

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.93.91

16 March 1993

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>NETHERLANDS</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment (VROM/DGM)
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:
Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Twenty-nine
5. Title and number of pages of the notified document: Order Relating to Biphenyls and Diphenyl Oxides Containing Bromine, Law Governing Environmentally Harmful Substances (18 pages)
6. Description of content: The draft relates to diphenyls containing bromine, diphenyl oxides containing bromine, and products and preparations in which these are used. The draft is intended to prohibit to have in stock biphenyls containing bromine, diphenyl oxides containing bromine or products or preparations containing these substances or make the same available to third parties. The proposed ban does not apply to a particular class of applications, such as, for example, the application of conveyor belts and furniture fabrics as listed in the annex to this Order. On the basis of Article 4 of this Order, this group will be exempt until 1 January 1996.
Objective and rationale: The Dutch Government has set itself the objective of drastically reducing the amount of waste dumped, encouraging preventive measures and recycling and increasing the amount of waste incinerated in proportion to that dumped. The fact that the Netherlands capacity for dumping waste is so small means that the amount of waste incinerated will have to be increased substantially. The incineration of plastic which contains biphenyls and diphenyl oxides containing bromine is the very course of the potential risks. Incineration of this particular material produces brominated and chlorinated dibenzo-dioxins which present a hazard to both man and the environment. In the light of the above, it is important that these steps be taken in the interests of the national environment.
8. Relevant documents: Law governing Environmentally Hazardous Substances, Article 24.
9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: 9 May 1994
10. Final date for comments: 6 May 1993
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address of other body: