



Key messages of the 13th
International HCH & Pesticides
Forum, held in Zaragoza 3-6
November 2015, organized
by the International HCH &
Pesticides Association, the
Aragon Government and
SARGA



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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission (EC), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), US AID, NEFCO, the Global Environment Facility (The GEF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

History of the International HCH and Pesticides Forum

The first International HCH and Pesticides Forum took place in 1992 in Provincie Overijssel - Zwolle in The Netherlands. Since 1992 the Forum has been organised as a biannual meeting to create a platform for discussing the national and regional strategies, action plans and financial resources for elimination of obsolete pesticides. The 14th Forum will be organized in Astana, Kazakhstan in the second half of 2017.

About IHPA

The International HCH and Pesticides Forum is initiated by IHPA, the International HCH and Pesticides Association, an independent and non-political network of committed individuals that wants to draw international attention to the worldwide problems stemming from the production and use of HCH and other obsolete pesticides and its dangers for human health and the environment. Visit our website www.ihpa.info or contact IHPA, director John Vijgen at john.vijgen@ihpa.info and Chairman of the Board Bram de Borst at bram.deborst@ihpa.info for more information.



About the 13th International HCH and Pesticides Forum

The International HCH and Pesticides Forum represents a platform for discussion between stakeholders of all kinds, working on implementation of projects related to POPs, obsolete pesticides and hazardous chemical waste. It acts as a catalyst in the exchange of information for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and other chemicals related multilateral environmental agreements, and the environmentally sound management of pesticides, pesticide waste and other chemicals, and has today developed into an important event for national as well as international decision-makers and stakeholders

Its special focus is and has always been to contribute to the solution of the problems in the EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia) countries.



At the 13th Forum the results of the EU financed and FAO coordinated project “Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union” have been presented. This project is an important strategic study that has been implemented by IHPA on the assessment of legislation and waste management practices related to obsolete pesticides for the 12 EECCA countries.

A summarizing Roadmap dealing with the development of environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in the EECCA countries has been worked out.

The 13th Forum was organized in Zaragoza to draw international attention to the enormous environmental and financial problems in the region of Aragon (Spain) created by the former production of Lindane by Inquinosa and the legacies created by the wild dumping of huge quantities of HCH-waste in the area surrounding Sabiñánigo and the Gállego River.

The Forum agenda also included the dissemination of experiences made by Aragon authorities on solving of this problem and the transfer of these unique experiences to the countries of the EECCA region and other interested regions in the world with similar problems.



THE ZARAGOZA DECLARATION

endorsed November 5, 2015 by the participants of the
13th HCH and Pesticides Forum

The Participants at the 13th International HCH and Pesticides Forum representing governments, sponsors, donors, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private sector, civil society, media, universities and research centres, meeting in Zaragoza on 3-6 November 2015, expressed their gratitude to the Government of Aragon, SARGA and IHPA for its hospitality and generous contribution in organizing this Forum.



The participants recognized that the elimination of POP pesticides, POPs and associated waste is at the same time a local, national and transnational issue that threatens the environment, health, local economies and the sustainability of agricultural products, and that the importance and urgency require a multidisciplinary approach developed and supervised by Governments under the highest possible level and with the participation of all relevant institutions.

Specifically, the participants identified and concluded on three areas of further development,

1 Firstly, the Road Map developed under the EC-FAO partnership programme project “Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union (FAO/GCP/RER/040/EC)’ was endorsed as an efficient framework for building the necessary leadership and capacity for sound environmental management of hazardous waste in the EECCA region. The Road Map will prove its value during implementation, and reports of experiences will be made on the 14th Forum.

2 Secondly, being informed of the situation in Aragon, and visiting the HCH dump sites in Sabiñanigo and Sardas from the Lindane-plant of Inquinosa, and based on previous reports to the IHPA Forum, it is clear that mega-sites exist, where the contamination is so large and complex that no region and/or country alone can fund the necessary remediation. The Inquinosa facility and connected landfills in Aragon is such a mega-site (See under Consequences of the legacies created by the Inquinosa factory for the affected area of Sabiñanigo and more specifically Bailín and Sardas landfill and the former Inquinosa factory).

