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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

on the review and update of the third European Union Implementation Plan in accordance with Article 9(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants

{SWD(2021) 201 final}

1. INTRODUCTION

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)[1] (the 'Stockholm Convention') was adopted in May 2001 and entered into force in 2004. The European Union ('the Union') and its Member States[2] are parties to the Convention[3], which has first been implemented in Union law by Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 on persistent organic pollutants[4]. That Regulation was replaced by the recast Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants[5] (the 'POPs Regulation').

The Stockholm Convention requires Parties pursuant to Article 7 to:

(a) Develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Convention;

(b) Transmit its implementation plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the date on which the Stockholm Convention enters into force for that Party;

(c) Review and update, as appropriate, its implementation plans on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by a decision of the Conference of the Parties.

The first European implementation plan, titled the 'Community Implementation Plan' (CIP) was developed in 2007 (SEC (2007) 341)[6]. The CIP was first updated with a 'Union Implementation Plan' (UIP) produced in 2014 (COM (2014) 306 final), and further updated in early 2019 (COM(2018)848 final). The review and update of the third Union Implementation Plan has become necessary to further address:

1) the recast of the POPs Regulation, which replaced the original Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 in July 2019;

2) the inclusion of a number of new persistent organic pollutants into the Stockholm Convention, including the pesticide dicofol and the industrial chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds; and

3) the technical and legislative progress made in the area.

This UIP was subject to a consultation with Member States' competent authorities, industry, environmental organisations and the general public. The UIP will be submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention in accordance with the Union's obligations as a Party.

2. PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)

POPs are chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate, and pose a risk of causing significant adverse effects to human health or the environment. These pollutants are transported across international boundaries far from their sources and even accumulate in regions where they have never been used or produced. POPs pose a threat to the environment and to human health all over the globe, with the Arctic, Baltic and the

[1] http://www.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/2232/Default.aspx

[2] One Member State has not yet ratified (Italy).

[3] Council Decision of 14 October 2004 concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2006/507/EC) (OJ L 209, 31.7.2006, p. 1.)

[4] Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC (OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 7).

[5] Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants (recast) (OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, p. 45).

[6] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/international_conventions/pdf/sec_2007_341.pdf

Alpine regions being examples of EU sinks of POPs. International action has been deemed necessary to reduce and eliminate production, use and releases of these substances. The substances addressed in the international legal instruments on POPs are listed in Table 1.

3. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ADDRESSING POPS

3.1. UNECE Protocol on POPs[7]

The Protocol on POPs ("the POPs Protocol") of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) was adopted on 24 June 1998 in Aarhus, Denmark. The POPs Protocol has been approved by the European Union and 23 Member States[8]. The POPs Protocol focuses currently on a list of 16 substances comprising eleven pesticides, two industrial chemicals and three unintentional by-products. In 2009, Parties adopted decisions to list seven new substances. However, those decisions did not yet enter into force.

The POPs Protocol bans the production and use of the chemicals that are listed, either immediately or at a later stage, and includes provisions for dealing with waste consisting of or containing those chemicals. It obliges Parties to reduce their emissions of dioxins, furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and HCB and lays down specific emission limit values for the incineration of municipal, hazardous and medical waste. The ultimate objective is to eliminate any discharges, emissions and losses of these POP substances.

3.2. Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention was adopted in 2001 in the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and entered into force in 2004. It promotes global action on an initial cluster of twelve POP substances, with an overall objective to protect human health and the environment from POPs. It requires Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Specific reference is made to a precautionary approach as set forth in Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. This principle is implemented by Article 8 of the Stockholm Convention, which lays down the rules for including additional chemicals.

There are 28 chemicals or groups of chemicals currently listed in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention which are subject to a prohibition on production and use, except where there are generic or specific exemptions. In addition, the production and use of DDT, a pesticide still used in many developing countries, is severely restricted, as set out in Annex B of the Stockholm Convention. Annex B also contains PFOS, its salts and PFOS-F, for which there are also exemptions and acceptable uses in place.

The generic exemptions allow laboratory-scale research, use as a reference standard and unintentional trace contaminants in chemicals, mixtures and articles. Articles containing POPs manufactured or already in use before the date of entry into force of the relevant obligation are also subject to an exemption provided that Parties submit information on the uses and a national plan for waste management for such articles to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.

