

Kyiv Declaration on the establishment of a POPs and Obsolete Pesticides Stockpile Programme for Central European and EECCA Countries for the environmentally sound management of unwanted stocks of POPs and other obsolete pesticides

Preamble

The 7th International HCH and Pesticides Forum was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, from 5 to 7 June 2003, at the National Agricultural University and was finalised at the Ukrainian Parliament, with the 150 participants. The Forum dealt with the continuing risk of damage to the environment and of harmful effects on human health caused by the environmentally unsound management of stocks of hazardous wastes, in particular obsolete pesticides and other unwanted persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and made strong efforts to work towards the establishment of a POPs and Obsolete Pesticides Stockpile Programme for Central European and EECCA Countries for the environmentally sound management of unwanted stocks of POPs and other obsolete pesticides.

On the first day of the forum a draft declaration has been distributed to all participants with the request for comments. At the end of the first day a special Committee consisting of representatives of AFIDE, BCRC in Bratislava, Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water, Crop Life, DANCEE (not permanently), Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, FAO, IHPA, Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology (former representative), UNEP Chemicals, UNIDO, US EPA (not permanently) all comments have been evaluated and the declaration was finalised for presentation in the Ukrainian Parliament.

The declaration was presented on the second day in the Ukrainian Parliament, discussed, and necessary amendments were included. Finally, the declaration was endorsed by all participants of the Round Table in the Ukrainian Parliament.

DECLARATION

7th INTERNATIONAL HCH AND PESTICIDES FORUM

KYIV, 5-7 JUNE 2003

KYIV DECLARATION

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF OBSOLETE PESTICIDES AND OTHER STOCKS OF UNWANTED PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs) FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECCA) COUNTRIES

We, the 150 participants (see Annex 1) of the 7th International HCH and Pesticides Forum,

Having met in Kyiv, Ukraine, from 5 to 7 June 2003;

Concerned about the continuing risk of damage to the environment and of harmful effects on human health caused by the environmentally unsound management of stocks of hazardous wastes, in particular obsolete pesticides and other unwanted persistent organic pollutants (POPs);

Having noted with grave concern that during the current ongoing transition period of Central European and EECCA Countries it has still not been possible to address the urgent and complex problem of deteriorating stocks of obsolete pesticides, in particular regarding the ownership of the wastes;

Committed to the principles of the Ministerial Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management adopted on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Basel Convention in December 1999;

Also committed to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);

Reaffirming Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which states that national authorities should endeavour to promote the internalisation of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without adversely affecting international trade and investment;

Reiterating the commitment to the goals of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2002;

Committed to the Challenges (Principles 15 and 16) and statements on Chemicals (Principles 54 and 55) of the Declaration from the Fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, 21-23 May 2003 in, that apply to the problems of obsolete pesticides;

Taking note of ongoing international developments with regard to the design and implementation of Programmes for the stepwise elimination of stocks of obsolete pesticides (with the African Stockpile Programme as an important reference) and the prevention of the build-up of new stocks;

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Recognising ongoing national activities and that a large number of Central Eastern and EECCA Countries have expressed their strong concern about the problem and stress the need for a joint approach;

Recognising the expression of broad European and international willingness, as stated in official support letters from 21 Western and Central European and EECCA Countries, as well as from 8 international organisations and a further appeal of 4 former European Ministers of Environment to all European Ministers of Environment in Europe, that concrete steps for a East-West partnership for a Programme of Actions on the elimination of obsolete pesticides in Central European and EECCA Countries have to be made urgently (see Annex 2);

Recognising the supportive letters from EU Commissioner and EU Director General Environment, expressing strong concern on the issue of obsolete pesticides and the recommendation to use available EU Funds such as Cohesion Funds (for the new EU member countries), ISPA and TACIS;

Call on all stakeholders, public or private, to assist Central European and EECCA Countries to eliminate stocks of unwanted hazardous wastes and obsolete pesticides and to establish effective measures to prevent the build-up of new stocks, including pesticide use reduction programme and implementation of Integrated Pest Management;

Undertake to actively support all efforts, applying the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to implement national or regional solutions to prevent accumulation of unwanted stocks of hazardous wastes, in particular of obsolete pesticides, and to manage and dispose of existing stocks of such wastes in an environmentally sound and cost effective way;

Recognise that, in order to enable Governments of Central European and EECCA Countries to put into place effective measures to prevent accumulation (including illegal imports) of stocks of hazardous wastes and obsolete pesticides and ensure their environmentally sound management, comprehensive national and regional plans need to be developed and implemented for which financial support should be guaranteed;

Further recognise that the United Nations system, also through the GEF mechanism, is uniquely positioned to provide the appropriate framework for implementing solutions and ensure the concrete and active involvement of other stakeholders, such as industry; and invite UNEP, UNDP, SBC, World Bank, FAO, UNIDO, WHO and EBRD to facilitate the development, implementation and monitoring of a Programme of Action;

Call on all countries of the region to ratify the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Convention;

Recommend that, consistent with the already strongly expressed broad European and international support, donors, including the EU Commission and the GEF, should be encouraged in their funding priorities and budgets, enabling support for the start up and later implementation of a Programme of Action on the elimination of obsolete pesticides in Central European and EECCA Countries;

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Recommend that a Working Group be established to develop a Programme of Action, to enable concerted actions in collaboration with governments, appropriate international organisations, international and regional development banks, and other stakeholders, including professional and public interest organisations and industry.

