

Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Conventions)

Key features

Type of organisation: Secretariats of conventions

Charter/Constitution:

- Basel Convention, www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/text/BaselConventionText-e.pdf
- Rotterdam Convention, www.pic.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1048/language/en-US/Default.aspx
- Stockholm Convention, <http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/2232/Default.aspx>

Membership:

- Nature: governments
- Number: 186 parties (Basel Convention); 159 parties (Rotterdam Convention); 181 parties (Stockholm Convention)

Year of establishment: 1989 (Basel Convention); 1998 (Rotterdam Convention); 2001 (Stockholm Convention)

Headquarters: Geneva (Switzerland), Rome (Italy, co-location of Rotterdam Convention secretariat)

Country offices: 14 Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres; 16 Stockholm Convention Regional and Sub-regional Centres

Secretariat staff: 69 (2017)

Total budget: US\$9,634,869 for the Basel Convention (2018-2019); US\$8,239,100 for the Rotterdam Convention (2018-2019); and US\$11,582,220 for the Stockholm Convention (2018-2019)

Type of activity: Policy dialogue, data collection and analysis, information exchange, development of legal instruments

Sectors of activity: Environment, hazardous wastes, hazardous chemicals, persistent organic pollutants

Websites: www.basel.int; www.pic.int; <http://chm.pops.int>

Members

The Basel Convention has currently 186 parties: 185 countries and the European Union.

The Rotterdam Convention has currently 159 parties: 158 countries and the European Union.

The Stockholm Convention has currently 181 parties: 180 countries and the European Union.

Observers

Observers can be States not Parties to the Conventions, IGOs, NGOs, as well as – in the case of the Basel Convention – industry and academia, which are qualified in matters covered by the relevant Convention and admitted as observers. Meetings of the conventions' bodies are normally open to observers.

Mandate
The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes. The objective of the Rotterdam Convention is to promote sound use and shared responsibility in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.

IRC processes taking place within the Secretariats of the BRS Conventions

Exchange of information and experiences	Systematically
Data Collection	Systematically
Research and policy analysis	Systematically
Discussion of good regulatory practices	Systematically
Development of rules, standards or good practices	Systematically
Negotiation of international agreements	Systematically
Enforcement: imposition of sanctions	Never
Dispute settlement	Never
Crisis management	Never

Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)	√	1
Legally binding decisions		
Recommendations	√	67 adopted in 2017
Political declarations	√	10
Model treaties or law	√	1
Production of technical standards		
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	150

Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	UNEP, FAO, IMO, WHO, INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization), WCO, ITU, UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), ILO (International Labour Office), OECD, IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals), OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), GEF (Global Environment Facility), UNDP, WTO/OMC, Bamako Convention, Waigani Convention, UNECE
MoU or other agreements	√ 15	
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√ 1	
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√ 25	
Exchange information	√ 25	

BRS Conventions history

The Basel Convention was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad. The Convention entered into force in 1992. The Rotterdam Convention was adopted on 10 September 1998 by the UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, as response to the potential risks posed by hazardous chemicals and pesticides. The Convention entered into force on 24 February 2004. The Stockholm Convention was adopted on 23 May 2001 by the UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries, in Stockholm, Sweden, as response to the increasing threats that persistent organic pollutants pose to human health and the environment. The convention entered into force on 17 May 2004.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>