3 Thirdly, reviewing the inventories and calculation of the cost of eliminating POP pesticides, POPs and associated waste, it was noted that the total cost of clean-up of the known legacy sites is less than 0,1% of the 2014 GDP of the EECCA countries. Hence elimination of the legacy of POP pesticides, POPs and associated waste should be affordable in all EECCA countries given that the political awareness and leadership are present; and will prevent a further increase of the costs because of in-action.

Based on the above and on the discussion and recommendations from the Forum participants, the following declaration is brought forward:

Call upon all **National Governments** to take leadership in the elimination of POP pesticides, POPs and associated waste and

Understand and discuss the increasing negative socio-economic, environment and human health impacts of non-action and the associated damages and losses slowing down economic development

Strengthen environmental institutions on all levels, build capacity through training programs and ensure that existing capacities are maintained.

Strengthen the custom regulations and monitoring in order to avoid substandard and counterfeit products entering the countries

Allocate funding for awareness raising through media and education as well as to advance sustainable technologies for elimination of obsolete pesticides and associated wastes, contaminated soils and water in an environmentally sound manner (ref. Secretariat of the Basel Convention guideline)

Specifically for **POP mega-sites**, including HCH mega-sites,

Identify POP mega-sites, assess and control their risks to human health, the environment and the socio-economic development; prepare midterm containment and long term plans for remediation of POP mega-sites in dialogue with GEF and supported by international partners

Specifically for the Governments in the **EECCA region**,

Establish the elimination of POP pesticides, POPs and associated waste as a national priority and ensure intra-governmental cooperation, e.g. through an interdisciplinary project implementation approach.

Develop and implement the Road Map including the principles of environmental management, required policies and legal frameworks and their proper implementation and enforcement thereof and create the conditions for proper investments in destruction capacity.

Use the implementation of the Road Map to comply with the requirements for international financing, more specifically the requirements regarding implementation of environmental policies and legislation.

Facilitate the transboundary transport of hazardous waste, including customs procedures in alignment with the Basel Convention.

Calls upon the **European Union** to recognise that non-action has immediate and long-term negative consequences to the European Community and the European health, environment and economy as well as to the food safety of the European citizens, and specifically call upon

The European Parliament to

Acknowledge its major role in elimination of POP pesticides, POPs and associated waste for the benefit of the food safety of the European citizens and for the health, environment and economic development of the wider Europe

Recognise the results of the EC-FAO partnership programme project 'Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union (FAO/GCP /RER/040/EC)' as a basis for further regional technical assistance and encourage the European Commission to continue to support the EECCA countries.

Assist the Parliamentarians in the EECCA region in developing and implementing policies to eliminate POP pesticides, POPs and associates waste in an environmental sound manner



The European Commission to,

Establish a regional technical assistance programme for the elimination of POP Pesticides, POPs and associated waste supporting the Road Map activities in the countries in the EECCA region

Establish a dedicated facility for funding technical assistance to Governments who are responsible for the risk reduction and possible remediation of mega-sites in the wider Europe

Call upon the *International Organisations and International Financial Institutions* to

Replenish GEF funding in support for financing projects related to Stockholm Convention

Facilitate the Governments' action plans especially in implementing the Road Map in EECCA region

Assist countries in assessing the damages and losses in economic terms from obsolete pesticides, POPs and associates waste on public health and environment

Ensure short term and well as long term funding of necessary remediation of the threats from POP mega-sites

Specifically call upon *FAO* to,

Support the implementation the Road Map for the elimination of obsolete and POP pesticides and associated waste in the EECCA region.

Assist countries to prevent the entry of substandard and



counterfeit pesticides through the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, and raise awareness among all stakeholders of the importance of integrated pest management as part of sustainable agricultural production.

Specifically call upon *GEF and in cooperation with GEF agencies and other relevant partners* to,

To consider the funding of potential projects emerging from the 'framework of the Road Map' as per GEF pertaining rules and policies.

Explore possible means of support to establish a global inventory of POP mega-sites in preparation for assessing the global risk to human health and the environment.