Releases of unintentionally produced by-products listed in Annex C (dioxins, furans, PCBs, PeCB, HCB, and PCNs (December 2016), and hexachlorobutadiene (December 2018)) are subject to continuous minimisation with the ultimate objective of total elimination, where

[7] http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/pops_h1.htm

[8] Greece, Malta, Poland and Portugal did not yet approve the POPs Protocol (https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx?clang=_en).

feasible. According to Annex C, Parties are required to promote and, in accordance with their action plans, require the use of best available techniques for new sources within their major source categories identified in Part II and Part III of Annex C to the Stockholm Convention.

The Stockholm Convention also foresees identification and safe management of stockpiles containing or consisting of POPs. Waste containing, consisting of or contaminated with POPs should be disposed of in such a way that the POP content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed so that it does not exhibit POPs characteristics. Where this does not represent the environmentally preferable option or where the POP content is low, waste can be otherwise disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. Disposal operations that may lead to recovery or re-use of POPs are explicitly forbidden. With regard to shipment of wastes, relevant international rules, standards and guidelines, such as the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, are to be taken into account.

Table 1: Overview on POPs regulated at international level (the new POPs added to the Stockholm Convention since 2009 are highlighted in grey)

Substance	CAS	Listed in Stockholm Convention	Listed in the UNECE Protocol on POPs	Listed in the EU POPs Regulation
Intentionally produced POPs				
Aldrin	309-00-2	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Chlordane	57-74-9	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Chlordecone	143-50-0	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Dieldrin	60-57-1	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Endosulfan	959-98-8 33213-65-9 115-29-7	Annex A	No	Yes
Endrin	72-20-8	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Heptachlor	76-44-8	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)	36355-01-8	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) (including its isomers)	25637-99-4 3194-55-6 134237-50-6 134237-51-7 134237-52-8	Annex A	No	Yes
Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether	36483-60-0; 68928-80-3; and others	Annex A	Yes	Yes Yes
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	118-74-1	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane*	319-84-6; 608-73-1	Annex A	Yes: Hexachlorocyclohexanes (HCH; CAS: 608-73-1[9]), including lindane (CAS: 58-89-9)	Yes (all isomers including gamma HCH found in lindane)
Beta hexachlorocyclohexane*	319-85-7	Annex A		
Lindane*	58-89-9	Annex A		
Mirex	2385-85-5	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Pentachlorobenzene	608-93-5	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Pentachlorophenol (PCP)	87-86-5 and others	Annex A	No	Yes – added with the 2019 recast
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	1336-36-3 and others	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and	40088-47-9;	Annex A	Yes	Yes

[9] This CAS No. covers the isomer mixture of alpha, beta, gamma, delta and epsilon HCH.

Substance	CAS	Listed in Stockholm Convention	Listed in the UNECE Protocol on POPs	Listed in the EU POPs Regulation
pentabromodiphenyl ether	32534-81-9; and others			Yes
Toxaphene	8001-35-2	Annex A	Yes	Yes
DDT	50-29-3	Annex B	Yes	Yes
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS)	1763-23-1; 307-35-7, and others	Annex B	Yes	Yes
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds	335-67-1	Annex A	No	Yes – added April 2020
SCCPs – short chain chlorinated paraffins	85535-84-8; and others	Annex A	Yes	Yes
HCBD – hexachlorobutadiene	87-68-3	Annex A	Yes	Yes
PCN –polychlorinated naphthalenes	70776-03-3 and others	Annex A	Yes	Yes
Bis(pentabromophenyl)ether, also known as Decabromodiphenyl ether (c-decaBDE)	1163-19-5	Annex A	No	Yes – added with the 2019 recast
Dicofol	115-32-2	Annex A	No	Yes – added June 2020
Unintentionally produced POPs				
Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD)	1746-01-6	Annex C	Yes	Yes
Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF)	1746-01-6	Annex C	Yes	
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	118-74-1	Annex C	Yes	Yes
Pentachlorobenzene	608-93-5	Annex C	Yes	Yes – added with the 2019 recast
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	1336-36-3 and others	Annex C	Yes	Yes
PCN – polychlorinated napthalenes	70776-03-3 and others	Annex C	Yes	Yes – added with the 2019 recast
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	207-08-9 and others	No	Yes	Yes
HCBD – hexachlorobutadiene	87-68-3	Annex C	Yes	Yes – added with the 2019 recast

* Lindane, Alpha- and Beta hexachlorocyclohexane, as well as Chlordecone and Hexabromobiphenyl are new POPs under the Stockholm Convention but have already been covered under the POPs Protocol and the POPs Regulation.

