

# THE ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS: MEA'S ON CHEMICALS

Learning centre

**Management Chemicals Issues of Importance for Sustainable Development**

CSD-19

May 3, 2011



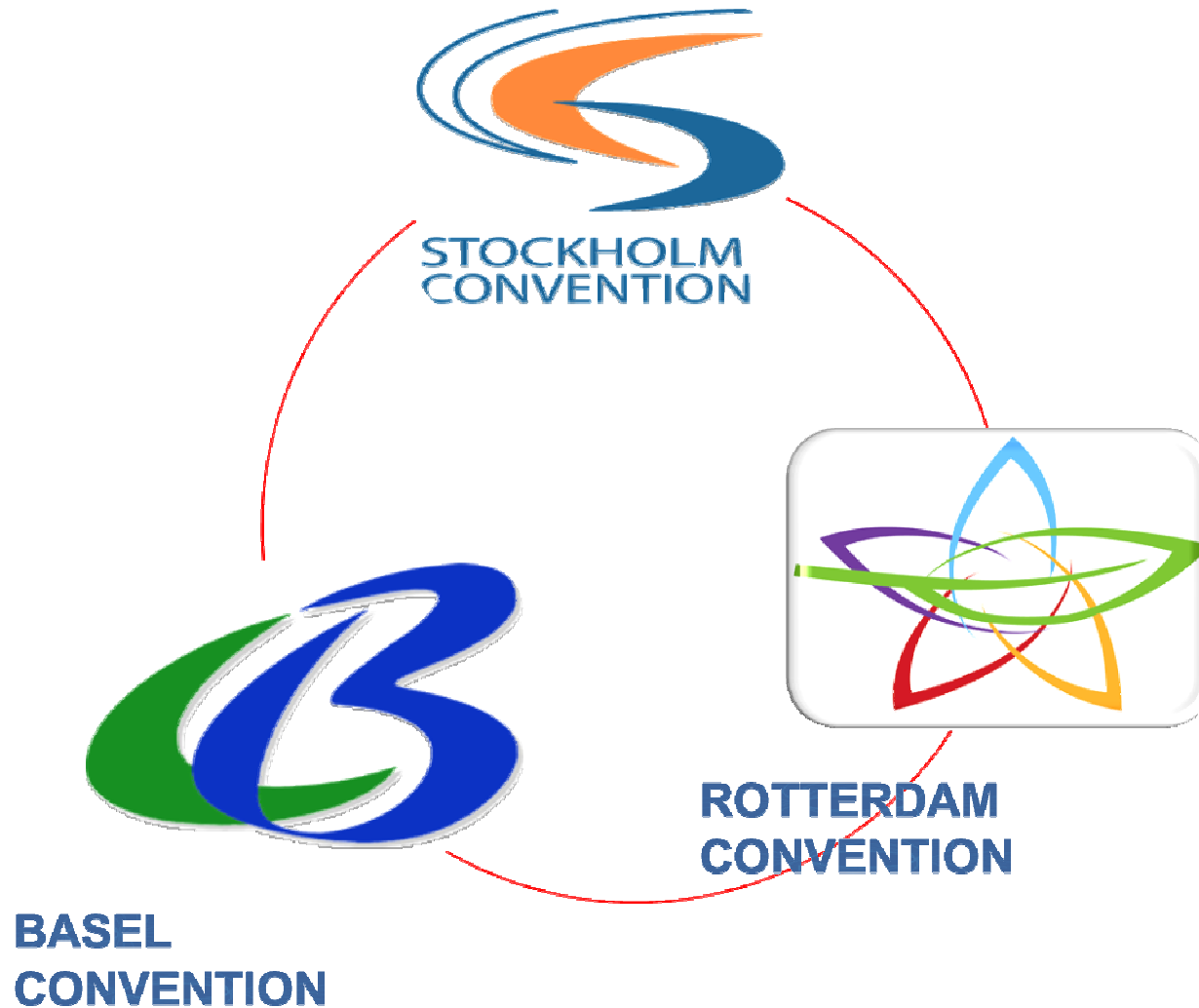
# TOPICS



- ✓ The Multilateral Environmental Agreements on chemicals
- ✓ Listing new chemicals under the Stockholm Convention: new POPs
- ✓ Possible listing of some of the new POPs under the Rotterdam Convention

# Multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals

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# Scope and coverage

- **Basel** covers hazardous wastes that are explosive, flammable, reactive, poisonous, infectious, corrosive, toxic or ecotoxic
- **Rotterdam** covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties
- **Stockholm** covers 14 pesticides, and 7 industrial chemicals and by-products

## Common Link

- Most persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are covered by all three Conventions
- Many pesticides are subject to the three Conventions

# LISTING OF NEW CHEMICALS UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS



# The Stockholm Convention



- **Aim:**

**Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants**

- Entered into force on 17 May 2004
- 173 Parties to date
- The fifth Conference of the Parties was held on 25-29 April 2011 in Geneva

# Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)



Carbon-based compounds that:

- ❑ are persistent, remaining intact in the environment for a long time;
- ❑ become widely distributed throughout the environment through long-range transport;
- ❑ accumulate in fatty tissue of living organisms; and
- ❑ are toxic to humans and wildlife.