To further encourage the development of partnership with private sector to help co-financing of GEF projects.

To further emphasise the role of concerned NGOs as key participants in implementation GEF funded projects.

Call upon the *Waste Sector* to

Continue to work on innovative and effective technologies for the environmental sound management

Support the process of building destruction capacity by participation in public private partnerships

Call upon *local NGOs and the civil society* to

Continue their large effort in creating political pressure and raise awareness of the importance to eliminate obsolete pesticides in the environment, food cycle and human bodies and to follow-up on Government policies and assist in their implementation in line with the Aarhus Convention



Consequences of the legacies created by the Inquinosa factory for the affected area of Sabiñánigo and more specifically Bailín and Sardas landfill and the former Inquinosa factory



Regarding the affected area of Sabiñánigo and more specifically Bailín and Sardas landfill and the former Inquinosa factory, no region and/or country alone can fund the necessary remediation that is why we:

Call upon the **Parliament and Government of Aragon** to fulfil the commitments made by all political groups in the documentary “Discovering Lindane” presented at the forum.

These commitments are:

1. TO ACHIEVE the decontamination of the area surrounding Sabiñánigo and the Gállego River as soon as possible and with the backing of all political groups,



- as well as by locating other points which may cause environmental or health-related problems.
2. TO PROVIDE the necessary means, on a technical, financial, and legal level, to undertake the decontamination tasks.
3. TO DESIGN a transparent communication, information and participation system which includes the involvement of institutions, researchers, specialist companies, NGOs and citizens
4. TO PROMOTE technological innovation as an indispensable tool for the decontamination of the affected area, in turn creating an opportunity for local development based on a sustainable and technologically pioneering industry.
5. TO FACILITATE the exchange of knowledge and the technological transfer of HCH and lindane decontamination actions carried out in Aragon so that this knowledge can be transferred to other regions with similar problems.
6. TO CARRY OUT a Public Health study which assesses the exposure of the general public, and those exposed in an occupational context, to the pollutants dumped in the Gállego river basin.
7. TO ESTABLISH mechanisms which allow for evaluation of the efficacy of the actions carried out and the public investments made.
8. TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION against the company INQUINOSA so that they cover the reparation costs.

Call upon **the National Administration of Spain**

9. TO RECOGNISE the seriousness of the problem and therefore provide the necessary financial support.
10. TO COMMIT, as a national environmental priority, to cleaning up lindane, HCH and other POPs in the Sabiñánigo area and the Gállego river basin.

Call upon *the European Commission*

11. TO SUPPORT, on an institutional level, the clean-up of lindane, HCH and other POPs in the Sabiñánigo area and the Gállego river watershed, and to provide the necessary funding.
12. WE REQUEST that, within the framework of H2020 funding, a specific financial line be included for research into this topic, as well as the allocation of more FEDER funds for the operation.

Call upon *the parties involved and corresponding administrations*

13. TO ESTABLISH ongoing cooperation to achieve a definitive solution to the problem of pollution caused by the Inquinosa factory in Aragon.
14. TO GUARANTEE and provide an alternative supply of clean and safe water to all of the people whose drinking water comes from the Gállego.

The 13th Forum recognised the effort of IHPA as an important contributor in building awareness in governments and civil society in the EECCA region, and urged IHPA to continue working towards the fulfilment of the objectives of Stockholm Convention and in bringing together scientists, industry and policy-makers to support the implementation of the Road Map and contribute to the remediation of the large and complex POP mega-sites starting with the Inquinosa site in Aragon.



Opening John Vijgen

Director IHPA

**Dear friends, colleagues and honourable Excellencies,
We are extremely happy to be here in the beautiful
capital of Aragon, Zaragoza with its warm-hearted
inhabitants.**

**Many people asked me why is an association like
the International HCH & Pesticides Association,
which is solely focussed on the problems of obsolete
pesticides in EECCA coming to Aragon?? What do
you want to do there?**



About 4 years ago the Aragon authorities approached IHPA to jointly address the issue of the terrible impact of the legacy of the Inquinosa factory by means of an EU-Life project and when I came here and visited the site, I was shocked about the extent of the problem, but also impressed by the dedication and the enormous specific know how that has been developed here over the last years and this know how is unique and needs to be spread all over the globe including the EECCA region. Also the high level of dedication in spite of a very bad economic situation to solve this issue inspired us to join forces!

