



a toxics-free future

25 April, 2017

IPEN Intervention on Exemptions and Acceptable Purposes
Given by Mariann Lloyd-Smith

Thank you Mr President,

IPEN notes that the number of Parties registered for specific exemptions and acceptable purposes are very few. While this could be seen as a positive aspect indicating parties are moving away from POPs exemptions and using safer alternatives, alas this does not appear to be the case. NGOs are aware of POPs exports to countries who have not registered for exemptions and as IPEN product surveys have indicated far too many articles still contain POPs as constituents

We remind Parties that if they are relying on specific exemptions or acceptable purposes they must notify the secretariat but more importantly, we urge parties to take action to eliminate their reliance on specific exemptions and acceptable purposes and introduce safer alternatives to POPs as a priority.

As has been noted in Effectiveness Evaluation document “Failure to claim an exemption for a listed substance that is being utilized by a Party has the potential to constitute a large gap in the Convention’s information base, and represents non-compliance with the Convention.”

In regards to the interpretation of Article 4 paragraph 4: The five-year time period should begin on the initial date of entry into force of the COP's decision as the paragraph is in respect to a particular chemical, NOT a particular country. On the interpretation of Article 4 paragraph 7, the paragraph is clear; a specific exemption may be extended once for a period of five years by a decision of the COP only for the Party that requests it and finally, on the interpretation of Article 4 para 9 again the text is clear: When a specific exemption is no longer in effect for any Parties, no new registrations for the exemption may be made.