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**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND
THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**OECD Network of National Competent Authorities Fighting Illegal International Trade
of Pesticides**

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE RAS

2ND MEETING OF THE OECD NETWORK ON ILLEGAL TRADE OF PESTICIDES (ONIP)

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The ONIP Rapid Alert System has been in use since the end of 2012. The ONIP agreed that after a year's use the system should be reviewed (see agenda item 3; document [ENV/JM/PEST/ONIP\(2014\)6](#)) and any proposals for changes to the system be considered. This document contains some general proposals for such changes.

Action required: ***The ONIP is invited to consider the general proposals made in this document and whether they, or other changes that the ONIP may suggest during the meeting, are required to improve the RAS at this stage.***

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE RAS

Introduction

29 notifications from four (EU) countries have been made via the ONIP Rapid Alert System from its inception (November 2012) until the end of April 2014. Further details of the use are included in the document [ENV/JM/PEST/ONIP\(2014\)6](#) (see agenda item 3). This document makes some general proposals for adapting the RAS that the ONIP may wish to consider. The ONIP is also encouraged to suggest other changes that could improve the useability of the RAS.

General Proposals

1. Is the level of detail currently required for notifications too great? Should RAS notifications occur at two “levels” - “preliminary” and “full?” The former would be a brief summary of the current notification form and would be posted as soon as a suspect shipment is identified, the latter being either a full notification (extended from the current version, including more detailed follow up actions) if the suspect shipment is confirmed as illegal, or a form stating that the shipment was in fact in compliance. Such a system would make use of the proposals for a third category in the RAS (see draft revised RAS manual [ENV/JM/PEST/ONIP\(2014\)1](#)).
2. Alternatively, if this is deemed an unnecessary complication to the current system, should a separate follow-up to a notification form be developed anyway so that outcomes (whether shipments were in fact illegal, longer term follow-up actions etc) can be recorded in a systematic way, in accordance with the original idea behind the proposed new third category for the RAS? Documenting cases where the initial suspicion turned out to be unfounded would be important as a check on the scale of the international illegal trade problem; in this case, notifications based on suspicions that are later shown to be unfounded should be deleted from the RAS, and in cases where illegality was proven such a form could also be used to capture “Right-holder contacted” in the event of trademark or patent infringements.
3. Steps need to be taken to improve exchanges between Member countries over suspect shipments in the RAS, given that questions posed in the system more commonly than not remain unanswered. For example, confirming the existence of declared consignees in the declared country of destination to the country in which the suspect shipment is located should be the obligation of each Member country that receives a preliminary notification, in order to anticipate attempts to divert the shipment.
4. ONIP may wish to consider how existing national reporting could be incorporated into the RAS database on historical cases.