The Inquinosa case is certainly one of the largest POPs legacies in Europe, and needs to be solved!

IHPA's view is perhaps different than others but we feel, and I speak on our own behalf that the disaster left behind by Inquinosa is also an opportunity!

Why?? The Location in Huesca brings the confrontation of old chemical industries, large number of jobs lost and talented people that have left the region at the one hand and a nature so splendid that you feel being in paradise at the other hand. Only a MASTERPLAN focussing on the complete conversion and clean-up of the contaminated land can be the target: the factory, the 2 landfills and the surroundings to be converted in a new green industrial area with intelligent industry creating a high added value for the region in and around Huesca. A proper socio-economic feasibility study at Huesca should lead to innovative green business investments on top of this former disaster.

For this moment, I leave further discussions to all experts and politicians that join their strengths to solve this issue. But we are ready to support Aragon in its battle to gain both moral and financial support in the EU parliament and from the EU Commission. I propose to get a special public session in the EU Parliament organized.

Because this is the focus of IHPA: to assist and support countries who have made a genuine commitment to eliminate obsolete pesticides and who are willing to allocate money and who will not rest before they have established the funding required for the elimination of their problem of obsolete pesticides. Over the past more than 25 years this has been our approach, even before the Stockholm convention was in place.

We are proud that we could contribute in such a sense to countries that show the good examples: we started in the Netherlands, followed by the Eastern part of Germany and the Basque country here in Spain. We developed a joint learning process with Poland and supported over the past more than 10 years our friends from Moldova. We asked for the commitment of the international community to contribute to the Kalush project in Ukraine and the Nubarashen project in Armenia, as we are requesting today commitment for the Inquinosa case. And there has been achieved a lot in more countries than mentioned.

We are proud but not satisfied. When we look at the global problem, the progress is clearly not sufficient. If we don't speed up it will take many decades to free our planet from obsolete pesticides. And if we lose momentum the elimination of obsolete pesticides will fade out. Therefore active countries should speed-up; inactive countries should follow the examples of the active countries and start action. Because delay is not without consequences: still more than one million tons of obsolete pesticides are



to be eliminated, the contaminants continue to spread, affecting soil and groundwater, wild life and crops. But there is also a growing impact on human health: effects on food quality, long term effects on health. It should scare us: how do obsolete pesticides contribute to increased cancer risks and decrease of human fertility? Why does it seem that we don't want to invest to know these answers?

And even for those who want to close their eyes for the impact on environment and human health we have an economic message. One day you will have to agree that the increased risks and effects, the damages and losses have to be restored and compensated and at that time at higher costs than today. Penny-wise will turn out to be pound-foolish. This is our message as IHPA and we hope that you take this message and spread this message after this forum.

Looking back at the 12th forum in Kiev in 2013 and I come back to all our EECCA friends, just before the Ukrainian revolution, we have addressed there the issues on:

Damages and losses: IHPA proposed an approach that combines identification of damages, including increased illness, loss of life, failing ecosystem services and polluted agricultural products. We have not worked on this issue. Instead we worked, on request of FAO on the development of a Road Map for the elimination of obsolete pesticides, POPs and other hazardous wastes. The outcomes thereof will be presented in the next session of this Forum. But we will come back on damages and losses in the Forum statements of this Forum.

The Forum declaration of the 12th Forum addressed issues to:

National Governments to create in an open dialogue awareness for the size and impact of the problem and the need for action, to allocate funds for the elimination of obsolete pesticides, to adopt sustainable agriculture practices and to strengthen the environmental institutions.

As these issues are also part of as well the recommendations in the National Reports on Legislation and Waste Management and the Road Map, we are happy to see that we received endorsement letters on our Road Map report from Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. We also welcome the increased commitments in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. And Georgia is now working on a concerted plan for improvement of the waste legislation.

