

**14. ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE  
FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE**

*Rotterdam, 10 September 1998*

- ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 24 February 2004 in accordance with article 26 which reads as follows: "1. The Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. 2. For each State or regional economic integration organization that ratifies, accepts or approves this Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. 3. For the purpose of paragraphs 1 and 2, any instrument deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of that organization."
- REGISTRATION:** 24 February 2004, No. 39973.
- STATUS:** Signatories: 72. Parties: 161.<sup>1</sup>
- TEXT:** United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2244, p. 337; C.N.846.2002.TREATIES-8 of 20 August 2002 (proposal of corrections to the original English text of the Convention); C.N.1029.2002.TREATIES-18 of 23 September 2002 (correction to the original English text of the Convention); C.N.10.2005.TREATIES-1 of 11 January 2005 (Adoption of Annex VI); C.N.11.2005.TREATIES-2 of 11 January 2005 (Amendments to Annex III); C.N.83.2009.TREATIES-1 of 5 February 2009 (Amendment to Annex III); C.N.139.2012.TREATIES-XXVII.14 of 8 March 2012 (Adoption of Amendment to Annex III); C.N.973.2013.TREATIES-XXVII.14 of 6 December 2013 (Amendments to Annex III); C.N.696.2015.TREATIES-XXVII.14 of 21 December 2015 (Amendment to Annex III); C.N.489.2017.TREATIES-XXVII.14 of 24 August 2017 (Amendments to Annex III).<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>

*Note:* The Convention was adopted on 10 September 1998 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In accordance with its article 24, the Convention will be open for signature at Rotterdam by all States and regional economic integration organizations on 11 September 1998, and subsequently at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 September 1998 to 10 September 1999.

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>
Afghanistan.....		6 Mar 2013 a	Bosnia and Herzegovina.....		19 Mar 2007 a
Albania.....		9 Aug 2010 a	Botswana.....		5 Feb 2008 a
Angola.....	11 Sep 1998		Brazil.....	11 Sep 1998	16 Jun 2004
Antigua and Barbuda.....		23 Aug 2010 a	Bulgaria.....		25 Jul 2000 a
Argentina.....	11 Sep 1998	11 Jun 2004	Burkina Faso.....	11 Sep 1998	11 Nov 2002
Armenia.....	11 Sep 1998	26 Nov 2003	Burundi.....		23 Sep 2004 a
Australia.....	6 Jul 1999	20 May 2004	Cabo Verde.....		1 Mar 2006 a
Austria.....	11 Sep 1998	27 Aug 2002	Cambodia.....		1 Mar 2013 a
Bahrain.....		16 Apr 2012 a	Cameroon.....	11 Sep 1998	20 May 2002
Barbados.....	11 Sep 1998		Canada.....		26 Aug 2002 a
Belgium.....	11 Sep 1998	23 Oct 2002	Chad.....	11 Sep 1998	10 Mar 2004
Belize.....		20 Apr 2005 a	Chile.....	11 Sep 1998	20 Jan 2005
Benin.....	11 Sep 1998	5 Jan 2004	China <sup>6,7</sup> .....	24 Aug 1999	22 Mar 2005
Bolivia (Plurinational State).....		18 Dec 2003 a	Colombia.....	11 Sep 1998	3 Dec 2008

