Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in the European Union

Webinar ‘Hazardous Pesticides and EU’s double standards’ hosted by MEP Eric Andrieu (S&D) and MEP Anja Hazenkamp (GUE/NGL) and organised by PAN Europe and Public Eye (29 September 2020)

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on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade

Objectives:

➢ Promote shared responsibility in international trade of certain hazardous chemicals

➢ Protect human health and the environment

➢ Contribute to their environmentally sound use
Rotterdam Convention – basic functioning

- Chemicals are listed in Annex III, based on notifications of final regulatory action submitted by Parties
- Parties submit their import response for those chemicals, which is made available and applies to all Parties
- Exporting Parties are required to respect the import responses
- All Parties are required to notify the export of chemicals banned in their territory to importing Parties
The PIC Regulation


➢ implements the Rotterdam Convention in the EU
➢ has more restrictive rules on the export than the Convention
Chemicals

The Regulation covers:

- Chemicals that are banned or severely restricted in the European Union
- Chemicals that are listed in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The list of chemicals is regularly updated based on developments in Union law and under the Convention.
The EU restricts more than the Convention

The export notification applies to

- chemicals (about 226) banned or severely restricted in a subcategory of a Convention use category
- exports to **any** country and irrespective of the use

The explicit consent procedure applies to

- chemicals (about 120) banned or severely restricted in the EU in a Convention use category (pesticide / industrial chemical)
- RC Annex III chemicals for which an import decision from the importing country is missing
Thank you very much

More information on implementation, legal aspects and chemicals covered:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/trade_dangerous/index_en.htm

https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/prior-informed-consent/understanding-pic