2/4/04.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONSULTATION ON POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

held at the O.E.C.D. on 3rd October, 1972

1. The Consultation Meeting, having been informed of the work of the Sector Group on the Unintended Occurrence of Chemicals in the Environment and the imminence of its proposals for concerted action, unanimously recommended that because of their persistence and toxicity PCBs should not be used in circumstances which could result in their escape to the environment, and urged that all Member countries take appropriate action as soon as possible. Consequently the Consultation Meeting unanimously stated that it was desirable to establish a common policy framework throughout the OECD membership regarding the acceptable uses of PCBs under specific conditions thus avoiding post hoc need to harmonise disparate regulations in different countries.

2. The Consultation Meeting recommended in particular that control of PCBs be exercised at source (i.e. manufacturer or import sources) as opposed to alternative measures dealing with a variety of manufactured products containing PCBs in varying amounts, and that this control should be applied to exports as well as to domestic sales. This would not exclude Member countries conducting "spot checks" on products as they deemed appropriate.

3. The Consultation Meeting recognized that there might be a danger of stockholding pending the enactment of PCB regulations and recommended that Member countries be attentive to this problem.

4. In making these recommendations the Consultation Meeting drew attention to the possible hazard of introducing PCB substitutes until evidence exists that such substitutes will pose no long term hazard to the environment.

5. The Consultation Meeting requested that the above agreed statement be forwarded to the Council of the OECD and that the Council take note of this statement and agree to urge national authorities to give prompt attention to the proposals for concerted action presently under consideration by the Sector Group on the Unintended Occurrence of Chemicals in the Environment. The proposals should be submitted to the Council as a Draft Recommendation before the end of 1972, and the Environment Committee is requested to take appropriate steps to make this possible.

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