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>
Congo.....	11 Sep 1998	13 Jul 2006	Israel .....	20 May 1999	3 Oct 2011
Cook Islands .....		29 Jun 2004 a	Italy .....	11 Sep 1998	27 Aug 2002
Costa Rica.....	17 Aug 1999	13 Aug 2009	Jamaica .....		20 Aug 2002 a
Côte d'Ivoire .....	11 Sep 1998	20 Jan 2004	Japan .....	31 Aug 1999	15 Jun 2004 A
Croatia .....		16 Nov 2007 a	Jordan.....		22 Jul 2002 a
Cuba.....	11 Sep 1998	22 Feb 2008	Kazakhstan.....		1 Nov 2007 a
Cyprus.....	11 Sep 1998	17 Dec 2004	Kenya.....	11 Sep 1998	3 Feb 2005
Czech Republic.....	22 Jun 1999	12 Jun 2000	Kuwait .....	11 Sep 1998	12 May 2006
Democratic People's Republic of Korea....		6 Feb 2004 a	Kyrgyzstan.....	11 Aug 1999	25 May 2000
Democratic Republic of the Congo.....		23 Mar 2005	Lao People's Democratic Republic .....		21 Sep 2010 a
Denmark <sup>8</sup> .....	11 Sep 1998	15 Jan 2004	Latvia .....		23 Apr 2003 a
Djibouti .....		10 Nov 2004 a	Lebanon .....		13 Nov 2006 a
Dominica .....		30 Dec 2005 a	Lesotho .....		30 May 2008 a
Dominican Republic .....		24 Mar 2006 a	Liberia.....		22 Sep 2004 a
Ecuador.....	11 Sep 1998	4 May 2004	Libya.....		9 Jul 2002 a
El Salvador .....	16 Feb 1999	8 Sep 1999	Liechtenstein.....		18 Jun 2004 a
Equatorial Guinea .....		7 Feb 2003 a	Lithuania.....		17 Mar 2004 a
Eritrea .....		10 Mar 2005 a	Luxembourg.....	11 Sep 1998	28 Aug 2002
Estonia .....		13 Jun 2006 a	Madagascar.....	8 Dec 1998	22 Sep 2004
Eswatini .....		24 Sep 2012 a	Malawi .....		27 Feb 2009 a
Ethiopia.....		9 Jan 2003 a	Malaysia.....		4 Sep 2002 a
European Union.....	11 Sep 1998	20 Dec 2002 AA	Maldives .....		17 Oct 2006 a
Finland.....	11 Sep 1998	4 Jun 2004 A	Mali.....	11 Sep 1998	5 Jun 2003
France .....	11 Sep 1998	17 Feb 2004 AA	Malta.....		17 Jan 2017 a
Gabon.....		18 Dec 2003 a	Marshall Islands.....		27 Jan 2003 a
Gambia.....		26 Feb 2002 a	Mauritania.....	1 Sep 1999	22 Jul 2005 A
Georgia .....		27 Feb 2007 a	Mauritius.....		5 Aug 2005 a
Germany .....	11 Sep 1998	11 Jan 2001	Mexico .....		4 May 2005 a
Ghana.....	11 Sep 1998	30 May 2003	Mongolia.....	11 Sep 1998	8 Mar 2001
Greece.....	11 Sep 1998	23 Dec 2003	Montenegro.....		30 Dec 2011 a
Guatemala.....		19 Apr 2010 a	Morocco.....		25 Apr 2011 a
Guinea.....		7 Sep 2000 a	Mozambique .....		15 Apr 2010 a
Guinea-Bissau.....	10 Sep 1999	12 Jun 2008	Namibia .....	11 Sep 1998	24 Jun 2005
Guyana.....		25 Jun 2007 a	Nepal.....		9 Feb 2007 a
Honduras.....		26 Sep 2011 a	Netherlands <sup>9</sup> .....	11 Sep 1998	20 Apr 2000 A
Hungary .....	10 Sep 1999	31 Oct 2000	New Zealand <sup>10</sup> .....	11 Sep 1998	23 Sep 2003
India .....		24 May 2005 a	Nicaragua.....		19 Sep 2008 a
Indonesia.....	11 Sep 1998	24 Sep 2013	Niger .....		16 Feb 2006 a
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	17 Feb 1999	26 Aug 2004	Nigeria .....		28 Jun 2001 a
Iraq.....		18 Apr 2017 a	Norway .....	11 Sep 1998	25 Oct 2001 A
Ireland.....		10 Jun 2005 a	Oman .....		31 Jan 2000 a
			Pakistan.....	9 Sep 1999	14 Jul 2005

