongly supports the inclusion of liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the proposal for listing of liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride fully meets the criteria of Annex IV.

#### **RC Item 5(b): B.8 Mercury**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the CRC for its work in reviewing the notifications submitted by Colombia and the European Union and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The EU strongly supports the inclusion of mercury in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

We would like to point out that mercury is also regulated by the Minamata Convention with certain use exemptions. In our view, inclusion of mercury in the Rotterdam Convention will support Parties in their efforts to better control and phase-out the use of mercury, since we ensure with the inclusion of mercury in Annex III that parties have full control on imports and will receive useful information on mercury when traded for the exempted uses if allowed in accordance with the import response.

To ensure full transparency, the EU suggests amending the draft decision by adding a reference to the Minamata Convention and to the applicable rules.

#### **RC Item 5(b): B.9 Methyl bromide**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the CRC for its work in reviewing the notifications submitted by Colombia and the Netherlands and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The EU strongly supports the inclusion of methyl bromide in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

We would like to note that the use of methyl bromide is restricted under the Montreal Protocol on ozone depleting substances and only remains allowed for very limited quarantine and pre-shipment uses (QPS) for which there are appropriate alternatives.

Due to these exemptions in the Montreal Protocol there is still international trade and therefore, we are of the view that inclusion of methyl bromide in the Rotterdam Convention will support Parties in their efforts to better control and phase-out the use of methyl bromide, since we ensure with the inclusion of methyl bromide in Annex III that parties have full control on imports and will receive useful information on methyl bromide when traded for the exempted uses if allowed in accordance with the import response..

The EU already applies a bilateral explicit consent procedure to exports of methyl bromide to all countries treating it as if it were already listed in annex III and we would like to inform that this mechanism operates effectively and promotes shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties to protect human health and the environment, while also supporting the environmentally sound use of this chemical in the importing countries.

To ensure full transparency, the European Union suggests amending the draft decision presented in document RC-COP.12/14 by adding a reference to the Montreal Protocol and to the applicable rules.

The paragraph in the preambular section should read as follows:

Notes that methyl bromide is also subject to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer and that certain rules on the international trade in methyl bromide apply under that Agreement that may be relevant for Parties when implementing the listing of methyl bromide in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention.

In addition, we suggest adding a paragraph to request the Secretariat to prepare in consultation with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention guidance for those Parties that are also a Party to the Minamata Convention that addresses the coherent implementation of both Conventions as regards obligations that may interfere with obligations under the Minamata Convention.

We have submitted CRP 7 that outlines our proposal.

## **RC Item 5(b): B.10 Paraquat**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the CRC for its work in reviewing the notifications submitted by Malaysia and Mozambique and in producing the draft Decision Guidance Document.

The EU strongly supports the inclusion of paraquat in the PIC procedure. It is clear that the notified regulatory actions fully meet the criteria of Annex II.

We would like to recall that a listing in the Rotterdam Convention does not in any way constitute an international ban or an invitation to Parties to restrict the use of the chemicals concerned.

However as there was a call for a separate risk assessment, the European Union would like to reiterate that it is not the purpose of the Rotterdam Convention to carry out a risk assessment or a comprehensive scientific assessment of the available data, including potential substitutes. The Convention works on the basis of notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical received from Parties and checks those notifications against the criteria set out in Annex II. If those criteria are met, the chemical is proposed for listing in Annex III by the Chemical Review Committee and should be listed by the COP.

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## **ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION**

### **RC Item 5(c)**

#### Statement on effectiveness (CRP.4 by Brazil and CRP.8 by EU)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the compilation of submissions by parties and observers, and also thank Brazil for its CRP.

The European Union and its Member States do not see merit in continuing the discussion on the effectiveness of the Convention in a contact group. The measures already implemented by the Secretariat to address the effectiveness of the listing process are considered sufficient. We support continuing implementation of these measures, including through technical assistance.

