

# National reporting

## Mandate

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Parties are required to transmit, through the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, to the Conference of the Parties, before the end of each calendar year, a report on the previous calendar year, containing information listed under paragraph 3 of Article 13.

## Frequency

Parties are required to transmit their national reports to the Secretariat annually.

## Contents

Paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention mandates Parties to transmit their national reports to the Secretariat containing the following information:

- (a) competent authorities and focal points that have been designated by them pursuant to Article 5;
- (b) transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes in which they have been involved, including:
  - (i) the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported, their category, characteristics, destination, any transit country and disposal method as stated on the response to notification;
  - (ii) the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes imported, their category, characteristics, origin, and disposal methods;

- (iii) disposal which did not proceed as intended;
- (iv) efforts to achieve a reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes or other wastes subject to transboundary movement;
- (c) the measures adopted by them in implementation of this Convention;
- (d) available qualified statistics which have been compiled by them on the effects on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes;
- (e) bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements entered into pursuant to Article 11 of this Convention;
- (f) accidents occurring during the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes and on the measures undertaken to deal with them;
- (g) disposal options operated within the area of their national jurisdiction;
- (h) measures undertaken for development of technologies for the reduction and/or elimination of production of hazardous wastes and other wastes; and
- (i) such other matters as the Conference of the Parties shall deem relevant.

## Format

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting (December 2002) adopted a format – revised questionnaire on ‘transmission of information’ and a manual to further facilitate national reporting by Parties. The manual is available in all six United Nations languages.

## Status of reporting

As at 15/05/08:

- 92 Parties reported for the year 1999.
- 102 Parties reported for the year 2000.
- 108 Parties reported for the year 2001.
- 98 Parties reported for the year 2002.
- 104 Parties reported for the year 2003.
- 101 Parties reported for the year 2004.
- 94 Parties reported for the year 2005.

(Complete listings could be found at <http://www.basel.int/natreporting/index.html>)

Currently, Parties are transmitting their reports for the year 2006 and so far, 70 Parties have transmitted their reports to the Secretariat.

## Process

In September of each year, the Secretariat posts pre-filled questionnaires on its website (<http://www.basel.int/natreporting/index.html>) and sends a letter to parties by e-mail requesting them to transmit their completed questionnaire, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention. In the absence of an e-mail address, hard copies of the letters are sent with the questionnaires. The Secretariat sends a first reminder in January every year and, if a response is still not forthcoming, a second reminder is sent in the May to those Parties that did not meet the deadline. The interval between the two reminders is approximately six to eight weeks. The Secretariat generally concludes the collection process by August following the expiration of the deadline but, to make the compilations as comprehensive as possible, takes into account the data reported by Parties until September.

## The on-line reporting database of the Basel Convention

The on-line reporting database of the Basel Convention, developed by the Secretariat, provides access to data and information contained in the national reports. The purpose of the on-line reporting database is to efficiently manage, process and retrieve data and information contained in the national reports transmitted by Parties, annually, to the Secretariat. It is accessible to Parties and others through the Convention website (<http://www.basel.int/natreporting/index.html>). The reporting database of the Basel Convention, which is the basis for its online version, was designed and developed, for the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

Currently, the database provides access to data and information transmitted by Parties, for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

## Measures taken to facilitate further reporting by Parties

- (a) The format and contents of the questionnaire was simplified and streamlined as mandated by decision V/14 of COP5, which was adopted by decision VI/27 of COP6.

- (b) A Manual is available in all six United Nations languages, to assist Parties in completing their questionnaires, which was also adopted by decision VI/27 of COP6.
- (c) Pre-filled questionnaires, prepared by the Secretariat are posted on the Convention's website: <http://www.basel.int/natreporting/index.html>, which is a password protected section of the website.
- (d) Several workshops have been organized by the Secretariat with the assistance of the Basel Convention regional Centres to address issues concerning lack of inventories on hazardous wastes and to provide training to Parties that are in need of assistance to meet their reporting obligations.

## Quality control

The Secretariat carries out 'quality control' on each of the national reports transmitted by Parties to it, to ensure that the information and data transmitted by Parties is correct, complete and comparable, to the extent possible.



## Dissemination of information

The following on-line documents, which are available on the Basel Convention website, are compiled by the Secretariat based on the national reports it receives from Parties.

Compilation Part I: contains information on wastes controlled for the purpose of transboundary movements; restrictions on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes; control procedures for the transboundary movements of wastes; reduction and /or elimination of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes; reduction of the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes subject to transboundary movements; effects on human health and the environment; bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements; disposal and recovery facilities and; sources of technical and financial assistance.

Compilation Part II: Includes summary and graphic representation of the data on generation and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes; information on disposals, which did not proceed as intended; and accidents occurring during the transboundary movements and disposal.

Country fact sheets: The purpose of the country fact sheets is to provide access to the much needed information on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes in a concise manner to decision makers and others, thus facilitating the effective implementation of the Basel Convention. These fact sheets could also be used as a tool to identify what further immediate actions are needed towards more effective implementation of the Convention.

The contents of the country fact sheets are mostly same as the contents of Compilation Part I but the information contained in these fact sheets is more current as these fact sheets are updated and approved periodically by Parties. Each country fact sheet also lists the concerned Party's contact address for the competent authority and the focal point, as well as status of ratification/acceptance of the Amendment to the Basel Convention.

Basel Convention figures can also be read about in the following publications;" Vital Waste Graphics" and "Vital Waste Graphics 2", which can be viewed on [www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)



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