



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/412/2004

29 March 2004

ENGLISH, FRENCH and SPANISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A TECHNICAL MEETING OF NATIONAL
AUTHORITIES ON PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSFERS REGIME IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: CUSTOMS
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
6 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2004**

1. On behalf of the Government of Argentina and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Director-General wishes to invite States Parties to nominate representatives of their National Authorities and customs organisations to attend a technical meeting of National Authorities on customs-related aspects of the transfers regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 6 to 8 September 2004.
2. How customs services handle scheduled chemicals has a practical impact on the implementation of the transfers regime of the Convention, and can play a key role in diminishing and eventually eliminating discrepancies between the amounts of scheduled chemicals declared by exporting States Parties and those declared by the importing States Parties in respect of the same shipments. This meeting will follow up on those held in Rivas-Vaciamadrid in 2002 and in Barcelona in 2003. Its purpose is two-fold:
 - a) to enhance the understanding of what impact the practices now followed by customs services have on how the transfers regime is followed; and
 - b) to explore ways in which these practices might further improve the effectiveness of that regime.
3. The meeting will be conducted as a forum in which the following matters can be discussed:
 - (a) the role customs services can play in the effective implementation of the Convention’s transfers regime;
 - (b) how the tracking of shipments of scheduled chemicals can be improved;



- (c) what norms are applicable, and what sanctions can be imposed in the case of violations of the transfers regime; and
 - (d) customs terminology: scope of concepts and definitions.
- 4. The meeting includes a visit to the Free Port and Free Zone of Buenos Aires, and a tabletop exercise. The other items on the programme, which is still provisional, are given in Annex 1 to this Note.
- 5. International organisations involved in the monitoring of chemicals and in the work of free zones and free ports will also be invited to participate.
- 6. The meeting will be conducted in Spanish, but English and French simultaneous interpretation will be provided.
- 7. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants. It will also consider requests to sponsor representatives of national customs organisations upon the recommendation of the relevant National Authorities. Each nomination should specify whether sponsorship is a condition of the nominee’s participation. For sponsored participants, the Secretariat will cover the costs of travel, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. In cases where the Secretariat arranges accommodation for sponsored participants, it will also cover the costs of that accommodation. Sponsored participants who do not intend to use the accommodation provided by the Secretariat are requested to indicate that to the Secretariat as soon as possible, so that it does not incur hotel cancellation fees. The daily subsistence allowance will remain unchanged for those participants who opt to make their own accommodation arrangements. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. It will purchase tickets and send them to participants. Participants will be allowed to purchase tickets locally only if this leads to further savings for the Secretariat and if the Secretariat authorises it.
- 8. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than 5 September 2004 and to depart no later than 9 September 2004. The Secretariat’s approval is required for any changes to the arrival and departure dates of sponsored participants. It will not cover expenses unrelated to the meeting or that result from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Sponsored participants shall bear all costs resulting from changes they make, including cancellations, once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets. Participants who are not sponsored are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, although the Secretariat can, if requested, arrange accommodation at reduced rates.
- 9. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to Argentina.

10. Interested National Authorities, and other organisations referred to in paragraph 5 above, are invited to complete the nomination form that is included as Annex 2 to this Note, making sure in particular to provide all the contact details it requests so that the Secretariat can get in touch directly with nominees. Completed forms should be addressed to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by fax to +31 (0)70 306 3535, or by e-mail to ipb@opcw.org. All nominations must be received by the Secretariat **no later than 9 July 2004**. Please be advised that participants must present an OPCW acceptance letter in order to register.

11. Additional information about the meeting may be obtained from the Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, which can be contacted as specified in paragraph 10 above. The contact person is Ms Maria Elena Bruno-Pousadela, who can be reached at +31 (0)70 416 3825.

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Provisional Programme
Annex 2: Nomination Form

Annex 1

**AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A TECHNICAL MEETING OF NATIONAL
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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Follow-up to the technical meeting on the application of the transfers regime of the CWC ¹ , held in Barcelona, Spain, from 15 to 17 September 2003
The CWC and the requirements for declarations of national aggregate data with respect to scheduled chemicals An update on statistics Decisions by the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council Pending matters
Transfers of scheduled chemicals in 2003
National implementing legislation, including sanctions
Expected impact of the Conference decision “Guidelines Regarding Declarations of Aggregate National Data for Schedule 2 Chemical Production, Processing, Consumption, Import and Export and Schedule 3 Import and Export” (C-7/DEC 14, dated 10 October 2002) Other matters related to import and export controls
National Authorities and transfer controls: the Argentine experience
The role of national customs services in the implementation of the CWC: territory and national norms, the customs enclave, imports and exports (scope of concepts and definitions), dealing with containers, other applicable norms, customs-imposed sanctions and their relationship to the CWC
The role of industry associations
Tracking and identifying chemical transfers
Chemical-identification systems: international and regional perspectives
Follow-up actions
Visit to the Free Port and Free Zone of Buenos Aires Tabletop exercise

¹ The Chemical Weapons Convention

Annex 2

**TECHNICAL MEETING OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES
ON PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANSFERS REGIME
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: CUSTOMS
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
6 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2004**

NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the completed form by **9 July 2004** to:
The Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands
Fax: +31 (0)70 306 3535; e-mail: ipb@opcw.org.
Please **TYPE or USE BLOCK LETTERS**.

1. Family name of nominee	
2. First name(s)	
3. Date of birth	Day _____ Month _____ Year _____
4. Citizenship	
5. Gender*	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Passport no.	
7. Date of issue	Day _____ Month _____ Year _____
8. Expiry date	Day _____ Month _____ Year _____
9. Place of issue	
10. Areas of expertise	_____ _____
11. Employer	_____ _____
12. Contact address (Please do not give a post-office box number.)	Street _____ Number _____ Post code _____ City _____ Country _____
13. E-mail address	
14. Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____

15. Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home _____ Work _____
16. Has nominee previously attended a meeting of this kind?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If so, when and where?
17. Interpretation services required*	English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/>
18. Is sponsorship a condition of participation?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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* Please tick the appropriate box.