We note that the issues mentioned in the submissions and in document COP.12/INF/18 as negative impacts or challenges are mostly beyond the convention and should thus be addressed under the appropriate instruments or initiatives. The European Union and its Member States do not therefore support creating another committee to address the effectiveness of the Convention.

However, we remain open to exploring the options proposed in the CRP for improving the listing process. We will carefully analyse the CRP and will constructively engage in the discussions.

For our part we have also sought to be constructive – we understand that there is a concern about the use of Rotterdam listings by private certification bodies, and we have proposed a CRP in order to clarify this situation and to seek to remediate the problem.

## **RC Item 5(c)**

We would very much support the Colombian and Swiss interventions. Although we thank Kazakhstan, The EU and its Member States do not agree to the proposed amendment of Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure since the automatic removal of an item from the agenda is neither considered appropriate nor needed. The Rules of Procedure already provide for the possibility to remove an item from the agenda if Parties consider further consideration unnecessary. In our view, it is appropriate to keep an item on the agenda in a situation where the COP cannot yet conclude and needs more time for discussion.

The EU and its Member States do not think that the proposal will contribute to the effectiveness of the listing process. We would therefore not be in favour of further discussion on this proposal.

I am not necessarily launching a substantive discussion, but I would note there could of course be other solutions to repeated discussions, such as those discussed at the last COP, or allowing voting on an item if the COP cannot achieve consensus after having considered an item for three consecutive times.

### **Proposal to amend Article 16 (African Group)**

The European Union and its Member States thank the proponent Parties for their proposal to amend Article 16 of the Rotterdam Convention, which we have read and considered with interest.

We believe that relevant and effective decisions have already been taken in various fora to foster the provision of technical and financial assistance for implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

In line with decision RC-7/8, it should be recalled that the support provided to countries by the Global Environment Facility already takes into account, subject to its mandate, possible relevant aspects of the Rotterdam Convention within the revised focal area for chemicals and waste.

Furthermore, the European Union and its Member States would like to underline that the Special Programme has been set up to support institutional strengthening and capacity building in developing countries including as regards the Rotterdam Convention. We made available substantive funds to that programme, which has been prolonged by UNEA 5.2 until 2027 and we would like to encourage all interested Parties to submit a proposal that addresses the Rotterdam Convention as the funds may be disbursed until 2032, if applicable. We are committed to continue supporting institutional strengthening and capacity building in developing countries through this existing programme (and Fund).

We remain also committed to support developing countries in accordance with the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention and relevant COP decisions on the implementation of the integrated approach to financing.

### **Implementation of the Dissemination strategy**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work to implement the dissemination strategy and for the work to increase transparency and train Parties on processes and mechanisms under the Convention, including the development of guidance and tools to improve engagement in all Convention processes.

We see merit in continuing implementation of the dissemination strategy, which contains a number of actions that are expected to further improve the information on the functioning of the Convention, the transmission of that information to stakeholders and the involvement of a broader target audience in particular in national processes to implement the Convention and to improve chemicals management.

Due to the importance of that work, we suggest requesting the Secretariat to continue implementation of decision RC-10/10 and report thereon to COP-13. This should be done by adding this request to the decision on implementation or by reflecting it in the report of this meeting.

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## COMPLIANCE

### RC Item 5(d)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Compliance Committee for the work done to assist Parties in their efforts to improve implementation of the Convention, as outlined in the meeting document. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for assisting the committee in its work.

We consider compliance crucial for the successful implementation of the Convention by all Parties, and it is critical for enabling all Parties to fully benefit from the protection offered by the Convention.

In our view, the draft revised programme of work of the compliance committee for the biennium 2026-2027 appropriately reflects important provisions of the Rotterdam Convention that should be further examined by the Compliance Committee and we support those. However, we suggest adding some provisions to the programme of work that should be considered by the Committee. Those elements have been communicated to the Secretariat and are available on the Convention website. In addition, please find them in CRP.6 that has been prepared to that effect.

