ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS: PROPOSALS FOR CONCERTED ACTION

1. At its meeting on 24th-26th November 1972, the Sector Group on Unintended Occurrence of Chemicals in the Environment considered draft proposals for concerted action regarding PCBs, as outlined in NR/ENV/72.51. The Group agreed the text in the attached document, paragraph 14 of which contains a proposal for action by the Environment Committee and Council.

2. It should be noted that these proposals are in conformity with the conclusions of the Consultation meeting on PCBs held on 3rd October 1972, where it was unanimously agreed that PCBs should not be used in circumstances which could result in their escape to the environment. Consequently it was desirable to establish a common policy framework throughout the OECD membership regarding the acceptable uses of PCBs under specified conditions.

3. When examining the conclusions of the Consultation meeting the OECD Council requested the Environment Committee to take appropriate measures in order that the Sector Group's proposals be submitted to the Council for consideration before the end of 1972 if possible. At its 6th session on 8th-10th November 1972, the Environment Committee noted the Council's request and agreed that once the proposals had been finalised by the Sector Group they should be sent to the Environment Committee for comment within 15 days after which, should no major criticisms be made thereon, the proposals would be submitted to the OECD Council.

ACTION REQUIRED: Members of the Environment Committee are invited to comment in writing on the attached document before 13th December, after which date the proposals therein will be submitted in an appropriate form to the OECD Council.

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