

Brandys nad Labem Declaration

Statement of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) and other Participating Organizations of the "Persistent Organic Pollutants and Waste and Chemical Policy," attending Brandys nad Labem (Czech Republic) May 5-7, 2004,

We also agreed in conjunction with the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Participating Organizations of IPEN including (but not limited to) those gathered at Brandys nad Labem:

* **We demand** the strengthening of the proposed new legislation for chemical control in the EU Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) without the interference of industry and high ranking politicians who are expressing more concern about the envisaged financial cost to industry than the health and well being of the community of Europe and its future generations.

* **We also demand** a phase out of the product Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) which is recognized as producing persistent pollutants from the first stages of its production, during its use and in its eventual disposal by either land filling or incineration.

We also declare, on this occasion, our renewed commitment to work jointly toward the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other persistent toxic substances from the world's environment.

* **Recognizing** the serious and long lasting injury to ecosystems and human health that POPs cause in communities that immediately surround their source locations, and also in far distant regions;

* **Cognizant of** growing scientific evidence and public awareness around the world concerning the harm that is caused by these toxic pollutants; and noting special concerns about their accumulation in food and in human body tissues;

* **Calling attention** to the precautionary principal approach which is affirmed in the Convention', referenced and indicated methods for determining best available techniques, and its procedures for evaluating any additional candidate POPs;

* **Noting** that, upon ratification and entry into force of the Convention, the world's governments will be committed to proceed toward bans on the production, generation and use of POPs, and to promote and require appropriate substitution with cleaner products, materials, processes and/or practices;

* **Noting** further that under the terms of the Convention, governments will also be committed to identifying obsolete stockpiles and wastes containing POPs, to requiring their proper and complete destruction (chemical transformation), and to promoting proper cleanup and remediation of soils and other environmental reservoirs that are significantly contaminated by these substances;

* **Calling attention** to the initial list of POPs whose releases the Convention aim is to eliminate them. These include *nine pesticides* Aldrin – Chlordane, Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), Heptachlor, Dieldrin, Endrin, Mirex, Toxaphene and Hexachlorobenzene (also an industrial chemical and unintended by product); *two industrial chemicals* – Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs – also an unintended by products) and Hexachlorobenzene (HCB); and *four by products* – Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs) and Dibenzofurans (PCDFs) as well as HCB and PCBs.

* **Understanding** that this initial list of POPs and by products is only a starting point, and that expedited expansion of the list is needed in order to incorporate into the Convention other persistent, toxic substances of global concern that harm ecosystems and human health and are widely distributed geographically and are bioaccumulative..

* **Reminding** donor governments, intergovernmental organisations, and international agencies of the commitments made to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition to provide them with financial and technical support to enable them to meet their obligations under the Convention making these resources available in an efficient and transparent manner;

* **Recognizing** that economic globalization encourages and promotes activities that can result in toxic chemical pollution; and that organized efforts to oppose polluting activities are often resisted by transnational corporate interests.

* **Recognizing** further that successful activity to implement the Convention and to eliminate POPs and other persistent toxic substances will require the participation of NGOs as effective stakeholders in joint activities involving governments, industry groups, international agencies, scientific centers, and others.

IPEN and other Participating Organizations at Brandys nad Labem hereby declare and affirm their common:

* **Commitment** to work for a world in which POPs and other persistent toxic chemical substances no longer pollute global environments, our food, our bodies, and compromise the well being of future generations;

* **Demand** that urgent action be taken to eliminate POPs and other persistent toxic substances, that action move forward now, without delay or deferment;

To accomplish this shared vision, IPEN's Participating Organizations at Brandys nad Labem affirm their intention to work to:

* **Phase-out and ban** the production and use of POPs, bioaccumulative substances, and other persistent substances of concern; and substitute with safer alternatives;

* **Identify, make secure, and properly destroy** obsolete stockpiles and wastes containing POPs by means that ensure complete destruction (i.e., chemical transformation), without the generation or release of toxic pollutants or otherwise causing injury to the health and the safety of workers and surrounding communities and without causing damage to the environment;

* **Support** the Polluter Pays Principle under which the original producer, exporting company/ country are responsible for the cleanup and destruction of obsolete POPs stockpiles, especially in developing countries;

* Support full public participation in the preparation and execution of the **National Implementation Plans of the Stockholm Convention.**

* **Halt** combustion and other environmentally inappropriate methods of treating wastes and contaminated soils and sediments;

* **Cleanup and remediate** contaminated sites and environmental reservoirs containing POPs;

* **Reduce and aim to eliminate** the generation of wastes, including municipal solid waste, medical waste, and hazardous waste; and encourage waste prevention, re-use and recycling;

* **Reduce and eliminate** the use of toxic chemical pesticides, and substitute lower impact methods of pest and vector control to achieve effective agricultural and public health practices that are environmentally sound;

* **Eliminate** toxic chemical residues in food, animal feed, and water;

* **Secure** opportunities for meaningful participation by public interest NGOs and other civil society organizations in programs at all levels associated with the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including enabling activities, demonstrative projects, monitoring activities, performance evaluation, and others;

* **Appropriately expand** the Stockholm Convention's initial list of POPs to incorporate others of concern;

* **Encourage** donor countries and agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention, and undertake related activities to eliminate POPs;

* **Extend** the Global Environmental Facilities (GEFs) new POPs focal area to also address other dangerous chemicals and to promote the inclusion of chemical safety to the projects;

* **Secure** the ratification of the Stockholm Convention by all countries and ratification also of other related conventions including the Aarhus Convention and the Aarhus Convention PRTR Protocol, the appropriate ILO conventions on chemical safety, the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent; the Basel Convention, together with its Ban Amendment forbidding export of wastes from OECD to non-OECD countries; and the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention on ocean dumping.

Agreed this 7th day of May, 2004, in conjunction with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, by the undersigned IPEN and other Participating Organizations at Brandys nad Labem (Czech Republic).

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Hlebarov, Ivaylo	For the Earth (Za zemiata)	Bulgaria
Hlobil, Petr	CEE Bankwatch Network	Czech Rep.
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