To conclude, the EU and its Member States agree to the draft decision suggested in document COP12/17, but suggests minor amendments in paragraph 9 as follows:

We suggest deleting “bridging information” since many amongst us may not be familiar with that term and since it may unnecessarily narrow the scope of the exchange of experiences and information for conducting risk evaluations. In addition, we suggest adding “how” before “to conduct” and “and document” after “to conduct” in paragraph 9.

Paragraph 9 would therefore read as follows: “Decides to continue to include in the technical assistance plan for the period 2026–2029 awareness-raising activities and exchanges of experiences and information on how to conduct and document risk evaluations”.

**STATEMENTS DELIVERED AT THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**

**MEASURES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE RELEASES FROM INTENTIONAL  
PRODUCTION AND USE**

**SC Item 5(a)(i): Exemptions**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on implementation of specific exemptions and acceptable purposes and other exemptions.

We support the adoption of the draft decision as outlined in document POPS/COP.12/4.

We would like to thank Korea for their transparency and for their efforts to finalise their phase out.

The EU and its Member States could agree to the requests by the Republic of Korea for the extension of entries in the register of specific exemptions for five years for the use of PFOA and PFOS in fire-fighting foams for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fires (class B fires) in installed systems. We would welcome if the extension could be as narrow as possible.

**SC Item 5(a)(ii): DDT**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the DDT Expert Group for their work to date as well as for their recommendations, which conclude that the continued need for the use of DDT for malaria vector control is justified only in a few specific settings, which take into account the affordability of alternatives to DDT, insecticide resistance management, and the need for outbreak response in the event that alternatives to DDT are unavailable.

In view of these positive developments and the negative impacts on human health and the environment of exposure to DDT and the availability of a number of viable alternatives, we welcome the recommendations towards supporting a focused phasing out of DDT.

To this effect, we support the proposal to do further intersessional work on the prospect of the phase out of DDT for those parties that are in the DDT register and to report on that work to the COP at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We would like to thank all Parties for their efforts to reduce the use of DDT for malaria vector control, in particular through promotion of alternatives. We acknowledge that any reduction requires substantive efforts in the light of the increasing threat caused by malaria. In this context, we would like to encourage industry to increase their investment in the development of alternatives, which are crucial to achieve a further reduction of the use of DDT.

Since the sound management of obsolete stocks of DDT is essential for the prevention of any harm to human health or the environment, we would like to urge all Parties that have used or are still using DDT to ensure that their inventories are up-to-date and that all obsolete stocks are disposed of in a sound manner.



The European Union and its Member States support the proposal to amend the interval of the submission of information on DDT pursuant to paragraph 4 of part II of Annex B to every two years to align better with the frequency of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

We also agree to the adoption of the revised questionnaire which takes into account recent developments in vector control and DDT use.

In conclusion, the European Union and its Member States support the decision proposed by the Secretariat in document POPS/COP.12/5.

#### **SC Item 5(a)(iii): Polychlorinated biphenyls**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank UNEP, the PCB Elimination Network, the Small Intersessional Working Group and the Secretariat for their work and for the reports.

We would like to reiterate the Convention's objective regarding PCBs, which is to eliminate the use of PCBs in equipment by 2025 and make determined efforts to destroy liquids and equipment with PCBs by 2028. The European Union has internal legislation on PCBs since 1976 and has made significant progress towards elimination and sound disposal of PCBs. While we appreciate the work done by many Parties to eliminate PCBs, which resulted in substantive progress, we acknowledge a lot still has to be done, in order to meet the objectives of the Convention.

The European Union and its Member States have stepped up efforts to support developing countries to meet the deadlines. A 2 Mio USD technical assistance project was launched in 2023 with the BRS Secretariat to support Parties in their efforts to meet the objectives of the Convention as regards elimination of PCBs and has already delivered good results and is still ongoing.

In this context, we would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the successful application for a project on PCB elimination approved by the GEF Council in December 2024. We are convinced that this project will support many Parties in their efforts to make substantive progress and achieve the 2025 and 2028 deadlines of the Convention.

