



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

BRS Treaties • Rotterdam Convention

Mechanisms

To achieve its objectives the Convention includes a Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure and Information Exchange.

The PIC procedure is a mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing Parties as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of those chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and for ensuring compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties.

The Convention facilitates information exchange among Parties for a very broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals. The Convention requires each Party to notify the secretariat when taking a domestic regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical.

Players

Parties and their Designated National Authorities (DNAs) are countries or regional economic integration organizations that have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Convention. Each Party must designate one or more national authorities, which are the primary contact points for matters related to the operation of the Convention and are authorized to perform the administrative functions required by the Convention. DNAs are also the key contact points for matters related to the Convention.

Conference of the Parties (COP) oversees the operation of the Convention and makes decisions regarding amendments to the Convention, including the addition of chemicals to Annex III.

Chemical Review Committee (CRC) is a subsidiary body of the COP. Its members are government designated experts in chemicals management. Its responsibilities include reviewing notifications and proposals from Parties and making recommendations to the COP on the addition of chemicals to Annex III.

Secretariat provides functions, including making administrative arrangements for meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, verifying information accompanying notifications and proposals, disseminating import responses provided by the Parties, facilitating assistance to developing country Parties, facilitating information exchange between Parties and fostering collaboration and cooperation with other international organizations.

Ratifying the Rotterdam Convention: reservations and declarations

Reservations upon ratification or accession to the Basel Convention are not provided for – however, under international law, a country ratifying or acceding to a treaty may make a declaration where they express their understanding of some matter or the interpretation of a particular provision.

Unlike reservations, declarations merely clarify the country's position and do not modify the legal effect of a treaty. Usually, declarations are made at the time of ratification or signature.

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CONVENTIONS

This factsheet on **The Chemicals Treaties (BRS Treaties): Rotterdam Convention** is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 26–29.