

Share Responsibility



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Asbestos and the Rotterdam Convention

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Structure of the presentation

Part 1 - The Rotterdam Convention

Part 2 - The Status of Chrysotile Asbestos in the Convention



Part 1- The Rotterdam Convention

Objectives

- **To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use**

Meeting the Objectives

How?

- Provides an early warning of potentially hazardous chemicals
- Provides the basis for decisions on future imports of chemicals (PIC procedure)
- Helps to enforce those import decisions

Scope of the Convention

Applies to

- Chemicals *banned or severely restricted* to protect human health or the environment
- *Severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF)* - causing problems under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition

Key Provisions

- **PIC procedure** - Provides for a national decision making process on import of hazardous chemicals in Annex III and attempts to ensure compliance with these decisions by exporting Parties
- **Information exchange** - the exchange of information on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals

Part 2: The Status of Chrysotile Asbestos in the Convention





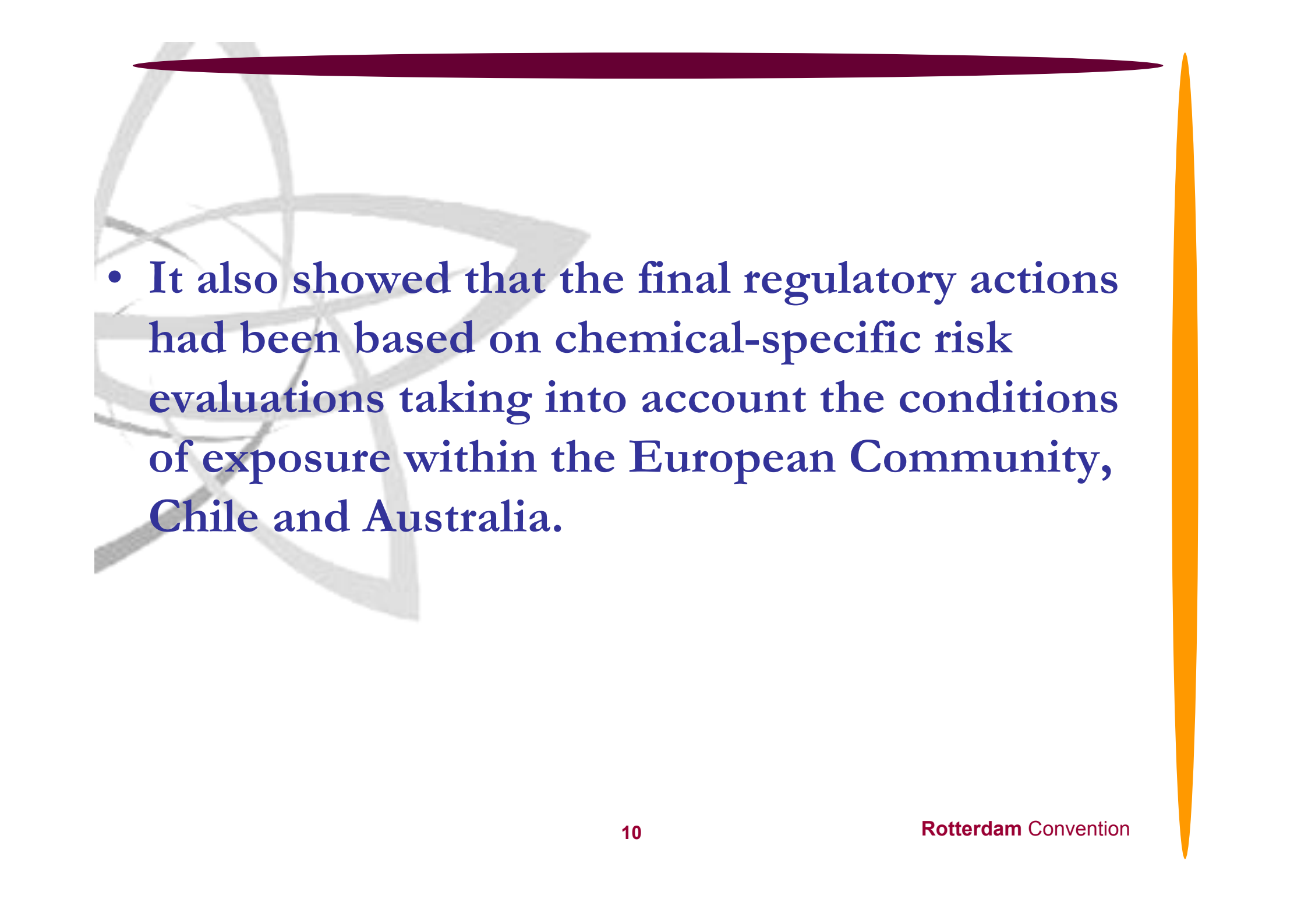
CRC 1-Notifications of Final Regulatory Action:

- **Australia**
- **Chile**
- **European Community**

Reasons for the FRAs

The CRC established that:

- The final regulatory actions had been taken on the basis of risk evaluations based on a review of scientific data.
- The data had been generated in accordance with scientifically recognized methods, and data reviews had been in accordance with generally recognized scientific principles and procedures.

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- It also showed that the final regulatory actions had been based on chemical-specific risk evaluations taking into account the conditions of exposure within the European Community, Chile and Australia.

CRC-1 Decision:

- The Committee concluded that the final regulatory actions met the information requirements of Annex I and the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention , hence the recommendation for the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III of the Convention in the industrial chemicals category.

Conference of the Parties (COP-3)

- The Conference of the Parties was not able to reach consensus on whether to list chrysotile asbestos; however,
- *Encouraged* Parties that have taken an FRA on chrysotile asbestos to inform other Parties of those decisions using the information exchange provisions laid down in Article 14.

Conference of the Parties (COP-4)

- The Conference of the Parties was not able to reach consensus on whether to list chrysotile asbestos;
- *Encouraged* Parties to make use of all available information to assist others make informed decisions regarding the management of chrysotile asbestos using the information exchange provisions laid down in Article 14.

Conference of the Parties (COP 5)

- The President proposed that, as it had not proved possible to reach consensus on the matter, the decision should be postponed to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to allow further discussion and information exchange to take place.

Implications of listing chemicals into Annex III of the Convention:

- Listing chemicals into Annex III is not a recommendation for Parties to BAN chemicals under the scope of the Convention;
- Listing does not hamper trade in Annex III chemicals;

- Listing is basically for information exchange, so that Parties can have the opportunity to choose to trade in chemicals that they know how to manage safely, as a way of protecting human health and the environment;
- According to Article 14, Exporters of Chrysotile asbestos are **encouraged** to share information on the general management and on precautionary measures, nature of risks and relevant safety advice;

Obligations of Parties regarding Annex III chemicals

Import response shall consist of either:

- a final decision
- an interim response

Decision

- to consent to import
- not to consent to import
- to consent subject to specified conditions



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