



# Introduction to work of OECD PFC Steering Group

[www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc)

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# Background

- Concern about persistence, toxicity, and bioaccumulative potential of LCPFCs
- Prompted OECD to undertake action in early 2000, aiming to collect more reliable data on the production and use of PFCs
- Establishment of PFC Steering Group in 2004 to support these activities
- In 2009 ICCM2 adopted resultion II/5 for management of PFCs: to « consider development of ... approaches to reduce emissions and the content ... in products ... and work towards global elimination where ... feasible »
- OECD PFC work contributes to this mandate
- Main tools: information gathering and exchange

# Scope of Work of OECD PFC Steering Group

- Distinction between long-chain perfluorinated compounds (LC PFCs) and short-chain perfluorinated compounds (SC PFCs), based on the toxicity and bioaccumulation differences between LC PFCs and SC PFCs.
- "Long-chain perfluorinated compounds" refers to:
  - Perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCA) carbon chain lengths C8 and higher, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA);
  - Perfluoroalkyl sulfonates (PFAS) with carbon chain lengths C6 and higher, including perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS); and
  - Precursors of these substances that may be produced or present in products.
- OECD PFC Steering Group looks at a broad range of PFCs, including PFOS, and including alternatives to PFOS

# Key activities

- PFC Web Portal: [www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc)
- Webinars and side-events on specific themes
  - Oct. 2010 « Recent PFC related activities »
  - 2, 8/9 March 2011 « 2009 PFC Survey »
  - Side-events at POPs COP (lunch time 28 April) and OEWG (August 2011)
- PFC Surveys on production and use of PFCs and their releases to the environment (2004, 2006, 2009)

# Global PFC Group

- Need to establish a global group, given importance of countries outside OECD region in production and use of PFCs
- UNEP and OECD to serve as secretariat to « Global PFC Group »
- Open and informal group that operates through conference calls
- Efforts to include developing countries in the Group will be undertaken in coming weeks

Thank you!

# OECD Portal on Perfluorinated Chemicals

[www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc](http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc)

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