# What the Convention does



- Elimination (POPs listed in annex A)
- Restriction (POPs listed in annex B)
- Continuous reduction (POPs listed in annex C)
- Management of stockpiles and wastes
- Awareness raising and research
- National Implementation Plan
- Exchange of information
- Reporting
- Effectiveness evaluation
- Technical assistance and Financial mechanism



# 12 POPs were initially listed under the Stockholm Convention

Chemical	Pesticides	Industrial Chemicals	Unintentional production	Annex
Aldrin	+			A
Chlordane	+			A
DDT	+			A
Dieldrin	+			A
Endrin	+			A
Heptachlor	+			A
Mirex	+			A
Toxaphene	+			A
Hexachlorobenzene	+	+	+	C
PCBs		+	+	B
Chlorinated dioxins			+	C
Chlorinated furans			+	C

**Majority are pesticides**

# New chemicals can be added to the Convention

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## Process for listing a new chemical:

1. Any Party may submit a proposal for listing a new chemical
2. The proposal is evaluated by the POPs Review Committee (POPRC) based on screening criteria specified in Annexes of the Convention
3. POPRC makes recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (COP)
4. COP decides whether to list the chemical and control measures to be applied

# Major achievement: 9 new POPs added to the Convention in May 2009

Chemical	Pesticides	Industrial chemicals	Unintentional production	Annex
Chlordecone	+			A
Lindane	+			A
Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane	+		+	A
Beta hexachlorocyclohexane	+		+	A
Commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether		+		A
Commercial octabromodiphenyl ether		+		A
Hexabromobiphenyl		+		A
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride	+	+		B
Pentachlorobenzene			+	C

# New challenge: industrial POPs



- Present in widely used consumer products
- Used in manufacturing processes, with long and complex supply chains
- High risk of contamination of general waste and recycling streams

# Brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs)

## Use: flame retardant

**C-pentaBDE:** most commonly used in flexible polyurethane foam (PUF)

**C-octaBDE:** most commonly used in acrylonitrilebutadiene styrene (ABS) plastic. Other use: high impact polystyrene (HIPS), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) and polyamide polymers.

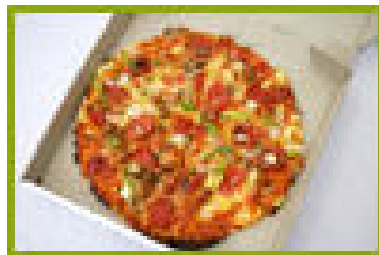
## In electronic and electrical appliances:

computers, home electronics, office equipment (plastic outer casings, printed circuit boards, internal plastic parts, components with rigid PUR)



# Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)

- Use: fat and water repellent and surfactant
- Examples of applications: semi-conductors; coating of textiles and paper; fire-fighting foam



travis jon allison on flickr

# POSSIBLE LISTING OF SOME OF THE NEW POPS UNDER THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



# What the Rotterdam Convention does



- Establishes a compulsory Prior Informed Consent procedure (for chemicals listed in Annex III)
- Provides mechanism for Parties to take informed decisions on future import of chemicals assisted by Decision Guidance Documents (DGDs)
- Improves capacity to prevent unwanted imports and avoid future stockpiles of obsolete pesticides



# Process for listing a new chemical under the Rotterdam Convention

- A Party is to notify the Secretariat when it takes a final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical
- When 2 complete notifications, from 2 regions, are received, they are forwarded to the Chemical Review Committee (CRC)
- CRC is to review the information provided in such notifications in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II
- CRC recommends to the COP whether the chemical should be listed in Annex III and a decision guidance document (DGD) should be drafted
- COP decides whether the chemical should be listed in Annex III

# Notifications on industrial POPs



- At its seventh meeting in March 2011, the CRC has reviewed notifications on OctaBDE commercial mixtures, PentaBDE commercial mixtures as well as PFOS, its salts and precursors.
- Notifications for these chemicals were submitted by Canada, EU, Japan and Norway.

# Listing of industrial POPs recommended

- The Chemical Review Committee has decided to recommend the listing 13 industrial chemicals, found in the mixtures or groups:
  - TetraBDE
  - PentaBDE
  - HexaBDE
  - HeptaBDE
  - OctaBDE — NOT LISTED UNDER STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
  - NonaBDE
  - DecaBDE
  - PFOS (perfluorooctanesulphonic acid)
  - 4 PFOS salts (potassium, ammonium, lithium and diethanolamine)
  - PFOSF

Will be considered at 6th Conference of the Parties in 2013



# Thank you

For further information please visit us at:

[www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)

[www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int)

[www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)