Basic information

2002/0030(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Hazardous chemicals and pesticides, international trade: Rotterdam Convention, prior informed consent procedure **Subject** 3.70.13 Dangerous substances, toxic and radioactive wastes (storage, transport)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	BLOKLAND Johannes (EDD)	19/02/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	CROWLEY Brian (UEN)	07/01/2002
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2477	2002-12-19
Environment	2457	2002-10-17
Environment	2439	2002-06-25

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/01/2002	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0802	Summary
11/03/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

25/06/2002	Debate in Council		Summary
10/09/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
10/09/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0290/2002	
17/10/2002	Debate in Council		
23/10/2002	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0517/2002	Summary
19/12/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/12/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/03/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/0030(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p3-a1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0290/2002	10/09/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0517/2002 OJ C 300 11.12.2003, p. 0443-0607 E	24/10/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0802 OJ C 126 28.05.2002, p. 0274 E	24/01/2002	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2003/0106
OJ L 063 06.03.2003, p. 0027-0047 Summary

Hazardous chemicals and pesticides, international trade: Rotterdam Convention, prior informed consent procedure

2002/0030(CNS) - 25/06/2002

The Council noted the progress of proceedings on: - the proposal for a Decision approving, on behalf of the European Community, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade; - the proposal for a Regulation aimed at replacing the voluntary PIC established by Regulation No 2455/92, in accordance with the Rotterdam Convention. Examination of the dossier at this stage has focused on the Member States' role in implementing the Convention and on the application of the Regulation to countries which are not Parties to the Convention. The Permanent Representatives Committee moreover spoke unanimously in favour of the use of Article 175 (environment) of the Treaty as the legal basis for both texts instead of Article 133 (common commercial policy) as originally proposed. The European Parliament must therefore also be consulted on these texts, and the codecision procedure becomes applicable for the Regulation. The Rotterdam Convention of September 1998 aims to replace the PIC established on a voluntary basis by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in which over 160 countries participate; both proposals are intended to apply and implement the Convention within the Community. The new Convention, signed by 73 Parties including the Community and all the Member States except Ireland, has already been the subject of 22 out of the 50 ratifications required for its entry into force. The Rotterdam Convention provides in particular that: the Parties would have the right to refuse the import of hazardous chemicals: the export of certain chemicals (currently 26 pesticides and 5 industrial chemicals) could take place only after prior consent by the importing country; Parties must inform other Parties of national restrictions on the use of hazardous chemicals; and a Party that plans to export a hazardous chemical must inform the importing Party. In addition to applying the principles established by the Convention, the proposal for a Regulation provides in particular for: extending the scope of export notification to a wider range of chemicals, extension of the PIC to chemicals that are banned or severely regulated in the Community, the possibility of banning the export of certain chemical products banned in the Community, and appropriate labelling of all chemicals exported from the Community.

Hazardous chemicals and pesticides, international trade: Rotterdam Convention, prior informed consent procedure

2002/0030(CNS) - 19/12/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE : to approve the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2003/106/EC. CONTENT : The Convention is an important step in improving the international regulation of trade in certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to promote the environmentally sound use of such substances. This Decision approves the Convention, which was signed on 11 September 1998, on behalf of the European Community.

Hazardous chemicals and pesticides, international trade: Rotterdam Convention, prior informed consent procedure

2002/0030(CNS) - 24/10/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Hans BLOKLAND (EDD, NL) requesting a change of legal basis, so that the codecision procedure would apply. (Please refer to the document dated 10/09/02.)

Hazardous chemicals and pesticides, international trade: Rotterdam Convention, prior informed consent procedure

2002/0030(CNS) - 24/01/2002 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a Council Decision to approve the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade. CONTENT : under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), negotiations for a Convention for the application of the Prior Informed Consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade were concluded in March 1998. The Convention was opened for signature at a Ministerial Diplomatic Conference held in September 1998 in Rotterdam. It was signed by the Community, which together with its Member States had participated

actively in the negotiations, on 11 September 1998. The Convention represents a major set forward in the international regulation of certain hazardous chemicals, inlcuding pesticies. Its objective is to promote shared responsibility and co-operative efforts among the Parties in the international trade of such chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use. In parallel to this proposed decision, the Commission has put forward a proposal for a Council Regulation to implement the Convention's provisions.