We are ready to work with all Parties as regards environmentally sound management of waste containing PCBs and to make available our experience and knowledge in order to support achieving the global objective.

The European Union and its Member States support the draft decision suggested in document POPS/COP.12/6 and would like to reiterate the need for urgent action by all Parties to eliminate all use of PCBs and to ensure environmentally sound management of all waste that contains PCBs.

#### **SC Item 5(a)(iv): Brominated diphenyl ethers**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the POPRC and the Secretariat for the report on the evaluation and review of POP-PBDEs.

The European Union and its Member States in principle support the adoption of the draft decision as outlined in document POPS/COP.12/7.

However, in paragraph 6 on the encouragement of Parties that are registered for specific exemptions to not allow recycling of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers, we suggest adding a second element that Parties should also review their continued need for registration for specific exemptions and to make the resulting information available to the Secretariat to facilitate the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers. The same invitation to Parties was already contained in decision SC-10/8.

The suggested amendment follows after “2030” and is as follows:

**and to review their continued need for such registration and to make the resulting information available to the Secretariat to facilitate the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers;**

We can provide this text to the Secretariat.

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## **MEASURES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE RELEASES FROM UNINTENTIONAL PRODUCTION**

### **SC Item 5(b)**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work and would like to express appreciation for the work of the experts on the Toolkit and guidelines and guidance on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practice.

We consider the Toolkit and the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices very important for achieving the objective of the Convention to reduce or eliminate unintentional releases of POPs. Therefore, we place a high value on this work and would like to encourage all Parties and stakeholders to extensively use the guidelines and guidance.

We support the decision outlined in POPS/COP.12/8.

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## **IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

### **SC Item 5(d)**

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for the reports and wish to emphasise the importance of the implementation plans for achieving the objectives of the Convention.

We welcome the plans that have already been submitted while urging all Parties to develop or update and submit any missing or delayed plans.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the work done to revise existing or develop new guidance and for the support as regards the development of the electronic template. We encourage all Parties to use the guidance as extensively as possible in order to fully and properly implement the Convention. In addition, we are grateful that UNEP support this work by contributing to the development of the electronic template.

We would also like to thank UNITAR for the work done as regards development of the online course on National Implementation Plans and are confident that this course will be instrumental for many Parties in their efforts to develop or update their national implementation plan.

The European Union and its Member States support the adoption of the decision suggested in document POPS/COP.12/10/Rev.1.

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## **LISTING OF CHEMICALS IN ANNEX A, B OR C TO THE CONVENTION**

### **SC Item 5(e): B. Recommendations on listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention**

#### **Chlorpyrifos**

The European Union would like to thank the POPRC for reviewing the proposal for listing of chlorpyrifos in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention and for preparing the risk profile and the risk management evaluation. We agree with the conclusions of the POPRC.

The European Union supports the listing of chlorpyrifos in part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention in line with the POPRC recommendation, including the recommended specific exemptions, as outlined in document COP.12/12.

#### **MCCPs**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the POPRC for reviewing the proposal for listing of MCCPs in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention and for preparing the risk profile and the risk management evaluation. We agree with the conclusions of the POPRC. We also thank the United Kingdom for nominating MCCP for listing in the Convention.

The European Union supports the listing of chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain lengths in the range C14–17 and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45 per cent chlorine by weight (MCCP) in Annex A to the Convention with the specific exemptions recommended by the POPRC.

The European Union would like to reiterate the importance of addressing all MCCP in the listing, independent from the chlorination level, to avoid regrettable substitution and to avoid costly and complicated enforcement of the ban.

We have some questions for clarification and suggestions for amending the draft decision outlined in document COP.12/13.

We would also like to propose additional specific exemptions that we were regrettably not aware of during the POPRC considerations. For this purpose we intend to submit a CRP.

Finally, the European Union is of the view that the information requirements recommended by POPRC are important for the implementation of the MCCP listing.

