

BRS HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly newsletter of the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

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Greetings from Geneva!

The BRS Conventions newsletter returns after a hiatus, and we are all very excited to re-establish this channel of communication with you! In our revamped newsletter you will be able to find news about the month that has gone by and updates on key events ahead. This introductory space is open for guest contributors who would like to address our community.

Over the past months, the Basel Convention has grown to include 190 Parties and the Stockholm Convention has reached 186 Parties. We are delighted to welcome the Solomon Islands and Italy to the Basel and Stockholm Conventions respectively! The fact that our Conventions have reached almost universal coverage, arms us with strength to push forward towards a toxic-free world.

Together we have been holding a series of meetings that are crucial to the establishment of chemicals pollution as an integral part of the international agenda. From the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to the Stockholm Convention Effectiveness Evaluation Committee and the meetings of the three Conventions' Bureaux, our work has intensified and is expected to keep increasing as we edge closer to the 2023 meetings of the of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions next May (2023 BRS COPs). The fact that this time around we are dealing with a rather short intersessional period from one set of COPs to the next, actually serves as an opportunity for us to gage our success in implementing short-term goals. I, for one, am very excited to present to you the theme of the 2023 BRS COPs and unveil all the surprises that we have been working on. But that will happen in due course...

For the time being, I look forward to using this newsletter as another tool to strengthen our collaboration across this BRS family!



OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



The Meetings of the Bureaux of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were held in Geneva during the last two weeks of October. Organised as hybrid events, the Bureau Meetings focused on determining the provisional agenda for the upcoming 2023 BRS COPs.



Rolph Payet was a keynote speaker at the World Trade Organization's third Trade and Environment Week, which was held in Geneva. The BRS Conventions spoke at the High Level Panel on Multilateral Trade and Environment Cooperation, which centred on furthering resilience among countries to successfully address environmental crises.



The 2022 International E-waste Day served as an opportunity to launch our campaign on e-waste, which will peak in 2025 when the E-waste Amendments will enter into force. For now, we invite you to help us promote the environmentally sustainable management of e-waste by taking part in our storytelling competition.



October was a busy month for the Stockholm Convention, with experts meeting in Geneva to discuss Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices, as well as the Global Monitoring Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants. Next up is the second meeting of the Effectiveness Evaluation Committee.



On 6 October, the BRS Secretariat's Deputy Executive Secretary, Carlos Martin-Novella, participated in the United Nations Environment Programme's first Open-ended Working Group focusing on the establishment of a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste.



A month full of workshops! In October, the BRS Secretariat organised a Regional Workshop on Legal Frameworks and International Trade Control Measures across nine countries in the Pacific. Furthermore, in Barcelona, Spain, BRS held the From Science to Action workshop, focusing on industrial chemicals guidance.

DONOR'S CORNER

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to our longstanding donors that we thank for their valuable contributions. So far, funding has been received by the following governments and entities: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America. Our donors have contributed over USD 30 million to the voluntary trust funds of the three Conventions in the past two biennia alone. Without these contributions, we would have not been able to organise any governing and subsidiary body meetings, nor would we have been in a position to support countries with capacity-building and technical assistance. In other words, the BRS Conventions are alive and kicking because of these contributions. Thank you!

FROM THE REGIONS

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC Caribbean) serves 14 Parties in the Caribbean region. Established in 2008, BCRC Caribbean is implementing large number of regional and international projects, and is the executing agency of the project Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Management Mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean, which assists Parties in developing and updating their National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention.



MORE TO COME!

1- 4 NOV

2nd Meeting of the
Stockholm Convention
Effectiveness Evaluation
Committee

7-9 NOV

9th Expert Group Meeting
on DDT

Annual joint meeting of
the regional centres under
the Basel and Stockholm
conventions

9-11 NOV

PACE II partnership
meeting

14-17 NOV

15th meeting of the Basel
Convention
Implementation and
Compliance Committee

16-18 NOV

First meeting of the
Rotterdam Convention
Compliance Committee

23-25 NOV

3rd meeting of the Basel
Convention Plastic Waste
Partnership working group

COMINGS AND GOINGS

New arrivals in Geneva! Andrea Cararo, Agustín Harte, Rina Kuusipalo, Manon Seyssaut and Wang Yang have joined the BRS Secretariat team. Andrea will facilitate technical assistance activities on plastic waste. Agustín will focus on technical aspects under the Stockholm Convention and waste-related issues under the Basel Convention. Rina is supporting the work of the Legal and Policy Unit. Manon is the new intern supporting the Legal and Policy Unit. Yang will work with the Governance Branch on the COPs meetings and the subsidiary bodies.

On the other hand, we are bidding farewell to our intern Marie Defago who is off to Norway. Many thanks for all your work in plastics, Marie!

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