

**Report by Ambassador Robert Mikulak
Facilitator for Chemical Industry and Other Article VI Issues**

The Hague, October 7, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman for giving me the floor.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General,

As Ambassador Azzarello just informed this Council, the industry cluster convened an informal discussion on October 6, during which delegations heard informative briefings from three different branches within the Secretariat's Verification Division.

In the first briefing, the Data Analytics, Reporting & Quality Control Branch presented a status update about implementation of the Secure Information Exchange (SIX) Project, which the Secretariat has made available to States Parties since July 1st of this year. The Secretariat reported that some State Parties have already started to use the SIX system to quickly and securely transmit declarations to the Secretariat, as well as to receive documents from the Secretariat. A practical example highlighted the value of the SIX system in facilitating the resolution of questions raised during a recent industry inspection.

In yesterday's industry cluster delegations also received a briefing from the Industry Verification Branch that highlighted the Secretariat's recent study into ways to potentially reduce the frequency of discrepancies in the number of plants declared in States Parties' industry declarations. As we heard during the briefing, in 2013, 41% of all industry inspections reported a discrepancy in the number of plants declared, which underscores the importance for the Secretariat and States Parties to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday's final briefing was delivered by the Head of the Declaration Branch, who presented about the Secretariat's success in recent years in improving the timely submission of industry declarations. The briefing also highlighted the considerable increase over the last six years in the number of States Parties submitting declarations using the Electronic Declaration Tool for National

Authorities, or EDNA. Lastly, the briefing explained improvements made by the Secretariat over the last three years in reducing the number of States Parties with repeated transfer discrepancies, and proposed further actions by States Parties and the Secretariat to continue this progress.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to request this report to be considered as an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you,