

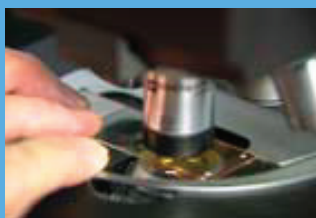
## EU's aims for the Stockholm Convention's COP-1

The EU has clear aims for the first Conference of the Parties (CoP-1) of the Stockholm Convention in Uruguay.\* To ensure effective implementation and further development of the Convention, the EU will put special emphasis on the following six issues:

- Put in place a POP Review Committee that can work expeditiously on proposals for new POPs;
- Adopt guidance to support the Parties in developing effective National Implementation Plans;
- Agree on appropriate reporting arrangements and make significant progress in agreeing on appropriate procedures and a mechanism to promote compliance with the Convention;
- Lay down guidelines and guidance for effective implementation of the control provisions of the Convention, in particular on the best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practice (BEP) to eliminate and reduce releases of chlorinated dioxins and furans from man-made sources;
- Take concrete steps towards reducing the reliance on DDT for disease vector control and identifying sustainable alternatives;
- Promote the elimination of country-specific exemptions and an expeditious phase-out of PCB equipment.

One overall objective to be pursued is to enhance synergies and strengthen cooperation between the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and relevant inter-governmental organisations. Special emphasis should be given to creating links and giving input to the development of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

\*Ref: Council conclusions 10 March 2005



## Financial and technical assistance



The elimination of POPs requires important financial and technical resources, for example with regard to the disposal of waste containing POPs or the development of alternatives to DDT. The European Commission has developed different financial instruments to serve the needs of developing countries, European and Mediterranean neighbouring countries and the EU candidate countries.

### Further information on financing:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/environment/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/environment/index_en.htm)  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index_en.htm)  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/life/index.htm>  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm>  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/enlarg/financing\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/enlarg/financing_en.htm)

### Further information:

POPs: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pops/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pops/index_en.htm)  
Dioxins: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/dioxin/index.htm>  
Action on malaria: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/human\\_social/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/human_social/index_en.htm)  
New chemicals policy REACH: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/chemicals/reach.htm>

**Photo credits:** Polluted area, child with stars, EC 2005; factory, EC/OIB; microscope, Mostra; running children, EC 2005

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## The European Union and the Stockholm Convention

### Implementing measures on Persistent Organic Pollutants



Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) pose a threat to the environment and to human health all over the globe. These substances break down very slowly in the environment, accumulate in our bodies and are spread through the air very far from their sources, even to regions where they have never been used or produced.

To eliminate or reduce production, use and releases of these substances, two international, legally binding instruments have been set up. Both have been signed and ratified by the European Community (EC) as well as most of the EU Member States.

- The Protocol to the regional UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on POPs (entry into force on 23 October 2003, ratified by the EC on 30 April 2004).
- The global Stockholm Convention on POPs (entry into force on 17 May 2004, ratified by the EC on 16 November 2004).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## Implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the EU

The EU legislation which implements the Stockholm Convention goes further than the international agreements since it aims to eliminate, rather than just restrict, the production and use of the internationally recognised POPs.

Main legal instruments for implementing the Stockholm Convention in the EU:

- Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and Council of 29 April 2004 on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EC
- Regulation (EC) No 304/2003 of the European Parliament and Council of 28 January 2003 concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals
- Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT).

### European Community Implementation Plan

Each Party to the Stockholm Convention – individual states as well the European Community as a regional economic integration organisation – have to establish an Implementation Plan to show the concrete action that will be taken against the POPs listed in the Convention. The European Community Implementation Plan, which will complement the national plans of the EU Member States, is scheduled for adoption in May 2006.

### POPs and the new Chemicals Policy

The ambitious existing EU legislation on new industrial chemicals, as well as on active substances in biocides and pesticides, is essential to identify and control substances with POPs properties, as required by Article 3(3) and 3(4) of the Stockholm Convention. The proposed new chemicals regulation (REACH), which is currently being discussed in the Council and the European Parliament, will radically expand knowledge about all chemicals and further contribute to identifying and controlling potential POPs.

## The European Community as a Party

International environmental agreements such as the Stockholm Convention are ratified by both the European Community (EC), which is a regional economic integration organisation with legal personality, and by its Member States. Acting jointly, the EC and its Member States form the political entity called the European Union (EU).

The European Commission is the sole EU institution that has the right of initiative in proposing and drafting EU legislation. It is also responsible for ensuring the correct implementation of EU laws. Most EU laws have to be adopted both by the Council of Ministers, representing the governments of the 25 EU Member States, and the European Parliament, whose 732 members are directly elected by EU citizens.

As a regional economic integration organisation, the European Community votes on behalf of all the Member States that are parties to the Convention on matters within its competence in accordance with Article 23 of the Stockholm Convention.



#### *The 25 EU Member States:*

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

#### *The present EU acceding states:*

Bulgaria and Romania.

#### *The present EU candidate countries:*

Turkey and Croatia.

## Identification of further POPs

The European Commission has identified nine substances that fulfil the POPs criteria and that could be included in both the UNECE Protocol and the Stockholm Convention. For the time being, the Council has concluded that the first priority should be given to the three substances already listed in the UNECE Protocol and that the EU should proceed with proposals on these under the Convention at the earliest appropriate moment.



### PRIORITY CANDIDATE POPs FOR THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION (COM (2004) 537):

Substances already listed in the UNECE Protocol on POPs:

chlordecone (145-50-0),  
hexabromobiphenyl (36355-01-8)  
hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH, including lindane) (608-73-1; 58-89-9)

Substance already proposed by Norway (and supported by the EU):

pentabromodiphenyl ether (32534-81-9)

Other candidates:

hexachlorobutadiene (CAS number: 87-68-3)  
octabromodiphenyl ether (32536-52-0)  
pentachlorobenzene (608-93-5);  
polychlorinated naphthalenes  
short-chained chlorinated paraffins (alkanes, C10-C13, chloro)