

Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Faculty of Social Science
The Federmann School of Public Policy and Government

Regulation in an Era of Global Governance -
Israel's Chemicals Regulatory Regime Following the
Accession to the OECD

Final Research Paper for a Masters in Public Policy

Supervised by: Prof. David Levi-Faur

Submitted by: Rita Golstein-Galperin

I.D.: 306625088

7 October 2010

Abstract

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an international platform for policy discussions and the setting of “best practices”. Up until recently, it was comprised of 30 member countries, all of which are liberal democracies with open market economies. On May 16th 2007, the OECD Council invited Israel, alongside Chile, Slovenia, Estonia and Russia, to start negotiations on the terms of their accession. Israel's process of negotiations reached its peak on September 7th 2010, when it became the 33rd member country.

This 3 year long process, involved an in-depth analysis of Israel's legislation and policy in various fields. One of the major policy gaps between Israel's existing legislative framework and the OECD's requirements lies in the field of chemical regulation. Currently, Israel has no coherent and comprehensive regulatory regime governing the production, marketing, transportation and authorization of chemicals.

This research traces the process of Israel's accession to the OECD with respect to the establishment of a chemicals regulatory regime. It is expected that this policy lacuna is set to undergo a major change in order to comply with the OECD's set of core legal documents and requirements.

The theoretical framework, upon which this research is based, is policy change and policy transfer (Bennett & Howlett, 1992; Wolman, 1992; Dolowitz & Marsh, 2000). The specific context in the case under study is the growing role of international players in shaping national policies. It was previously recognized that the agents of change are not limited to government officials, and the industry can play a vital role in policy transfer.

Analysis of the initial stages of the agenda-setting process outlining the establishment of a chemicals regulatory regime is focused on the forces, considerations and expectations that shape the process of change in regulation. The interests and strategies of industrial groups are important determinants of policy outcomes. Moreover, since the industry ultimately bears the implementation cost of most environmental policies, it is crucial to assess the interests which