4. PURPOSE OF THE UNION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (UIP) ON POPS

The Stockholm Convention lays down an obligation for all Parties, to develop and endeavour to implement a plan for the implementation of their obligations under the Stockholm Convention. For the Union, this obligation is also implemented in Article 9 of the POPs Regulation. The Commission therefore developed (in 2007) an Implementation Plan on POPs, which also covers the substances that fall under the POPs Protocol[10]. This plan has subsequently been updated several times as the Stockholm Convention, the POPs Protocol and EU law have evolved.

[10] SEC (2007) 341

The overall purpose of the UIP is not only to fulfill legal obligations, but also to take stock of actions taken and to lay down a strategy and action plan for further Union measures related to POPs included in the Stockholm Convention and/or in the UNECE Protocol on POPs.

The UIP therefore aims to:

- review the existing Union measures related to POPs;
- assess their efficiency and sufficiency in meeting the obligations of the Stockholm Convention;
- identify needs for further Union measures;
- establish a plan for implementing the further measures;
- identify and strengthen links and potential synergies between POPs management and other environmental policies and other policy fields; and
- increase awareness on POPs and their control measures.

5. SUMMARY OF THE UNION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The fourth Union Implementation Plan is laid down in the Commission Staff Working Document accompanying this report. The review and update of the third Implementation Plan addresses the changes included within the recast, in the POPs Regulation, the inclusion of new persistent organic pollutants in the Stockholm Convention and the technical and legislative progress made in the area.

The introduction provides an overview of the international legislative framework in which the POPs Regulation operates, including a summary of the UNECE Protocol on POPs and the Stockholm Convention.

Chapter 2 presents the status quo of the EU's execution of its obligations as a Party to the above-mentioned international frameworks. It describes the relevant EU legislation put in place as well as the financial instruments that support implementation.

Notably, this includes new sections of the UIP providing detailed descriptions of the POPs Regulation. As part of the POPs Regulation, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) gets a number of tasks to support the European Commission, amongst others in the work to identify new candidate POPs. This alteration of the Regulation more closely aligns processes under the POPs Regulation with the related chemicals legislation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), i.e. Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Furthermore, ECHA has an obligation to provide additional information on the ECHA website[11], including notification of the preparation of a proposal for the listing of a new substance and an eight-week consultation window for any interested parties, allowing greater transparency and input for industry, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and research bodies into the provision of data on candidate POPs.

The POPs Regulation also modifies the obligation on Member States reporting. The annual and triannual reporting to the Commission on progress against the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 under Article 12 is replaced by Article 13 of the POPs Regulation, which requires Member States to draw up a report detailing progress against the objectives of the POPs Regulation and to make it publicly available. The Member States are required to give the Commission and ECHA access to the information contained in the reports.

[11] https://echa.europa.eu/understanding-pops

Chapter 2 further includes additional information on Union legislation covering soil and contaminated land, which was missing in previous versions of the UIP and CIP. This includes details on the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC), the Fertilising Products Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 and the thematic strategy for soil protection.

Chapter 3 provides an overall assessment of POPs in the Union, regarding their production, use and placing on the market as well as with regard to existing stockpiles and the contamination of waste streams. This chapter is mainly based on reports and implementation plans prepared by the Member States.

This includes detailed new sections covering in particular:

- The brominated flame-retardant decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE), which was widely used in the Union in plastics and in textiles used within soft-furnishing applications before a REACH restriction on the use of decaBDE came into force in March 2019. In May 2017, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided to list decaBDE in Annex A. The UIP reports that peak use of decaBDE in the Union was 75,000 tonnes in 2000, with a full phase-out achieved by 2019. Given the lifespan of treated articles, decaBDE can be expected to still impact waste streams for several years to come.

- The perfluorinated surfactant perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) its salts and PFOA related-compounds. PFOA is the second per- and poly-fluorinated alkyl substance (PFAS) listed in the annex to the Stockholm Convention after perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA has been used extensively in the Union across a very wide range of applications as a water, oil and stain repellent, and also as an intermediate in the manufacture of fluoropolymers. PFOA was added to the Stockholm Convention in 2019 with a number of exemptions. The management of PFOA and waste contaminated with PFOA represents a significant challenge for the Union over the next decade and beyond.

