

**Entry into Force of the Amendments adding Nine Chemicals
to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
on 26 August 2010**

The amendments to list additional persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Stockholm Convention, adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention at its fourth meeting in May 2009, enter into force on 26 August 2010 for the 152 of the 170 Parties to the Stockholm Convention that have not submitted a notification or a declaration, respectively in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 22 of the Convention.

No notifications of non-acceptance have been received by the Depositary to date. The other 18 Parties, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 25 of the Convention, have declared in their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to become a Party to the Convention, that they were bound to any amendment to Annexes A, B or C only upon deposit of their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect to the amendments. No such instruments have been deposited with the Depositary to date.

The amendments add the following chemicals to Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention: alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; beta hexachlorocyclohexane; chlordecone; hexabromobiphenyl; hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether (commercial octabromodiphenyl ether); lindane; pentachlorobenzene; perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride; and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether (commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether). Several of these POPs are widely used worldwide, thus Parties will have to take action, control their production and use and reduce or eliminate their release into the environment.

To commemorate this milestone, a ceremony will take place on 26 August 2010 at the United Nations, Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. At 4 pm, during the press conference in Room 3, a video link will be established with the Sea Dragon, a monitoring boat anchored in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The boat is to document the extent of drifting plastic pollution and to monitor deepwater fish for their POPs levels in the South Atlantic Ocean. The expedition, which is being conducted by 5Gyres (a collaboration between 5Gyres Institute, the Algalita Marine Research Foundation and Pangea Explorations) as part of a research project undertaken with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California), will set sail on 27 August 2010. Following this press conference, at 6 pm a reception will be hosted in Hall 14 with a video of the sailing vessel and a concert.

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Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
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