

**POPRC-7/7: Evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers<sup>1</sup> pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride**

*The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,*

*Recalling* decision SC-5/5, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants invited parties to submit information on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 and requested the Secretariat to compile the information received for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting and to transmit it to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,

*Recalling also* decision SC-5/8, by which the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to develop a process to enable the Conference of the Parties at its sixth and every second ordinary meeting thereafter to evaluate parties' progress in achieving the ultimate objective of eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers and to review the continued need for the specific exemption for those chemicals in accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention,

*Recalling further* that in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention each party is to report to the Conference of the Parties every four years, commencing in 2006, on the measures that it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention,

*Recognizing* that there is a need to alleviate the parties' burden in collecting and providing information on chemicals and to improve the efficiency of the reporting process,

*Recognizing also* that parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition have expressed a need for technical and financial assistance in addressing brominated diphenyl ethers and may consequently require time to collect information,

*Noting* that parties are in the process of reviewing and updating their national implementation plans with information regarding brominated diphenyl ethers and that such information could be useful for the evaluation and review specified in paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention,

*Noting also* that the information requested in paragraph 3 of decision SC-5/5 with regard to the brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention could be used for the purpose of paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of that annex,

*Having considered* the draft process prepared by the Secretariat in response to decision SC-5/8<sup>2</sup> and the draft format prepared in response to decision SC-5/5,<sup>3</sup>

*Mindful* that the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention might have a role in any future process adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to use the format and explanatory note set out in the annex to the present decision to collect from parties information on brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention and on their experience in implementing the Committee's recommendations;<sup>4</sup>

2. *Also requests* the Secretariat to compile the information obtained pursuant to the preceding paragraph for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

3. *Further requests* the Secretariat to extract information on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in articles from the risk management evaluations<sup>5</sup> and the technical paper on brominated diphenyl ether developed in

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1 The term "Brominated diphenyl ethers" refers to hexabromodiphenyl ether, heptabromodiphenyl ether, tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention.

2 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/12.

3 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/18.

4 Decision POPRC-6/2, annex.

5 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.5, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.4/15/Add.6, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Add.1.

accordance with decision SC-4/19,<sup>6</sup> to attach the information to the questionnaire and to assist the parties further in completing the questionnaire, including through the provision of other relevant information where available,

4. *Decides* to revise the draft process set out in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants<sup>7</sup> at its eighth meeting, including possibly by incorporating the format for collecting information for the purpose of paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention in the format for reporting under Article 15 of the Convention.

## **Annex to decision POPRC-7/7**

### **Format for the evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and work programme on brominated diphenyl ethers and on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride**

#### **Explanatory note**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on the progress made by parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants towards the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention and in risk reduction in respect of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF). The issues addressed in the questionnaire also relate to the environmentally sound management of wastes and its completion will therefore require the cooperation and input of relevant bodies, including national authorities dealing with the Basel Convention.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter, is to evaluate the progress that parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and review the continued need for the specific exemptions related to these chemicals. The same paragraphs also provide that these specific exemptions are in any case to expire at the latest in 2030.

By its decision SC-5/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, taking into account decisions SC-4/19 and SC-5/5, and with advice from relevant experts, to develop a process to enable the Conference of the Parties at its sixth and every second ordinary meeting thereafter to conduct the evaluation referred to above.

By decision SC-5/5, the Conference of the Parties, among other things, encouraged parties and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations developed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers from the waste stream and on risk reduction for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.<sup>8</sup> Those recommendations are reproduced in an attachment to the present note.

Parties were further invited to submit information on their experiences in implementing the recommendations, where applicable, or other actions that had the same objectives. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a compilation of the information submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting and to transmit it to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention.

The amendment of the annexes to the Convention by the addition of new chemicals triggered a need for parties to review and update their national implementation plans to address obligations related to the new chemicals. In completing the attached questionnaire, parties may encounter issues that they find important to address in updating their national implementation plans. Parties that have already updated their plans may already have gathered the information required to complete the questionnaire. Funding for undertaking the review and updating of national implementation plans is available for eligible parties from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).<sup>9</sup> A number of guidance documents are

6 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.6/2/Rev.1.

