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Programme**

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**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in
International Trade**

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

Agenda item 5 (a)

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
status of implementation**

Exports, export notifications and information exchange

Submission by the European Union and its member States

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a submission by the European Union and its member States on exports, export notifications and information exchange. The submission is reproduced as received. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

Annex

CRP on agenda item 5.(a) Status of implementation

Sub-item: Exports, export notifications and information exchange

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

Decision RC-7/2 requests the Secretariat to gather information on the implementation of provisions relating to the exchange of information and to assist Parties in implementing those provisions. Paragraph 2 of Article 11 sets out the obligations and conditions relating to the export of chemicals listed in Annex III in exceptional circumstances when an importing Party has failed to transmit an import response or has transmitted an interim response that does not contain an interim decision. Article 12 sets out the provisions pertaining to export notifications of a banned or severely restricted chemical. Article 14 provides for the exchange of scientific, technical, economic and legal information in accordance with the objective and within the scope the Convention.

Since the exchange of information is one of the main objectives of the Convention, it is important that the Secretariat continues working in this area as reflected in decision RC-7/2.

The illegal trade in chemicals is recognised as an important threat for human health and the environment and governments as well as international bodies such as OECD and WCO started activities to fight against such illegal trade, such as the OECD Network against illegal trade in pesticides. Considering the important role of the Rotterdam Convention in the fight against illegal trade in chemicals, we suggest adding a paragraph on this to the proposed decision addressing some obligations on export, for example under Article 11.

The EU and its Member States suggest that the COP should adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report prepared by the Secretariat on the information received from parties on exports, export notifications and information exchange;
2. *Recalls* decision RC-7/2 and *urges* Parties to continue implementing that decision, including that Parties complete and return the questionnaire on paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Convention;
3. *Requests* Parties to ensure proper implementation of Article 11 as an important contribution to the fight against illegal trade in chemicals subject to the Rotterdam Convention;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue implementing decision RC-7/2, *inter alia* by providing assistance to parties, upon request, and facilitating, subject to the availability of resources, the exchange of information.