



**BASEL CONVENTION**



**UN**  
**environment**

United Nations  
Environment Programme

## BASEL CONVENTION

**Secretariat of the Basel Convention**

United Nations Environment Programme

International Environment House 1, 11-13, Chemin des Anémones, CH 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 8271 | Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 8098 | E-mail: [brs@brsmeas.org](mailto:brs@brsmeas.org)

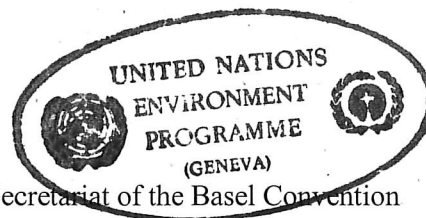
*CMK*

### COMMUNICATION

#### **APPLICATION FORM FOR THE PLACEMENT OR REMOVAL OF WASTES ON ANNEXES VIII AND IX (additional information)**

On 8 June 2018, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention communicated to all Parties a form for the placement or removal of wastes on Annexes VIII and IX of the Basel Convention transmitted by the government of Norway.

The Secretariat hereby informs all focal points that, due to an oversight, information in addition to the form was not communicated on 8 June 2018. This information is attached to the present Communication and placed on the website of the Basel Convention at:  
<http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Communications/tabid/1596/Default.aspx>



Secretariat of the Basel Convention  
Geneva, 13 June 2018

To: Focal Points of Parties to the Basel Convention

cc: Competent Authorities of Parties to the Basel Convention  
Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva  
Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

## SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR PROPOSED PLACEMENT

The amount of plastic marine litter in oceans and seas is growing, to the detriment of ecosystems, biodiversity and potentially human health, and causes widespread concern. At the same time, valuable material that could be brought back into the economy is lost, once littered. Plastic makes up 80-85% of the total number of marine litter items, measured through beach counts.

There is considerable international trade in plastic waste. The greatest burden of plastic waste entering the sea is likely to arise where waste collection systems are ineffective or even non-existent. Developing countries in particular may face challenges in managing the rapidly growing volume of plastic waste. Developed countries may face challenges if they have not developed sufficient capacity to dispose of plastic waste and rely on the continued availability of recycling capacity in other States.

In accordance with the rules of the Convention, Norway proposes to amend Annexes II and IX of the Convention. The amendments are proposed in order to increase the effectiveness of the Convention as regards plastic wastes, and especially plastic waste that lead to marine pollution.

We believe the proposed changes will lead to less marine plastic litter, increased traceability, more control, and less illegal dumping of plastic waste.

We propose to add a new entry to Annex II. This entry could get the code Y48, and should cover "Plastic waste: Waste and scrap from plastic and mixed plastic materials and mixtures of waste containing plastics, including microplastic beads". Norway will revert in more details to this amendment at a later stage within the relevant deadline for such an amendment.

By explicitly including plastic waste in the scope of the Basel Convention, these waste streams can be controlled, and mismanagement of plastic waste avoided.

In order to provide clarity on the regulation of wastes containing plastics, Norway furthermore proposes to delete entry B3010 Solid Plastic Waste from Annex IX. This entry is often used to ship plastic wastes as "green" waste.

Plastics is persistent, and often has toxic and other harmful impacts. Due to its persistency, the impacts of plastic litter are growing as each year more plastic waste accumulates in the oceans. Plastic residues are now found in many marine species and therefore enter the food chain. In addition to harming the environment and potentially human health, plastic marine litter damages activities such as tourism, fisheries and shipping.

Although many plastic waste streams are non-hazardous waste, they require special consideration. Plastic wastes that are not treated in an environmentally sound manner may lead to marine pollution. Recycling plastic wastes requires high competences as well as high environmental responsibility. It is a challenge for the producers of recycled plastic material to ensure that the material is of high quality and non-toxic. Further, plastic wastes may contain POPs and the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes will also contribute towards meeting the goals of the Stockholm Convention.

It is underlined that this proposed amendment to Annex IX does not change the extent to which waste covered by entry B3010 in Annex IX is, or is not, considered hazardous waste, ref Article 1 paragraph 1 (a).

The proposals described above may be further considered by a group of experts should the OEWG-11 so decide.