We addressed to the **European Union** to give political support to politicians from the EECCA region and to

continue their efforts based on the joint project with FAO (National reports and Road Map). It is more than disappointing to see that the European Commission has decided not to allocate any further funding and due to that decided not to address to this Forum a stimulating message. Therefore, with even more energy IHPA will prepare for the first quarter of 2016 a new public hearing in the European Parliament.

The **International Organisations and Financial Institutions:**

We specifically addressed a recommendation to the GEF to continue their support to the elimination of obsolete and POPs pesticides and suggested a contribution to a regional facility for destruction projects and capacity.

We are happy to welcome Ms Lulwa Ali from GEF in our conference and are convinced that her presence will lead to follow up actions for continued support.

We called upon the **NGOs and civil society** to continue their efforts in creating political pressure and raise awareness at governments and civil society to eliminate the obsolete pesticides. We are impressed that you did not rest to raise your voice and work on this.

The coming days IHPA will challenge you to reconfirm your commitment to the elimination of obsolete pesticides, leading to personal commitment, seeking for funding and perseverance till the moment that obsolete pesticides have been eliminated.

And finally, let me show you now some impressions on the video on the Vaksh Pesticides Landfill in Tajikistan that show you why we need to act.

Video Vaksh Pesticides Landfill on youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhH2F72TAn4>

I wish you a good Forum!

Key note speech Ms. Sandra Ortega Bravo

Director General for Sustainability of the Government of Aragon

Good morning and welcome to everyone.

This forum in Zaragoza is an excellent opportunity and has great importance for the Government of Aragon and all the people and institutions that have been working on finding a solution to one of the greatest environmental challenges that we face in Spain.



Contamination by obsolete pesticides is a global problem that is clearly reflected in the participation of over 150 experts from 35 different countries in this Forum, sharing their experiences related to the problems of pesticides manufacturing as well as the stocks of obsolete pesticides. It is an undeniable fact that these environmental problems cannot be solved without concerted action at EU and international level.

The use of pesticides has been a double-edged sword. For decades the mass manufacture and use to combat vector diseases and to fight pests that substantially detracted the productivity of agricultural crops, has been responsible for numerous harmful effects on human health and renewable resources. The serious environmental problems are on the one hand related to the characteristics of these compounds, due to their persistence, bioaccumulation and dispersion capacity, and on the other hand the consequences of mass production, enormous amounts of waste generated and the huge amounts of stocks of obsolete pesticides found in many countries.

After long years of negotiations the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted in 2001, which currently has 179 signatories. The agreement defined initially a dozen compounds for priority actions. This list is periodically revised and in 2010 the pesticide LINDANE was included, whose mass production led to serious environmental pollution as we are currently suffering in the Sabiñanigo area in Aragon.

Between 1975 and 1988 the Inquinosa factory produced Lindane, using a production process where for each tonne of the pesticide produced between 8 to 10 tonnes of waste were generated, which were deposited in the landfills of Sardas and Bailín. Although its manufacture was stopped more than 25 years ago, the problems associated with the waste deposits remain unresolved. In the three most affected areas, the total volume of HCH solid waste exceeds 130,000 metric tonnes, 3,000 metric tonnes of liquid waste, 1 million metric tonnes of contaminated land, 50 hectares of contaminated soil and three contaminated aquifers.

The project Comprehensive Decontamination of Lindane in the Bailín Ravine is a priority of the Government of Aragon through the Department of Rural Development and Sustainability, and must also become a priority at the highest political and economic level for both the Spanish Government and the European Commission.

Since 1990, the Government of Aragon has developed a set of numerous actions and provided funding of millions of euros to address this problem of pollution. These actions include specialist studies to analyse the situation, surface sealing works on the landfills in Sardas and Bailín, leachate purification, the location and removal of the free phase of the waste at the different points affected, the establishment of action protocols and health and safety protocols, the development of operation models for the landfills, and the implementation of pilot tests and remediation techniques applicable to in situ rock and soil decontamination, such as the Discovered LIFE project, whose awareness-raising activities are part of this Forum. They also include the establishment of the Monitoring and Control Plan of the HCH landfill in Bailín, the implementation and monitoring of the network of hydrogeological monitoring of the aquifers affected, the Plan for Monitoring, Control and Removal of HCH, the Environmental Assessment and analysis of alternatives in Sardas, surveys and removal of free phase, and a wide range of laboratory and mathematical modelling tests on the landfill.

