



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

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Your Reference:

Our Reference: IS/ih

File:

Date: 29 June 2006

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants welcomed at its first meeting the development of persistent organic pollutant waste guidelines under the Basel Convention. The Conference had also noted that additional work was needed on the definition of low persistent organic pollutant content, levels of destruction and irreversible transformation, and had requested the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to strengthen further cooperation and synergies with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention with respect to those issues and to keep Parties informed about the status and content of the technical guidelines being developed under the Basel Convention.

Decision SC-2/6 (measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes) of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention states that the Conference:

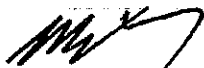
- Welcomes the further progress made by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in finalizing technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes and affirms the high priority attached by the Conference of the Parties to the guidelines, particularly as they relate directly to the issues outlined in paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention; and
- Also welcomes the strengthened cooperation between the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

In relation to this issue, the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention in decision OEWG-V/12 invited Parties and others to submit comments on the updating of the following issues in the General Technical Guidelines on POPs:

- Destruction and irreversible transformation methods and related disposal operations (section IV.G.2), taking into account the suggestions by Germany on waste-to-gas conversion and thermal and metallurgical production of metals;
- Other disposal methods when destruction or irreversible transformation does not represent the environmentally preferable option (section IV.G.3);
- Other disposal methods when persistent organic pollutant content is low (section IV.G.4); and
- Examples of pertinent national legislation (annex II) and selected analytical methods for persistent organic pollutants (annex III) (para. 3 of decision).

In this context, the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention would appreciate receiving any comments and information from Parties and observers to the Stockholm Convention on the above issues by the agreed deadline of 20 July 2006. Please send comments or information to Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, by e-mail: ibrahim.shafii@unep.ch or by fax (+41 22) 797 34 54.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Maged Younes
Acting Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention



Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Basel Convention

To: Focal Points of the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Geneva-based missions