

Rolph Payet  
Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam  
and Stockholm Conventions  
UNEP/IEH 1, 11-13, Chemin de Anemones  
CH 119 Chatelaine  
Geneva, Switzerland

Date: 26 June 2016

**Subject: BC-12/19 Comments of the EU and its Member States on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group 2016-2017**

Dear Mr. Payet,

With reference to your letter of 16 June 2016, subject “Invitations related to the decisions taken at the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-10) and an invitation related to decision BC-12/19 on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2016-2017”, the EU and its Member States are pleased to submit their comments on experiences with regard to the arrangements for that meeting.

The EU and its Member States consider the arrangements for OEWG-10 efficient and effective. We have annexed that submission as attachment to this letter.

For your convenience a digital copy of the submission has been sent to contact point mentioned in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Viera Šimkovicová

EU Presidency, Chair WPIEI Basel

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## **COMMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

### **EXPERIENCES GAINED WITH REGARD TO THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP**

Decision BC-12/19 on the work programme and operations of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2016-2017 the Conference of the Parties invited parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, within two months of the end of the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-10), comments on experiences gained with regard to the arrangements of that meeting.

Following to this decision the European Union and its Member States have the honour of submitting their views and experiences regarding the arrangements of the OEWG-10.

The EU and its Member States are of the opinion that the arrangements for OEWG-10 proved efficient and effective. We would like to highlight the substantive work in contact groups where the evident progress was made and compromises were reached. We also recognize that about two days of plenary sessions were sufficient.

The EU and its Member States support the approach that had already been taken for the ninth meeting of OEWG, which involved a four-day meeting with two days of plenary sessions and simultaneous interpretation in plenary sessions for two days only.

26 June 2016