7 UNEP/POPS/POPRC.7/12.

8 Decision POPRC-6/2, annex.

9 Guidance for gaining access to GEF funding is available on the GEF website: [www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.39.Inf\\_.5%20Guidelines%20for%20NIP.Final\\_.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.39.Inf_.5%20Guidelines%20for%20NIP.Final_.pdf).

being developed to assist parties in the review and updating of their plans. These include guidance documents to address brominated diphenyl ethers, PFOS and its salts and PFOSF specifically.

As part of the process to enable the Conference of the Parties to review the progress that parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and the continued need for specific exemptions for brominated diphenyl ethers, parties are invited to provide the relevant information using the following questionnaire. Parties are also invited to provide information on their experience in implementing the recommendations relating to brominated diphenyl ethers, PFOS and its salts and PFOSF.

## Questionnaire

### Country information

<b>Country</b>	
<b>Name of principal reporting official</b>	
<b>Agency name and address</b>	
<b>Tel/Fax</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Signature of official</b>	..... <b>Date:</b>

1. Please indicate whether your country is registered for a specific exemption related to hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and/or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether in accordance with part IV and/or part V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention.

- (a) Specific exemption for hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether  
 Yes ☐ No ☐
- (b) Specific exemption for tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether  
 Yes ☐ No ☐

If you answered yes to 1 (a) and/or 1 (b), please provide information on your country's review of the continued need for a specific exemption for hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and/or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether.

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If you answered no to 1 (a) and/or 1 (b), please briefly describe the reasons.

Not needed <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed but lack of technical capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Assessed but lack of financial capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Others _____
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## PART I

**Evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including experience in implementing the recommendations in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2**

2. Please indicate whether your country has taken any actions or control measures to eliminate hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and/or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether contained in articles.

(a) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

(b) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

Please elaborate on your answers in the box provided below.

(a) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

(b) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

3. Please indicate if your country has taken measures to implement the recommendations on the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers from the waste stream in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, or any other actions.

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

If you answered yes or in progress, please describe your progress in implementing the recommendations or other actions. If no, please briefly describe the reasons.

4. Please indicate whether your country has established or begun to establish national control schemes and/or national implementation plans in relation to bromodiphenyl ethers.

(a) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

(b) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

Please elaborate on your answer in the box provided below.

(a) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

(b) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

5. Please indicate if your country has put in place screening and separation techniques for wastes containing brominated diphenyl ethers.

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

If you answered yes or in progress, please provide information about the techniques.

If no, please briefly describe the reasons.

6. Please indicate if your country has implemented measures to ensure that recycling and final disposal of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers are carried out in an environmentally sound manner.

(a) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

(b) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

Please elaborate on your answer in the box provided below.

7. Please provide information on any practical issues and/or experiences in implementing any of the recommendations in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 or any other actions. If possible, please indicate according to the timeframes (short-term, medium-term, or long-term) discussed in the recommendations.

8. Please indicate whether your country has taken any measures to prevent the export of articles from recycling pursuant to Part IV and/or Part V, 1b of Annex A.

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

Please elaborate on your answer in the box provided below.

## PART II

### Work programme on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

9. Please specify if your country has implemented risk reduction measures for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF taking into account the recommendations in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2.

Yes ☐

No ☐

In progress ☐

10. If yes or in progress, please describe your progress in implementing the recommendations in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 or any other actions in the following areas:

(a) Production and industrial uses

(b) Uses including uses in open applications<sup>10</sup>

(c) Existing stocks

<sup>10</sup> Aviation hydraulic fluids, insecticides for control of red imported fire ants and termites, chemically driven oil production, carpets, textiles and upholstery, leather and apparel, electric and electronic parts for some colour printers and colour copy machines, paper and packaging, fire fighting foams, insect baits for control of leaf-cutting ants from *Atta spp.* and *Acromyrmex spp.*, coating and coating additives, rubber and plastics, metal plating (hard metal plating), metal plating (decorative plating) and others.

- (d) PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in consumer products deposited in municipal landfills

- (e) Contaminated sites

- (f) Please provide information on any practical issues and/or experiences in implementing any of the recommendations. If possible, please indicate according to the timeframes (short-term, medium-term, or long-term) discussed in the recommendations in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2.

## Attachments

1. Decision POPRC-6/2, on work programmes on new persistent organic pollutants, and its annex containing recommendations on the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers from the waste stream and on risk reduction for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)

*[To be inserted by the Secretariat.]*

2. Information on brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) from the risk management evaluation and a technical paper on brominated diphenyl ethers

*[To be inserted by the Secretariat.]*

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