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Activities

1

Annual joint meeting of regional centres under Basel and Stockholm Conventions

The annual joint meeting of regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions is being convened in Geneva, from 5 to 8 October 2015. The meeting will, among others, discuss and finalize a strategy on strengthening and enhancing the performance of the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. The meeting is also expected to adopt a roadmap of the implementation of the strategy. During the meeting, the regional centres will have an opportunity to discuss amongst themselves, as well as with the Secretariat and other relevant partners including the GEF secretariat, on issues such as the requests made by the relevant meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel & Stockholm Conventions. During this meeting, the directors of the centres will have the opportunity to interact with the Swedish Chemicals Agency and discuss how to forge collaboration on the management of chemicals and wastes in their respective region. Also, the directors will discuss the role of regional centres in the Clearing House Mechanism of the three conventions. The directors of the centres, the GEF Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the UNEP Chemicals and Wastes Branch, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit on Environmental Emergencies, the Swedish Chemical Agency, and representatives of the Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva of the countries hosting the regional centres confirmed their participation in the meeting. For further information please click [here](#).

2

The PACE working group teleconference on the future of PACE

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in decision BC-12/12, requested the PACE working group to complete outstanding tasks during the biennium 2016-2017 and to develop a strategy and workplan for the implementation of concrete actions at the regional and national level, also taking into account the draft concept note developed by the Partnership. This strategy and work programme is being discussed by the PACE working group during a series of teleconferences and will be submitted to the OEWG-10 and, subsequently, to BC-COP-13, for consideration. The discussion focuses on the creation of a global and regional coordination platform to promote the ESM of E-waste, lead by Basel Convention regional centres. Also

the PACE working group member are considering the potential enlargement of the scope of the PACE stakeholder platform to consumer electronics other than computing equipment. The next teleconference is scheduled on 13 October 2015. [Link](#)

3

Eleventh meetings of the POPRC and CRC

The eleventh meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-11) of the Stockholm Convention will be held at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 19 to 23 October 2015. During this meeting the Committee will review the draft risk management evaluation on decabromodiphenyl ether, and the draft risk profile on dicofol and short-chained chlorinated paraffins and a proposal to list PFOA in Annexes A, B, and/or C to the Stockholm Convention. The Committee will undertake further tasks assigned to it by the Conference of the Parties.

The eleventh meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC-11) of the Rotterdam Convention will be held at the same venue, from 26 to 28 October 2015. The eleventh meeting of the CRC includes in its agenda the review of new notifications of final regulatory action received from Parties on atrazine, carbofuran, carbosulfan and the proposal for the inclusion of dimethoate emulsifiable concentrate at 400 g/L as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation (SHPF) in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention. The Committee will consider two draft Decision Guidance Documents on short-chained chlorinated paraffins and on tributyltin compounds, for submission to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in May 2017. [Web page POPRC-11](#) and [web page of CRC-11](#).

4

Meeting of the Coordination Group under the GMP for POPs - 2015

The Meeting of the Coordination Group under the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) for POPs - 2015 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5 to 8 October 2015. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties, to the Stockholm Convention, by its decision SC-7/25 on the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation, requested the global coordination group to develop the draft global monitoring report and to make it available to the effectiveness evaluation committee, by 31 January 2016 and to finalize it for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Secretariat to support the work of the coordination group on this matter. [Link](#)

1

Expert meeting on BAT/BEP and Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of POPs

The Expert meeting on BAT/BEP and on the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of POPs under the Stockholm Convention was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, 29 September to 1 October 2015. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted, by its decision SC-7/8, the workplan for the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines on best available techniques (BAT) and provisional guidance on best environmental practices (BEP). By decision SC-7/7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Toolkit experts and the experts on BAT and BEP, to develop joint terms of reference for the synergistic consideration of aspects relevant to releases from unintentional production and best available techniques and best environmental practices for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention. The meeting was organized by the BRS Secretariat in collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre Slovakia. [Link](#)

2

The BRS Secretariat strengthened its partnership with ICCM4-SAICM

The Secretariat participated in the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) with an information booth in the exhibition area, provided support for servicing of the Conference and contributed to the organization of two side events: On Monday 28 September, on “Sustainable Development Goals: make it happen for chemicals and wastes” and on Friday 2 October, on “Fighting illegal traffic of chemicals and chemicals waste”. In the future, the BRS Secretariat and the SAICM Secretariat will continue to cooperate in five main areas: 1) Scientific and technical work, in particular providing inputs to emerging policy issues relevant for the BRS conventions; 2) technical assistance and capacity-building, through regular information exchange; 3) policy and strategic issues, through the provision of coordinated inputs to relevant international processes, such as on the post-2015 development agenda; 4) outreach and clearing-house mechanisms; 5) organization and servicing of meetings, cooperating in logistical arrangements for meetings of the respective working bodies.

