

BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

United Nations Environment Programme

Office Address: International Environment House 1

11-13, chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Postal Address: c/o Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 8271 | Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 8098 | E-mail: brs@brsmeas.org

Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Tel.: +39 06 5705 2061 | Fax: +39 06 5705 3224 | E-mail: pic@fao.org

COMMUNICATION

MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 29 APRIL – 10 MAY 2019

SCHEDULING OF A POSSIBLE BASEL CONVENTION CONTACT GROUP THAT COULD BE ESTABLISHED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4 (b) (v) ON MARINE PLASTIC LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

Reference is made to the tentative schedule of work of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/CHW.14/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/2).

As indicated in that document, individual sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention are scheduled to be held between Friday, 3 May 2019, and Tuesday, 7 May 2019. Furthermore, as indicated in the scenario note for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties (UNEP/CHW.14/INF/1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/1), each Conference of the Parties should adopt its convention-specific decisions at the conclusion of the main block of sessions for that Conference of the Parties, unless decided otherwise by the conferences of the Parties.

In the case of the Basel Convention, the Conference of the Parties is thus expected to adopt its convention-specific decisions on Tuesday, 7 May. This year, up to four contact or other groups could possibly be established under the Basel Convention to prepare related draft decisions, facing an exceptionally high workload. The bureaux have expressed their intention to limit the number of groups meeting at any one time in order to ensure that there is adequate opportunity for the interests of all delegations to be factored into the discussions. Therefore, in consultation with the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties, the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of delegates that the **contact group that could be established under agenda item 4 (b) (v) of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, on marine plastic litter and microplastics, might need to continue working during the second week of the meetings on an exceptional basis.** Decisions under that agenda item would be adopted at the latest on Friday, 10 May 2019. All other possible contact groups established under the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention would however be expected to complete their work as per the original schedule (i.e. adoption of Basel Convention specific decisions on Tuesday, 7 May).

Delegates wishing to take part in the discussions on the matters related to agenda item 4 (b) (v) of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention are encouraged to arrange their travel accordingly (i.e. by planning their stay until the end of the two-week period of the meetings). All delegates from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for which financial assistance is provided will be sponsored to stay for the entire two-week duration of the meetings.

If you have any questions on the scheduling of the meetings, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Andrea Lechner (andrea.lechner@brsmeas.org, Tel: +41 22 917 8853).

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.



Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
Geneva, 22 March 2019

To: Ministries of Foreign Affairs (to be distributed by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva)
Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Basel Convention Focal Points, Rotterdam Convention Official Contact Points, Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points
Delegates registered for the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

cc: Contact points for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
Permanent Representatives to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome and Permanent Missions to the United Nations Environment Programme