It is a challenging combination of high investments and complex engineering, project development and R&D work. We have made a tremendous effort in the control and monitoring of this pollution, but there is still a long way to go to reach a final solution.

Achieving the objective of comprehensive decontamination of Lindane in Aragon requires a serious commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain and the European Commission. The solution to this problem not only involves a very high financial cost and political responsibility, but also requires the development of a comprehensive and detailed Action Plan.

We at the Government of Aragon are aware of the importance of the collaboration of all the stakeholders, since comprehensive decontamination involves the direct participation of all the institutional and private actors, scientists, associations and environmental NGOs, along with involvement by members of the public. Therefore, it is a priority for the Department of Rural Development and Sustainability in the short term to enforce its management structure and create a framework for communication and collaboration with all its stakeholders.

We not only have to deal with the solution of a serious decontamination problem, we also have an obligation to learn from what happened and to redesign our approach of global food needs, while maintaining the ecosystems and resources on which also other essential elements of health and life depend.

We have a responsibility to advocate the rational management of chemicals and the sustainable management of industrial production and agriculture. Promotion of integrated pest and vector management and alternatives to POP pesticides will enable a reduction in pesticide use. It is not simply a matter of “replacing one pesticide for a similar one”, nor is it enough to just replace POPs with other pesticides; it is necessary to take a broader view and consider more sustainable alternative practices. The key aspect is the ability to integrate a global vision throughout the whole chain.

The year 2015 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Soils, which offers a special occasion to remind ourselves of the key importance of maintaining and protecting this non-renewable resource and its crucial role in agricultural development and the functions of ecosystems.

All of us here today share the same challenge to find solutions for pesticide contamination that threaten our regions and countries. We are aware of the necessity to join forces between institutions, private entities, researchers and citizens. And above all, we know that responsibility and personal commitment are prerequisite to reaching the necessary solutions to these worldwide problems.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all the participants, to the technicians who are involved in the hard work of controlling and containing the problem of pollution, to the people organising this 13th International Forum on HCH and Pesticides for all their efforts, and to all the people and entities who are working and collaborating on solving the environmental problem of pollution.

I hope that these four days of intense work will be productive and allow a great ferment of knowledge, exchange and cooperation between all the participants.

A big thank you to everyone.



Official Forum Statements at the 13th International Forum HCH and pesticides

Zaragoza- Spain, 3 November 2015

Global Environment Facility

The senior Environmental Specialist at the Global Environment Facility (GEF), **Ms. Lulwa Ali** highlighted the GEF support to the EECCA countries for the implementation of several projects covering a wide spectrum of chemicals and waste issues including obsolete POPs pesticides. Acknowledging the unique situation and major challenges faced by them with regard to managing huge amounts of obsolete and legacy pesticides, she emphasised the need for developing a more focused integrated strategy coupled with feasible national/ regional action plan based on adequate economic and financial policy incentives as key determinants for moving forward. Ms. Ali also underlined the key factors necessary for accelerating the elimination process in the region including ownership which is supported by a solid political will and commitment, replication of successful experiences within the region, and availing the latest and most appropriate technology options that could help the countries in disposing the obsolete pesticides in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Ministry of Environment, Moldova

The Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, **Mr. Adrian Delinschi** explained that Moldova has a long tradition in agricultural production and hence used large amounts of pesticides in the past. It is estimated that between the 1950s and 1990s about 560,000 tons of

pesticides were used in the Moldovan agricultural sector, including 22,000 tons of organochlorine pesticides.

In the absence of an adequate pesticides management strategy, more than 3,000 tons of now banned and useless pesticides have been accumulated over the years in storage facilities all over the country.