3

Cleaning up Lake Geneva

The BRS Secretariat participated in the 23rd edition of “Clean up Lake Geneva”, which took place on Sunday 20 September 2015, joining in with another 250 volunteers. Between the Pont du Mont Blanc and the Perle du Lac, as well as Eaux-Vives and Cologny, the divers and walkers managed to collect 580

kg of waste, among which 221 plastic bottles, 452 tin containers, 357 glass bottles, 300 kg of metallic objects, 4 tyres, a supermarket trolley, 2 chairs and a fence, etc. The initiative is organized every year by the association Aqua-Diving Club. [Link](#)

4

BRS Secretariat leads UN group of climate neutral organizations

The BRS Secretariat reached climate neutrality in 2013, offsetting the unavoidable GHG emissions, together with other 8 offices of the United Nations, said the Secretariat of Greening the Blue at the launch of the Climate Neutral Now initiative. The initiative was launched by the UNFCCC Secretariat, on 22 September 2015, to encourage organizations, governments and members of the public to measure, reduce and then offset their greenhouse gas emissions directly with UN-certified credits. A significant effort has been underway in the UN since 2007, when organizations approved the UN Climate Neutral Strategy, which commits all UN organizations to measure, reduce and then offset any greenhouse gas emissions that cannot be avoided. In 2013, 17% of the reported UN emissions was offset. The Greening the Blue initiative promotes the UN Secretary General call for action for the UN system to achieve climate neutrality by 2020. The initiative is supported by the SUN, the Sustainable UN facility, hosted by UNEP. [For more information click here.](#)

5

New SDGs including the sound management of chemicals and wastes adopted in New York

The post-2015 development agenda titled “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was officially adopted by the General Assembly during a United Nations Summit that took place from 25-27 September 2015, at the UN headquarters, in New York. Among the seventeen sustainable development goals adopted, at least six goals include targets referring to the sound management of chemicals and wastes. In particular, Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, includes the targets 12.4: by 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment; and 12.5: by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse. The new Goals and targets will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and will guide the decisions of member states and other stakeholders over the next fifteen years. [For more information click here.](#)

Engage with Technical Assistance

Webinars & Online Training

October

01 | 15h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Briefing on the 11th meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC11) and the 11th meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC11)

Session in English

08 | 16h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Effective participation of Parties, private sector, NGOs and other observers in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)

Session in English

14 | 15h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training on environmentally sound management of e-wastes for the African region. Open to workshop participants

Session in English

22 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training on illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals and wastes in cooperation with ENFORCE

23 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training on a case study on illegal traffic of e-waste in cooperation with ENORCE

29 | 16h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training prior to the National Implementation Plans (NIPs) workshop in Panama—open to workshop participants

Session in English

November

5 | 15h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Online training prior to the workshop on ESM of mercury wastes in Uruguay—open to workshop participants

Session in English

Workshops & Meetings

October

5 to 8 | Geneva, Switzerland

Annual joint meeting to enhance cooperation and coordination between regional centers under the Basel and Stockholm conventions

5 to 8 | Geneva, Switzerland

Meeting of the global coordination group for the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants

19 to 23 | Rome, Italy

Eleventh meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention (POPRC11)

20 to 23 | Lagos, Nigeria

Regional training workshop on e-waste for African countries

27 to 29 | Rome, Italy

Eleventh meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention (CRC11)

November

10 to 12 | San Francisco, United States of America

Fourth meeting of the Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management un-

16 to 18 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Sub-regional consultation on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in synergy with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions: an integrated approach to pesticides and chemicals management at national and regional levels

24 to 26 | Nairobi, Kenya

Sound Management of DDT and promotion of non-chemical vector control options

* (All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+2, winter time adapted after 25 Oct: UTC/GMT+1)