We would be happy to provide further details in the discussions in a contact group.

### **LC-PFCAs**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank Canada for their proposal. We would also like to thank the POPRC for their work. We agree with the conclusions of the POPRC.

The European Union supports the listing of long chain PFCAs in line with the POPRC recommendation, including the recommended specific exemptions.

The European Union also supports the establishment of an indicative list of substances covered by the listing of long chain PFCAs.

Considering the high concern due to PFAS pollution at global level, the EU stresses the importance of avoiding the substitution of long chain PFCAs with other PFAS substances.

### **POPRC: developments for action by the COP**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the activities undertaken and the reports provided, including the organisation of the training workshops for new members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and we support the request to the Secretariat to continue organising such workshops since we consider them very useful for the work of the Committee.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for all the activities carried out to improve participation, openness and transparency in the work of the POPRC. We are confident that those activities will contribute to a better understanding of the Convention in general and in particular of the review process for proposed chemicals.

The European Union and its Member States agree to the confirmation of the appointment of the new experts designated for the Committee.

We would like to thank all outgoing experts for their input to the work of the POPRC. Their contribution and dedication was crucial for the successful work of the Committee.

We would also like to thank Mr. Peter Dawson for his dedication when chairing the POPRC.

As regards the identification of a new chair, the European Union and its Member States are in favour of requesting the POPRC to identify an interim chair at its next meeting for consideration by COP-13. This would be in line with past practice and is expected to ensure the identification of the most suitable candidate considering the scientific work done by the committee. The new paragraph that should replace paragraph 4 would read as follows:

**4 bis. Requests the Committee at its twenty-first meeting to identify an interim chair for its twenty-second meeting and decides to consider the election of the chair at its thirteenth meeting.**

With the suggested amendments, the European Union and its Member States support the adoption of the draft decision as outlined in document POPS/COP.12/11.

#### **Amendment of the entry on UV-328 in Annex A**

Like CH and UK, we are very attached to the integrity of the process, and we see this issue as particularly exceptional.

The European Union can however support the proposal submitted by Ethiopia to add a specific exemption, limited to civilian and military aircraft and related spare parts.

As regards the duration of the specific exemption, we should keep it as short as possible.

Given the complexity of the issue, we are happy to discuss all the details in the listing contact group.

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### **REPORTING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 15**

#### **SC Item 5(h)**

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work done to improve the reporting and support all further work that aims at facilitating the reporting, increasing the reporting rate and improving the quality of the reports.

We would like to emphasise the importance of reporting as a data source for the operation of the Convention, including for the effectiveness evaluation and to support the work of the compliance committee.

The European Union and its Member States support the proposed decision on reporting outlined in document POPS/COP.12/19.

## EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION

### SC Item 5(i)

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat, the effectiveness evaluation committee, the regional organization groups, the global coordination group, the DDT expert group, the small intersessional Working group on PCB and the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the work done to support the effective implementation of the Convention and their contribution to the effectiveness evaluation. We will continue to contribute to this important work.

The European Union and its Member States fully support the agreed process for effectiveness evaluation. We welcome the initiation of the process of the third evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention, taking into account the recommendations set out in the report on the second evaluation.

We very much appreciate the interactive online version of the report of the second effectiveness evaluation of the Convention and would like to thank the Secretariat for the efforts to prepare that version.

We welcome the work done on the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants and would like to support the further development and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan.

The European Union and its Member States support the draft decision outlined in document COP.12/20.

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## COMPLIANCE

### SC Item 5(j)

The European Union and its Member States consider compliance crucial for the successful implementation of the Convention by all Parties, and it is critical for enabling all Parties to fully benefit from the protection offered by the Convention.

In our view, the draft programme of work for the biennium 2026-2027 reflects important elements of the Convention that should be reviewed by the Committee and we support those.

The European Union and its Member States agree to the draft decision suggested in document POPS/COP.12/22.

Thank you very much.