

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

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Subject: Online regional preparatory meetings for the online segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention

Dear Mr. Alonso,

I refer to the letter from the International Chrysotile Association (ICA) dated 12 May 2021. We thank you for the interest in participating as an observer in the online regional preparatory meetings for the online segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

The regional preparatory meetings are informal meetings organized by the Secretariat under the guidance of the Parties in each region, through their representatives in the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. The rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties do not therefore apply to these meetings, although it remains the prerogative of the Parties in the region to apply some of the rules during the meeting. The programme of the meeting as well as the matter of the participation of observers during the meeting are also the prerogative of the Parties in the region. As the Secretariat advised your organization by email on 14 April 2021, the members of the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions from the Eastern European region have determined that the regional preparatory meeting (11-12 May 2021) would be restricted to Government representatives that are a Party to at least one of the conventions and representatives from the regional centres in the region. As was also explained to your organization, this decision can be explained by the fact that the matters that are expected to be considered during the online segment of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention are some elections, the interim programme of work and budget for 2022, and the date and venue of the face-to-face segment of the meeting. All other items on the provisional agenda for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and in particular the consideration of recommendations by the Chemical Review Committee to amend Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, are expected to be considered during the face-to-face segment of the meeting, which will be preceded by a second set of regional preparatory meetings covering such matters.

Mr. Emiliano Alonso
Chairman
International Chrysotile Association

Regarding the other regional preparatory meetings, I bring to your kind attention that the regional preparatory meeting for the African region (5-6 May 2021) was open in part to observers invited by the region. With respect to the regional preparatory meetings for the Asia and Pacific region (8-9 June 2021) and the GRULAC region (31 May-1 June 2021), please note that the members of the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions from the Asia and Pacific and GRULAC regions have determined that the meetings will be closed to observers beyond the respective Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres from those regions.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to ICA for its continued interest in the work of the Rotterdam Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Rolph Payet
Executive Secretary