- The pesticide pentachlorophenol (PCP), which has been previously used as a wood preservative, primarily within industrial settings such as electricity transmission lines, and railway sleepers. PCP, its salts and esters were added to Annex A to the Stockholm Convention in May 2015. Use of PCP within the Union has been restricted since 1991 and was further restricted under REACH in 2008. While no use of PCP for wood treatment has occurred in the Union for many years, the lifespan of treated timbers can be up to 50 years, potentially creating issues for final management of waste wood.

- The pesticide dicofol, which was used as a replacement for DDT for control of mites and other pests for a variety of crops such as fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, cotton and tea. Dicofol was added to the Stockholm Convention in May 2019. Within the Union, use of dicofol decreased from 317 tonnes per annum in 2000 to 32 tonnes per annum in 2009. The use of dicofol was no longer permitted in the Union after 2010. Dicofol was also added to the Directive on Environmental Quality Standards in 2013 (2013/39/EU). Limited legacy issues are expected (beyond sites of former use), though contamination of imported crops may present an area for further control.

Chapter 3 also includes updates on the work towards the final phase-out and destruction (or irreversible transformation) of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) used as heat-transfer fluids within di-electric equipment. A survey conducted in 2017 showed that most Member States made substantive progress towards elimination from use of equipment containing PCBs. The

POPs Regulation includes the target set under the Stockholm Convention for phase-out of PCBs by 2025.

Chapter 3 further details work undertaken to reassess the POPs criteria for highly mobile substances, with the possibility of developing new supplementary criteria to the bioaccumulation criterion.

Chapters 4 and 5 provide an in-depth analysis of each individual obligation of the Stockholm Convention affecting the Union's treatment of POPs. Subsequent to this analysis, the UIP identifies 31 actions to improve implementation of the Union's obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

Chapters 3 and 4 demonstrate that the use of the substances listed in the Stockholm Convention or the POPs Protocol and regulated by the POPs Regulation before 2008 (the old POPs) has been progressively phased-out. Remaining uses of old POPs are only in articles that were produced and placed on the market before the entry into force of the POPs Regulation and as standards for research purposes. Both remaining uses are covered by general exemptions granted in the Stockholm Convention and by the POPs Regulation.

The POPs newly listed in the Stockholm Convention or the POPs Protocol between 2009 and 2017 were subsequently added to the POPs Regulation. POPs added to the Stockholm Convention in May 2019 were either already long since phased-out within the Union (dicofol) or subject to further controls under REACH (PFOA, its salts and related-compounds), and were added to the POPs Regulation in 2020.

For some POPs, in particular brominated flame-retardants (PBDEs and HBCDD) and perfluorinated chemicals (PFOA, its salts and related-compounds), use had continued until more recently, meaning that waste containing these substances may present a challenge for the Union and Member States for some years to come. Furthermore, waste containing POPs (e.g. obsolete pesticides or contaminated equipment) has been imported into some Member States for the purpose of its disposal and elimination. These imports have been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and contribute to the overall reduction and sound management of POPs globally.

In a few Member States, there are still stockpiles of obsolete pesticides which contain POP substances and for which production, use and placing on the market are now strictly forbidden under the POPs Regulation. Those stockpiles and other waste that consists of or is contaminated by POPs require adequate management to ensure environmentally sound disposal, including the specification and revision of appropriate limit values and waste treatment operations. To that effect, the Commission is currently preparing a proposal for amending Annexes IV and V to the POPs Regulation.

The survey of Member States conducted in 2017 for remaining in-use stocks of PCBs within heat-transfer fluids for di-electric equipment highlighted that, against an assumed stock in 1990, less than 10% remained. However, for a small number of Member States, remaining stocks in use were much higher at around 50% of the 1990 baseline. The Stockholm Convention provides for a phase-out of the use of PCBs in equipment by 2025, and requires Parties to ensure environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCBs by 2028.

Chapters 6 and 7 provide additional information on implementation of other obligations than those directly linked with chemicals that are listed. They demonstrate that the exchange of information on technical matters amongst Member States and with third countries is still a challenge and should be improved in order to better support the implementation of the POPs Regulation.