In 2002, the Moldovan Government initiated a strategy on additional measures for centralized storage and neutralization of obsolete pesticides.

Over the last 14 years more than 20 projects in the area of management and elimination of POPs and other dangerous chemicals and wastes have been or are currently implemented. The amount of funds used for these purposes up to now is approximately US\$20 million.

The conclusions and lessons learnt over more than one decade of experience in the management and disposal of POPs in Moldova can be summarized as follows.

A comprehensive assessment and establishment of a detailed inventory leading to a comprehensive strategy and action plan is the fundament for cooperation and communication with as well the relevant stakeholders in the country and the international donors. Other key elements are continuity in time and trained personal, that agreed commitments and activities are respected and tasks are completed within the set time frame. The establishment of a Project management team that continued to ensure the effectiveness of implemented projects has proven to be very important. Streamlining of the existing policies in the field of POPs management, development of legislation and permanent awareness raising activities at all levels of society are crucial throughout the entire process of approaching and solving of POPs issues.

Given the results obtained, the international institutions and experts involved in POPs management consider Moldovan results as a success by the fact that most of the objectives set in recent years have been achieved.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, **Mr. Igor Kachanovskiy**, stated that today in Belarus almost 7 thousand tons of obsolete pesticides is located in the temporary storage warehouses and five burial sites. Over the past years Belarus has spent large efforts to implement the application of the Stockholm Convention. As important achievements can be mentioned that all stocks of obsolete pesticides in Belarus are repacked and environmentally safe stored.



In addition, Belarus created a large storage facility for hazardous waste in the Gomel region. This facility is unique for the CIS countries and provides the bulk of the safe storage of obsolete pesticides. In the creation of this complex the Belarus State has invested more than US \$ 25 million.

Also, using the GEF financial support, in 2012 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus completed the elimination of 2,103 tons of obsolete pesticides in Slonim. From this amount, 1,800 tons were exported and disposed in Germany.

Despite this progress, it is necessary in the near future to create the technological capacity for environmentally sound disposal of the remaining obsolete pesticides and other hazardous chemical waste. The storage facility in the Gomel region could be an excellent location for such developments. We hope that international investors and donors will provide financial and technical support for this project.

This facility is intended not only for obsolete pesticides from Belarus and other CIS countries, but we believe that this disposal facility can also serve other countries in the region.

Investors and donors are invited to discuss during this Forum such investment developments.

Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan

From Kazakhstan, **Mr. Kerey Bekbergen**, director of the Department of Green Technologies and representative of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

stressed that the heritage stemming from the use of large volumes of pesticides over the last century has created problems for human health and the environment worldwide.

This is also a problem for Kazakhstan. Obsolete Pesticides and POPs waste has been stored in stores or dumpsites. Many of these stores have been destroyed. Currently, information about their number and the composition of the content are not always reliable because of the lack of documentation. This requires in a first step a complete inventory to be made.

He underlined the importance of this Forum as an excellent opportunity to share experiences and make use of the expertise of other countries. He also stipulated that Kazakhstan has sent a letter of endorsement to confirm the acceptance of the Road Map as a guideline for the elimination of pesticides, POPs and other hazardous waste.

Being aware of the fact that most countries in Central Asia are confronted with similar challenges in the approach of these problems, Kazakhstan proposes the creation of a council for the countries of Central Asia in order to enforce co-operation.

In addition, Mr. Bekbergen recalled, on behalf of the government that the Republic of Kazakhstan has offered to host the next 14th International HCH and Pesticides Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan.



Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration, Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Janybek Derbishaliev, Director of Chemistry and Plant Protection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic, highlighted the problems of Central Asia in dealing with these accumulated pesticides and the ongoing need for external support from international institutions in implementation of future projects.

Based on the adherence of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Stockholm Convention, a national inventory of old stocks of pesticides have been carried out. For some urgent situations, first actions of repackaging, containment and destruction have been taken.

The Kyrgyz Republic supports the Road Map as developed by IHPA as a tool for the development of environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and is preparing its implementation.