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>
Panama.....	11 Sep 1998	18 Aug 2000	Sudan .....		17 Feb 2005 a
Paraguay .....	11 Sep 1998	18 Aug 2003	Suriname .....		30 May 2000 a
Peru.....	11 Sep 1998	14 Sep 2005	Sweden.....	11 Sep 1998	10 Oct 2003
Philippines .....	11 Sep 1998	31 Jul 2006	Switzerland .....	11 Sep 1998	10 Jan 2002
Poland .....		14 Sep 2005 a	Syrian Arab Republic ....	11 Sep 1998	24 Sep 2003
Portugal.....	11 Sep 1998	16 Feb 2005 AA	Tajikistan .....	28 Sep 1998	
Qatar .....		10 Dec 2004 a	Thailand .....		19 Feb 2002 a
Republic of Korea.....	7 Sep 1999	11 Aug 2003	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....		12 Aug 2010 a
Republic of Moldova.....		27 Jan 2005 a	Togo.....	9 Sep 1999	23 Jun 2004
Romania.....		2 Sep 2003 a	Tonga.....		31 Mar 2010 a
Russian Federation .....		28 Apr 2011 a	Trinidad and Tobago .....		16 Dec 2009 a
Rwanda .....		7 Jan 2004 a	Tunisia .....	11 Sep 1998	9 Feb 2016
Samoa .....		30 May 2002 a	Turkey.....	11 Sep 1998	21 Sep 2017
Sao Tome and Principe..		23 May 2013 a	Uganda.....		18 Aug 2008 a
Saudi Arabia .....		7 Sep 2000 a	Ukraine .....		6 Dec 2002 a
Senegal.....	11 Sep 1998	20 Jul 2001	United Arab Emirates ....		10 Sep 2002 a
Serbia.....		31 Jul 2009 a	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	11 Sep 1998	17 Jun 2004
Seychelles .....	11 Sep 1998		United Republic of Tanzania.....	11 Sep 1998	26 Aug 2002
Sierra Leone.....		1 Nov 2016 a	United States of America.....	11 Sep 1998	
Singapore .....		24 May 2005 a	Uruguay .....	11 Sep 1998	4 Mar 2003
Slovakia .....		26 Jan 2007 a	Vanuatu.....		16 Oct 2018 a
Slovenia .....	11 Sep 1998	17 Nov 1999	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) .....		19 Apr 2005 a
Somalia .....		26 Jul 2010 a	Viet Nam.....		7 May 2007 a
South Africa.....		4 Sep 2002 a	Yemen.....		4 Feb 2006 a
Spain .....	11 Sep 1998	2 Mar 2004	Zambia .....		28 Jan 2011 a
Sri Lanka.....		19 Jan 2006 a	Zimbabwe .....		1 Mar 2012 a
St. Kitts and Nevis .....		14 Aug 2012 a			
St. Lucia.....	25 Jan 1999				
St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....		29 Oct 2010 a			
State of Palestine .....		29 Dec 2017 a			

### **Declarations**

***(Unless otherwise indicated, the texts of the declarations were made upon ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.)***

#### **AUSTRIA**

"The Republic of Austria declares in accordance with Article 20 (2) of the Convention that it accepts both of the means of dispute settlement mentioned in Paragraph 2 as compulsory in relation to any party accepting an obligation concerning one or both of these means of dispute."

#### **BOTSWANA**

"[Pursuant to] paragraph 2 of Article 20, the Government of the Republic of Botswana declares that, with respect to any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, it recognises both means of dispute settlement set out in this provision, as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation under the Convention. This Declaration shall remain valid for the period that the

Government of the Republic of Botswana is a party to the Convention.”

#### **ESTONIA**

“With respect to any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, the Republic of Estonia recognizes both of the means of dispute settlement stated in Article 20, paragraph 2 as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation.”

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

"The European Community declares that, in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(l) thereof, it is competent to enter into international agreements, and to implement the obligations resulting therefrom, which contribute to the pursuit of the following objectives:

Preserving, Protecting and improving the quality of the environment;  
protecting human health;  
prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources;  
promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems.

Moreover, the European Community declares that it has already adopted legal instruments, including a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals, binding on its Member States, covering matters governed by this Convention, and will submit and update, as appropriate, a list of those legal instruments to the Secretariat of the Convention.

The European Community is responsible for the performance of those obligations resulting from the Convention which are covered by Community law in force.

The exercise of Community competence is, by its nature, subject to continuous development."

#### **ISRAEL**

“Pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the Government of the State of Israel declares that with respect to any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the convention, it recognizes only (a) Arbitration in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable.”

“The Government of the State of Israel has noted that the instrument of ratification of the Syrian Arab Republic

to the abovementioned Convention contains a declaration with respect to the State of Israel. The Government of the State of Israel considers that such a declaration, which is explicitly of a political nature, is incompatible with the purposes and objectives of the Convention.

The Government of the State of Israel therefore objects to the aforesaid declaration made by the Syrian Arab Republic.”

#### **NETHERLANDS**

“The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade, that it accepts both means of dispute settlement referred to in that paragraph as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting one or both means of dispute settlement.”

