

**Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**الغفافية لسكوبولم بشأن الملوثات العضوية الثابتة - 关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约 - Convention de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants  
Convenio de Estocolmo sobre Contaminantes Orgánicos Persistentes - Стокгольмская конвенция о стойких органических загрязнителях

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**To:** Members of the regional organization group for the Western European and other countries:

**File:** EE/FO/KM

Ms. Sara Broomhall, Australia  
Mr. Ramon Guardans i Cambo, Spain  
Mr. Tom Harner, Canada  
Ms. Britta Hedlund, Sweden  
Ms. Maria Paula Machado de Barros Viana, Portugal  
Mr. Tor Johannessen, Norway

**Our Reference:** ROG initiation

**Date:** 28 09 2007

**Subject:** Initiation of the regional organization group activities in the Western European and other countries region

Dear colleagues:

At its third session, held 30 April–4 May 2007 in Dakar, Senegal, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention adopted decision SC-3/19 on effectiveness evaluation, by which it adopted a global monitoring plan on persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, annex II) and the implementation plan for the first effectiveness evaluation (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1). The decision also established regional organization groups to facilitate the regional implementation of the global monitoring plan; and invited Parties, to nominate their members with expertise in monitoring and data evaluation.

The main objectives of the regional organization group are to define and implement the regional strategy for information gathering, including capacity-building, and to prepare the regional monitoring report for the first effectiveness evaluation to be performed by the Conference of the Parties in May 2009. Detailed tasks, activities and timeframe are outlined in the generic terms of reference for the regional organization groups (annex III to the implementation plan).

You have been selected by the regional bureau as members of the regional organization group for the Western European and other countries region (WEOG). The purpose of this letter is to welcome you to this role and to assist you initiate regional activities. This would entail in particular:

- Establishing regional organization group strategy, workplan and timetable;
- Selecting appropriate readily available data sets and agreeing on arrangements to receive them;
- Establishing arrangements for regional cooperation;
- Establishing arrangements to draft the regional monitoring report.

The regional organization group members have an important role to play in this process. Possible sequential planning elements for initiation of the WEOG ROG activities are outlined in Annex 1. The following information should be updated and/or prepared, to serve as the base for initial regional organization group communication:

- Review and if necessary update the inventory of group 1 programmes (see Annex 2 for more information);

- Propose regional strategy for information gathering, including coordination mechanism and needs to produce the regional monitoring report;
- Identify possible support by the Secretariat.

The main reference documents providing framework for the tasks and activities of the regional organization groups are as follows:

- Article 16 of the Convention, that provides the formal basis for the need to establish a means of obtaining monitoring information on the persistent organic pollutants that are subject to control;
- Decision SC-3/19;
- The global monitoring plan and the implementation plan (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/22/Rev.1, and UNEP/POPS/COP.3/23/Rev.1);
- Updated information on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/15); and
- The amended preliminary version of the guidance document on the global monitoring plan (UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF.14/Rev.1).

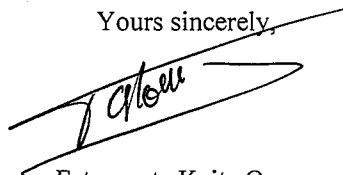
Documents related to effectiveness evaluation can be found at <http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/effeval/default.htm>

You have a demanding task ahead. Particular challenge will be arranging for the necessary work to be completed in the available timeframe. To facilitate communication the Secretariat is proposing to hold a teleconference in the week 12-16 November 2007 at the time of your convenience.

The Secretariat looks forward to your work and to assisting you as deemed necessary.

You may wish to contact Katarina Magulova on my staff if you have any questions:  
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Yours sincerely,



Fatoumata Keita Ouane  
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Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants

Annexes:

1. Possible sequential planning elements for initiation of the WEOG ROG activities
2. Updating information on existing human health and environment monitoring programmes