



Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Joint Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

19 November 2025 – Julien Hortonéda



Joint clearing-house mechanism



Background

- In 2012, the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions moved from three separate secretariats, with their own programmatic structure, into a single secretariat serving the three conventions.
- Each of the three conventions have different mandates for information exchange:
 - The Basel Convention does not have a specific mandate for a clearing-house mechanism, but has provisions for exchanging information in several articles, such as Article 13 on national reporting, or Article 4 on decision to import or export waste.



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Background (cont.)

- The Rotterdam Convention does not use the term “clearing-house mechanism”. However, its Article 14 provides for an obligation for Parties to facilitate the exchange of information, directly between Parties or through the Secretariat. The Convention also sets out obligations for Parties to transmit information to the Secretariat, such as under Article 5 on final regulatory actions, or under Article 10 on import responses.
- The Stockholm Convention, in its Article 9, states that “*each Party shall facilitate or undertake the exchange of information*”, and that “*the Secretariat shall serve as a clearing-house mechanism for information on persistent organic pollutants, including information provided by Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.*”



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Joint clearing-house mechanism



Background (cont.)

- To solve this challenge in terms of mandates, the Conference of the Parties of the three conventions requested the Secretariat to prepare a joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.
- Parties took note of the [joint clearing-house mechanism strategy](#) in 2017.
- This strategy outlines the joint clearing-house mechanism:
 - Mandates;
 - Definition and scope;
 - Mission;
 - Vision;
 - Goals;
 - Implementation approach;
 - Indicators.



Joint clearing-house mechanism



Strategy overview

- **Definition and scope:** It is defined as a *multi-stakeholder global mechanism* set up and operated by the Secretariat to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of relevant information and expertise.
- **Mission:** It shall promote, facilitate and undertake the identification, generation, collection, management, distribution and exchange of quality information and expertise to support Parties and other stakeholders in the implementation of the conventions.
- **Vision:** Provides updated and valued information and expertise for the effective implementation of the conventions. Information and expertise is provided dynamically and allowing a transparent, neutral, efficient and simple access, based on data, knowledge and experience at all levels.



Joint clearing-house mechanism



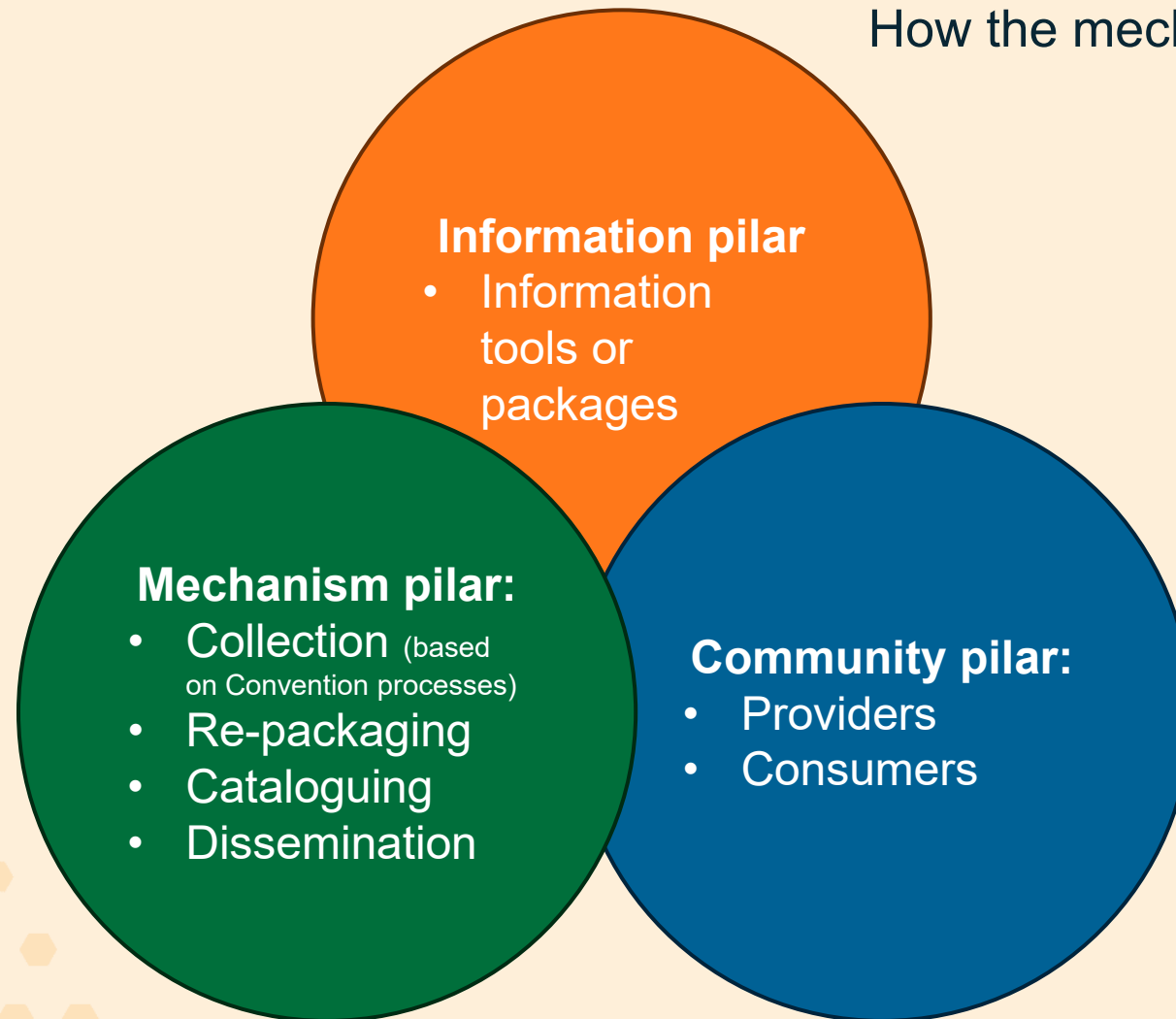
Strategy overview (cont.)

- **Goals:**
 - First goal: Enhancement of infrastructure and services to facilitate identification, collection, integration and exchange of information and the creation of a global knowledge base.
 - Second goal: Establishment of the joint clearing-house mechanism global network of information providers, users and institutions.
- **Implementation approach:** Every two years, at the meeting of at the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), the Secretariat:
 - reports on progress made in implementing the clearing-house mechanism; and
 - Propose for the consideration of the COPs, a clearing-house mechanism activities workplan. This workplan is based on identified information exchange needs of Parties.

Joint clearing-house mechanism



How the mechanism operates?





Joint clearing-house mechanism



Thank you!

For more information:

<https://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5382>

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InforMEA initiative: <https://www.informea.org>