#### **NORWAY**

“In accordance with article 20 (2), [Norway declares that], with respect to any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, it recognizes (b) Submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.”

#### **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

According to article 20 of the Convention, the Republic of Moldova declares that [it] accepts both means of dispute settlement, mentioned in paragraph 2 of the article, as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation.

#### **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has reviewed the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which was signed in 1998. Having given it thorough consideration:

It declares that it has already ratified the abovementioned Convention by virtue of legislative decree No. 35 of 13 July 2003, and that it will fully comply with and respect all its provisions, while confirming that the ratification of this Convention by the Syrian Arab Republic does not in any way constitute a recognition of Israel, and that the provisions of the Convention do not imply that the Syrian Arab Republic has to deal with that State.

### ***Objections***

***(Unless otherwise indicated, the objections were received upon ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.)***

#### **ISRAEL**

"The Government of the State of Israel has noted that the instrument of ratification of the Syrian Arab Republic to the abovementioned Convention contains a declaration with respect to the State of Israel. The Government of the State of Israel considers that such declaration, which

is explicitly of a political nature, is incompatible with the purposes and objectives of the Convention.

The Government of the State of Israel therefore objects to the aforesaid declaration made by the Syrian Arab Republic."

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#### ***Notes:***

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of entry into force of the [Convention/Protocol] , any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited by a regional

economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by member States of that Organization.

<sup>2</sup> By decision RC-1/3 of 24 September 2004, adopted at its first meeting, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention adopted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 8 and paragraph 5 of article 22 of the Convention, the amendments to Annex III.

In accordance with paragraph 5 (c) of article 22 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in the same decision, decided that "all the amendments shall enter into force on 1 February 2005, except for the amendments made by subparagraph 1 (a) and (b) of the annex to the ... decision, which shall enter into force on 1 January 2006".

<sup>3</sup> By decision RC-1/11 of 24 September 2004, adopted at its first meeting, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 September 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention adopted Annex VI, setting out the arbitration procedure for purposes of paragraph 2 (a) of article 20 of the Convention and the conciliation procedure for purposes of paragraph 6 of article 20 of the Convention.

In accordance with paragraph 3 (b) of article 22 of the Convention, any Party that is unable to accept an additional annex shall so notify the Depositary, in writing, within one year from the date of communication of the adoption of the additional annex by the Depositary. The Depositary shall without delay notify all Parties of any such notification received. A Party may at any time withdraw a previous notification of non-acceptance in respect of an additional annex and the annex shall thereupon enter into force for that Party subject to paragraph 3 (c) of the same article. In accordance with paragraph 3 (c), on the expiry of one year from the date of the communication by the Depositary of its adoption, Annex VI shall enter into force for all Parties that have not submitted a notification in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 (b).

<sup>4</sup> By decision RC-4/5 of 31 October 2008, adopted at its fourth meeting, held in Rome, Italy, from 27 to 31 October 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention adopted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 5 of article 22 of the Convention, an amendments to Annex III.

In accordance with paragraph 5 (c) of article 22 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in the same decision, decided that "this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 1 February 2009".

<sup>5</sup> By decisions RC-5/3, RC-5/4 and RC-5/5, adopted at its fifth meeting, held in Geneva from 20-24 June 2011, the Conference of the Parties to the above Convention adopted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 5 of article 22 of the Convention, amendments to Annex III.

In accordance with paragraph 5 (c) article 22 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in the same decision decided that these amendments entered into force for all Parties on 24 October 2011.

<sup>6</sup> With the following declaration:

In accordance with the provision of article 138 of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and article 153 of the Basic Law of

the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China decides that the Convention shall apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; it shall not apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China until the Government of China notifies otherwise.

<sup>7</sup> On 26 August 2008, the Government of the People's Republic of China communicated to the Secretary-General the following declaration:

In accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China decides that the Convention shall apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

<sup>8</sup> With a territorial exclusion in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

<sup>9</sup> For the Kingdom in Europe.

<sup>10</sup> With the following territorial exclusion: ".....consistent with the constitutional status of Tokelau and taking into account the commitment of the Government of New Zealand to the development of self-government for Tokelau through an act of self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations, this ratification shall not extend to Tokelau unless and until a Declaration to this effect is lodged by the Government of New Zealand with the Depositary on the basis of appropriate consultation with that territory."

