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**Netherlands Institute
for
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Launch of European Monitoring Programme for DecaBDE

RIVO has launched an extensive programme, entitled "Deca-Monitor", which will monitor levels and trends of DecaBDE and other BDE congeners of recognized concern in the environment. DecaBDE is a flame retardant chemical used to increase certain plastics' and textiles' resistance to fire. DecaBDE has been found in sediment samples and occasionally in biological samples. The programme is funded by the bromine industry organization, Bromine Science and Environmental Forum (BSEF).

The programme responds to EU risk assessment conclusions of DecaBDE which did not identify an environmental risk from DecaBDE but which mandated an extensive monitoring programme to address concerns with respect to findings of low levels in the environment.

An earlier monitoring programme carried out by RIVO demonstrated that while findings were generally low, sampling close to some industrial sites reported higher levels. A voluntary industry programme to reduce industrial emissions of DecaBDE to the environment will work in parallel to "Deca-monitor", which will test whether such actions are having an effect on the DecaBDE trends in the environment.

Under the "Deca-Monitor" programme, monitoring will be carried out in sediment in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, France and Ireland and in sludge in the UK and the Netherlands. Bird eggs will also be monitored in the UK and the Norwegian Arctic. Deca-Monitor will report to EU Competent Authorities every two years over a 10-year period.

The following organizations are partners in "Deca-Monitor":

- Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (RIVO);
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (CEFAS), UK
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), UK;
- Norwegian Polar Institute.

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