

Manual of European Environmental Policy

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This section is the text of the Manual as published in 2012. It is therefore important to note the following:

- The contents have not been updated since 2012 and no guarantee is given of the accuracy of the contents given potential subsequent developments.
- The sections include links to external websites (e.g. to legal texts). These links continue to work as long as those links are not broken by those websites.
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International conventions and cooperation: Resource use

Introduction

There are several International Conventions relevant to resource use and product policy given its broad coverage. Some relate to the beginning of the product cycle, particularly the use of resource inputs, while others cover issues of disposal of the product and/or its derived waste products at the end of its life.

The Conventions listed here are all addressed in more detail in other Chapters of this Manual. Therefore, only brief information is provided in this section. For further details on the Conventions and agreements listed below, please see the related chapters, to which links are given where applicable.

Resource inputs

There are several Conventions concerned with the emission of harmful gases to the atmosphere, which can result from the use of certain chemicals in products.

Convention for the protection of the ozone layer (Vienna Convention)

Place of signature	Vienna
Date of signature	22.03.1985
Date of entry into force	22.09.1988
Secretariat	UNEP Ozone Secretariat
Website	http://www.unep.org/ozone
Date of Council Decision on conclusion	14.10.1988
Date of entry into force in EC	15.01.1989
Reference of Council Decision	88/540/EEC

Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer (Montreal Protocol)

Place of signature	Montreal
Date of signature	16.09.1987
Date of entry into force	01.01.1989
Date of Council Decision on conclusion	14.10.1988
Date of entry into force for EC	16.03.1989
Reference of Council Decision	88/540/EEC

The [Vienna Convention](#) was the first global environmental treaty concerned with the atmosphere. Both the Vienna Convention and the associated Montreal Protocol relate to substances that deplete the ozone layer. Such substances are/were often used in the production of certain appliances and technologies and due to their harmful effects on the environment, and specifically the atmosphere, the use of many such substances is now restricted. This has synergies with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive [2002/96/EC](#), the complimentary Directive [2002/95/EC](#) on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) and the Directive [2006/66/EC](#) on Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Waste Accumulators.

Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution (CLRTAP)

Place of signature	Geneva
Date of signature	13.11.1979
Date of entry into force	16.03.1983
Secretariat	UN Economic Commission for Europe, Environment and Human Settlements Division
Website	http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap
Date of Council Decision on conclusion	11.06.1981
Date of entry into force for EC	16.03.1983
Reference of Council Decision	81/462/EEC

Protocol on heavy metals (Heavy Metals Protocol)

Place of signature	Aarhus
Date of signature	24.06.1998
Date of entry into force	29.12.2003
Date of Council Decision on conclusion	04.04.2001
Date of entry into force for EC	29.12.2003
Reference of Council Decision	2001/379/EC

Under the Convention, the Protocol on Heavy Metals is concerned with the emission of heavy metals to the environment, which can result from the use of [certain substances in products](#). The Protocol aims to reduce the emissions of heavy metals, particularly of cadmium, lead and mercury, which are liable to long-range transboundary atmospheric transport and threaten adverse effects on the wider environment and human health. The Protocol is enforced in EU legislation through the Council Decision 2001/379/EC, and has synergies with the WEEE Directive [2002/96/EC](#), the ROHS Directive [2002/95/EC](#) and the Batteries Directive [2006/66/EC](#).

Waste shipment

Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (Basel Convention)

Place of signature	Basel
Date of signature	22.3.1989
Date of entry into force	5.5.1992
Secretariat	Secretariat of the Basel Convention
Website	http://www.basel.int
Date of Council Decision on conclusion	1.2.1993
Date of entry into force in EC	8.5.1994
Reference of Council Decision	93/98/EEC (OJ L39 16.02.1993)
Decision approving the amendment laid down in Decision III/1	97/640/EC (OJ L272 04.10.1997)

The Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and

their Disposal (Basel Convention) and related Protocol and OECD Decision C(2001)107 final (as amended by C(2004)20) on the control of transboundary movements of wastes destined for recovery operations are relevant to resource use and product policy (see [International Cooperation and Conventions: Waste](#). These are concerned with the correct management of waste and hazardous waste when transported between countries. They are of particular relevance to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive [2002/96/EC](#), the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (ROHS) Directive [\(2002/95/EC\)](#) and the batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators Directive [\(2006/66/EC\)](#).