

Annex X

**DECISION 2003/10 ON ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON PERSISTENT
ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

The Executive Body,

Noting that the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) entered into force on 23 October 2003,

Recalling the requirements of the Parties to the Protocol on POPs to meet their obligations under articles 10 and 14, and annexes I, II and III,

1. Establishes a task force, under the leadership of a Party or Parties to the Protocol on POPs, as identified in the annual work-plan, to address the technical needs of the reviews and reassessments required by the Protocol: The lead country or countries will assume the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for designating its chair(s), for communications with participating experts and observers, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the work-plan;

2. Decides that the Task Force will carry out the tasks specified for it in the work-plan adopted annually by the Executive Body and will report thereon to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

3. Also decides that the Task Force will be composed of experts from the Parties to the Convention. Each Party will nominate a national focal point and notify his/her name to the secretariat. The meetings of the Task Force will be open to individuals designated as authorized representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, who may participate as observers. The chair(s) may also invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force to attend a meeting as observers. If invited by the chair(s), observers may participate in the discussions of the Task Force;

4. Furthermore decides that the functions of the Task Force will be to:

(a) Plan and conduct the technical work necessary for the review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the obligations set out in the Protocol on POPs as foreseen in its article 10, paragraph 3, and prepare a technical review for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(b) Plan and conduct the technical work necessary for the use reassessments, re-evaluations and reviews foreseen under the Protocol, in particular those scheduled in annexes I, II and III, and prepare technical reviews thereon for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(c) Prepare technical reviews on dossiers of new substances proposed by Parties for inclusion into annexes I, II or III, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Protocol and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Executive Body decision 1998/2, and present relevant documentation on the proposals to the Working Group on Strategies and Review; and

(d) Carry out such other tasks related to the Protocol as the Executive Body may assign to it in the annual work-plan;

5. Decides that technical documents related to dossiers of new substances to be considered at a meeting of the Task Force shall be distributed by the secretariat to the focal point nominated by each Party to the Convention at least 60 days in advance of the meeting. Where this has not occurred, the report of the meeting will indicate that the relevant documents were not provided in sufficient time for consideration, unless the Task Force decides otherwise by consensus;

6. Also decides that, at the end of each meeting, the Task Force will approve those parts of its report that constitutes the key elements of its deliberations relating to the tasks assigned to it by the Executive Body. The report will be distributed by the secretariat to the focal points nominated by the Parties to the Convention and to the observers and experts who were present at the meeting;

7. Furthermore decides that technical reports prepared by the Task Force for the Working Group on Strategies and Review will reflect the full range of views expressed during its meetings.