Furthermore, a public consultation was held on the latest draft version of the UIP in the autumn of 2019. Feedback from the respondents highlighted concerns from both the general public and experts. The respondents in particular highlighted a lack of visibility of ongoing activities on POPs at the Member State and Union level (including how they could input) and a lack of communication tailored to the correct stakeholder groups on what the key concerns and issues are surrounding POPs. The general public respondents in particular highlighted their greatest concerns with information on obsolete pesticides and contamination of food.

Communication with the public and key stakeholders forms the focus of one of the 31 actions to improve the implementation of the Union's obligations.

The Union and the Member States provide considerable technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention by developing countries through various instruments.

6. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

In the Union, legal measures regarding production, placing on the market and use of POPs, and those addressing the management of waste that consists of or contains POPs, are sufficiently comprehensive to meet the obligations of the Convention and the POPs Protocol.

Significant progress towards the elimination of POPs has been achieved. Production and use of all POP substances is prohibited with some minor exemptions. A main challenge for the Union is to eliminate POPs from the waste cycle and remaining stockpiles as these still present a major emission source. The biggest challenges currently concern brominated POPs previously used as flame retardants (PBDEs and HBCDD), perfluorinated chemicals (PFOA, its salts and related-compounds), management of obsolete pesticides and final phase-out of PCBs from di-electric equipment to meet the 2025 target set in the POPs Regulation.

In light of the obligations stemming from the Stockholm Convention and taking into account the situation in the Union, the implementation plan outlines 31 actions that are needed to meet the obligations. Five actions are new and address in particular the newly listed chemicals. Eight actions are continuous (ongoing) actions and 16 actions were already listed in the previous implementation plan and are still ongoing since they have not yet been completed or continue to remain relevant.

The release of POPs due to unintentional production remains one of the most important issues to be tackled in the Union. Several actions are thus dedicated to the development of corresponding measures with the goal to achieve a further reduction of emissions of POP substances. Prevention of the formation of unintentional POPs through the development of processes and technologies that avoid their formation should mainly be addressed in the area of industrial production but also cover domestic sources such as diffuse incineration sources. There is still a need for additional research and technological development in this area.

Inventories of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) containing equipment, as well as action plans for their collection and disposal were compiled by all Member States. Information about current amounts of PCB-containing equipment demonstrates that good progress has been made by many Member States; however, some Member States still have challenges to overcome, and further efforts are required to meet the objective under the Stockholm Convention of a phase-out of the use of PCB by 2025.

The use of brominated POPs as flame-retardants, in particular PBDEs and HBCDD has been widespread in the Union, but use of PBDEs and HBCDD is now prohibited under the POPs Regulation, with phase-out completed some years ago. However, the lifespan of treated

articles presents a challenge for the management of waste materials containing these substances. Good progress has been made in the development of techniques for the identification and separation of these within waste streams, including guidance from the Secretariat. However, continued efforts are needed to help tackle the issues presented by brominated POPs in the waste stream. Furthermore, while treated plastics are managed under a defined waste stream under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive 2012/19/EU[12], treated textiles will enter municipal waste streams, where there is potentially a lower awareness of the issue.

There is limited on-going production of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS) in the Union. The use of PFOS in the metal plating industry is the only remaining source for PFOS releases from intended use of the substance. Alternatives and substitutes have already been investigated for this use, which need to be implemented to completely phase-out the use of PFOS.

Use of PFOA across a range of different applications has been widespread across the Union, with likely significant challenges for waste and potential for emission. Furthermore, the UIP identifies that, while PFOS and PFOA have been listed under the Stockholm Convention and the POPs Regulation, further work on other PFAS compounds is ongoing at international level, including the nomination by Norway of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) to the Stockholm Convention, as well as at Union level. Therefore, actions to address PFAS in the Union and globally are included in the Union Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability[13].

Finally, responses to the public consultation on the draft UIP highlighted challenges in communication and engagement. An ongoing action exists for the Commission and Member States to evaluate the need for and the added value of a concerted action – coordinated information campaigns at Union level – in the field of POPs, taking into consideration the obligation of Member States to disseminate environmental information on POPs pursuant to Directive 2003/4/EC[14]. Dissemination of POPs information has already been enhanced through the development of the ECHA website on POPs and the creation of the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring (IPCheM). However, further review is needed on what kind of dissemination is needed to help interested parties find information more easily, particularly for ongoing activities on POPs.

[12] Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38)

[13] COM(2020) 667 final

[14] Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC (OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, p. 26)