

Minor Treaty Action

Introduction

- 5.1 Minor treaty actions are generally technical amendments to existing treaties which do not impact significantly on the national interest.
- 5.2 Minor treaty actions are presented to the Committee with a one-page explanatory statement and are listed on the Committee's website. The Committee has the discretion to formally inquire into these treaty actions or indicate its acceptance of them without a formal inquiry and report.

Amendment to Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

- 5.3 The proposed minor treaty action contains the Amendment to Annex III of the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* (the Rotterdam Convention).
- 5.4 The Rotterdam Convention establishes a list of very dangerous pesticides and industrial chemicals and provides for an internationally binding mechanism to control the use and transport of these chemicals.
- 5.5 Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention contains the list of chemicals for which an importer requires the prior consent of the government of the country into which the chemical is being imported before the importation can take place.

- 5.6 The treaty action involves the addition of the chemical methamidophos to Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention.
- 5.7 Methamidophos is an organophosphate pesticide used in rice and potato cropping in China and South America. It is a nerve toxin that removes the ability of muscles to relax.
- 5.8 The Committee determined not to hold a formal inquiry into these amendments, and agreed that binding treaty action may be taken.

The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP

Chair

2 May 2016