



**Proposal
to p.3.6 agenda SAO
November meeting
2011**

**The ACAP activities on Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR)
(ACAP Chair to present).**

Background: In 2004 ACAP started a project on brominated flame retardants. The project was foreseen to comprise three phases: Phase I - Inventory of sources and identification of BFR alternatives and management strategies, Phase II– Identification of actions to reduce or eliminate priority sources and releases and Phase III– Implementation of pilot projects to reduce or eliminate BFR releases. The Phase I report was published in 2008 (should be attached) and gave recommendations of further work to reduce BFRs in the Arctic. Since 2008 ACAP has not been able to identify and agree on relevant actions to reduce or eliminate priority BFR sources and releases in the Arctic while PSI is not operated.

In its report to SAO May 2011 ACAP stated the following:

“The ACAP project steering group on brominated flame retardants (BFR PSG) has operated as an information exchange network in 2009 and 2010. The group has continued the search for phase II activities (identify projects to reduce emissions of BFRs in the Arctic).

*Waste management in smaller settlements in the Arctic has been identified as a possible topic for a phase II activity and the group has considered co-operation with other groups under ACAP on this. There has been preliminary contact with the project steering group on **Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (IHWMS)** and the **Indigenous Peoples Contaminants Action Program (IPCAP)** to encourage them to include BFRs in their scope of work and to identify possible projects for collaboration. Norway has been the lead country of the BFR group from 2004-2010 and has withdrawn from the leadership as of 2010. The future work on BFRs under ACAP is under consideration”.*



The adopted ACAP work plan for 2011- 2013 states “*Continue to seek possibilities to reduce brominated flame retardant (BFR) releases to the Arctic*”.

ACAP concluded at its meeting in September 2011 that much of the BFR problem stems from use of products containing BFRs and long-range transport from non-arctic regions and to eliminate BFRs in the Arctic would, in part, require more comprehensive legislative frameworks, including in regions outside the Arctic countries. In 2009 two brominated flame retardants of concern, pentabromodiphenylether and octabromodiphenylether, were included in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, thus becoming subject to global restrictions. ACAP recognizes that many remaining BFRs may be of emerging concern in the environment. For example, one such substance, HBCD, exhibits persistent organic pollutant properties and is already under consideration for global action under the Stockholm Convention, in accordance with Article 8, para 9 of that agreement.

Action: Based on the information on international work on elimination of BFR and the status of ACAPs work on BFR

-SAOs are asked to adopt a revised ACAP work plan without specific reference to activities to reduce brominated flame retardant releases to the Arctic (BFR PSG) - with no implication on other ongoing general work aiming at reducing the releasing and exposure to contaminants;

-SAOs may wish to consider any appropriate approach for the Arctic Countries to make use of relevant knowledge from the Arctic Council such as the Phase I report on BFR and recent AMAP-reports in upcoming negotiations under the Stockholm Convention and other relevant fora in order to address the emerging challenges of BFR in the Arctic.