This Programme of Action should include, among others:

- Information on and reference to ongoing activities (such as GEF Enabling Activities, studies related to the EU-Acquis, FAO, UNEP and ACAP), to ensure optimal use of funds and resources and avoid duplication;
- Harmonised methodology for inventories and monitoring;
- Approach for priority setting and assessment of cost effectiveness;
- Ongoing review of existing and emerging technologies for POPs/obsolete pesticides destruction within the framework of existing and future waste management plans;
- Recommendations for the establishment of organisational infrastructure;
- Proposals for the appropriate use of financial mechanisms, such as existing EU and GEF funds;
- Assistance in establishment and implementation of coordination and communication structures;
- Specific programmes for public education and awareness raising, including measures to secure civil society support.

This Programme of Action should serve as a catalyst for the establishment and implementation of Programmes by the Governments of the Central European and EECCA Countries;

Recommend further that this working group should start its multilateral activities without delay using the International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA) as an interim platform;

Requesting the relevant international and governmental organisations, as the European Commission, relevant international organisations and bodies including UNEP, UNDP, SBC, World Bank, FAO, UNIDO, WHO and EBRD to sponsor this initiative;

Urge all stakeholders to cooperate on the basis of partnership and to provide advisory services, technical assistance and initial catalytic financial support for a prompt and effective initiation of the work of the working group;

Call on all Governments from the Western and Central European and EECCA Countries to ensure that the draft Programme of Action be put on the agenda of the forthcoming regional/subregional Ministerial Meetings.

The participants express their appreciation for the excellent organisation, facilities and hospitality, provided by the Government and Parliament of Ukraine.

Annexes:

- 1 List of major organisations/participants
- 2 Overview Support Declarations

Annex 1: List of major organisations/participants of the 7th International HCH and Pesticides Forum, 5 -7 of June 2003 at the National Agricultural University and at the Ukrainian Parliament in Kyiv

International organisations, agencies and NGOs;

AFIDE, AUDACE, BCRCs in Bratislava and Moscow, Crop Life, ECPA, FAO, GEF, IHPA, Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation, OSCE, PAN-UK, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Syngenta Foundation, UNEP Chemicals, UNEP-IETC, UNIDO

National organisations and NGOs;

ADEME (France), Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection, Armon, Arnika Association, AWHHE, Bakonyalja, Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water, DANCEE, Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, Georgian Ministry of Environment, Federal Environment Agency of Germany, German Technical Cooperation, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, IPELSKA, Latvian Ministry of Environment, Moldovian Ministry of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development, Moldovian Ministry of Agriculture, New South Wales Environmental Protection Agency (Australia), Russian Ministry of Agriculture, Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, Polish Ministry of Agriculture, Slovenian Ministry of Health, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Committee on Ecological Policy, Nature Resources Utilisation and Elimination of the Consequences of Chernobyl Catastrophe, Parliament of Ukraine, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Ministry of Agricultural Policy of Ukraine , USAID, USEPA,

Other participants;

United Nations Mission Interim Kosovo, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

and representatives of research institutes and the private sector from the mentioned countries and from Brazil, China and Pakistan.

Annex 2: Overview of Support Declarations

Ukraine:

Declaration Ukrainian Parliament
Cabinet of Ministers
Ministry of Agricultural Policy
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

International Organisations:

European Commission
European Parliament
FAO
GEF
ECPA/Crop Life
Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture
UNIDO
WHO

National Governments:

Minister of Environment, Albania
Minister of Nature Protection, Armenia
Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus
Minister of Consumer Interests, Health and Environment, Belgium
Minister of Environment and Water, Bulgaria
Minister of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, Croatia
Minister of Environment, Czech Republic
Minister for the Environment, Denmark
Minister of Environmental Protection and Reactor Safety, Germany
Swiss Agency for the Environment, Landscape and Forests
Minister for Environment and Agri-Environment, United Kingdom
Minister of Environment, Georgia
Minister of the Environment, Kyrgyzstan
Minister of the Environment, Latvia
Minister of Ecology, Construction and Territorial Development, Moldova
Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Mordovia, Russian Federation
Royal Ministry of Environment, Norway
Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland
Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection, Romania
Ministry of Agriculture, Russian Federation
Minister of Environment, Slovakia

Letter of four former Ministers of Environment

addressing to the 5th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” the need for official support for the establishment of an Obsolete Pesticides Stockpile Programme for Central European and EECCA Countries.