He requested for the ongoing support of international and donor organizations in the future actions regarding repackaging, storage and destruction of obsolete pesticides and other POPs and afterwards the remediation of the affected soil and groundwater.

The Kyrgyz Republic is ready to fulfill its obligations under the international conventions and has the means and political will to do so. This will contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

The representative of Tajikistan, **Mr. Abdusalim Juraev**, Head of the office for POPs, appealed to international institutions to make them aware of the serious problem facing his region. "Tajikistan has a lack of own resources and is therefore depending on international funding and support to create and develop projects. Since 2007 we have adapted the laws of our country and we have reconditioned the areas that are most polluted by pesticides. But without additional funding we can not apply more projects, so we appeal to the European Parliament and other international institutions to provide us the required support".

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam

"Until a few years ago, the government of Vietnam was not aware of the problem of obsolete pesticides. International organizations have helped us to understand the size and seriousness of the problem and to develop and propose solutions. As a result, we are now struggling to implement the required improvements in Vietnam," stated **Mr. Hoang Thanh Vinh**, the representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and director of the Project Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Vietnam. In the meantime we are making important progress. We had to start from scratch to develop our methodology but our

project-oriented way of working has in the meantime led to an integrated programmatic approach.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Project Coordinator of the project "Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union"

Mr. Richard Thompson highlighted the role that FAO developed since 2009 to solve the problem with obsolete pesticides.

"The role of FAO is to build capacity to manage disposal of obsolete pesticides and all the harmful substances produced. Therefore we make use of the mechanisms as provided by the related international Conventions as Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam and more specifically also work with World Health Organization. We look at each of the countries to know how to apply disposal technologies and to eliminate these obsolete pesticides. Part of our project was to create a Road map to provide guidance for institutions, both public and private how to implement concerted actions and arrive at environmentally sound management of obsolete pesticides and other hazardous waste in the next 10 to 20 years".

Member of European Parliament (MEP)

Mr. Miguel Martínez Tomey Head of European Affairs of the Aragonese Union and Local Assistant to MEP Jordi Sebastià (European Free Alliance)

"When the lindane problems in the area surrounding Sabinánigo and the Gállego River came in the spotlight, now a bit more than a year ago, after a long and strange period of non-action, we went to the European Parliament and raised this issue. The European Commission did not know what to say. At that moment we realized that Europe is not up to the commitments sustaining the Stockholm Convention. Our conclusion is that we need to persuade the European Union that we have identified a problem calling for a budget and the definition of a programmatic approach. We must create a permanent financial line in the general budget of the European Union for it".



Member of European Parliament (MEP)

Mr. Jeroen Lenaers (European People's Party Group)

The Members of the European Parliament, independent of their political background, have already been involved since 2001 in supporting the efforts of IHPA to create more awareness on the immense and urgent problems of obsolete pesticides in the EECCA countries, and on the need to eliminate the dangerous chemicals completely from this region. In 2007, former colleague Wieslaw Kuc organized a first Public Hearing and a large exhibition with impressive photos that showed the real situation on the ground. In 2010, a Mini hearing led by former MEPs Ria Oomen-Ruijten together with Esther de Lange was organized.

Due to our persistence, the EU Commission has carefully listened to the pleas of the politicians of the EECCA countries that showed willingness and strength to make all possible efforts in their countries and therefore EC Commission financed the project "Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused chemicals in the Former Soviet Union".

The deliverables of this project are important anchors for future action: assessment of legal frameworks, identification of actions to improve the progress under Stockholm, quantification of as well legacy volumes as annual arisings of POPs pesticides, POPs and other hazardous wastes per country and the definition of a



Road Map for the development of environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in the EECCA region.

This Road Map enables a structured approach with concerted actions, facilitates co-operation between countries in the region and is a basis for countries, donors and international financial institutions to discuss investment options for destruction capacity in the region.

Based on the experiences of other parts of the world, **it will take at least 10 to 20 years to arrive at full implementation.** The international donors have initiated this process and will continue to give support to the countries. But it is the responsibility of the governments to make the necessary commitments, to allocate resources, to define principles and create a firm legal basis, with effective enforcement and open communication in order to arrive at a well-managed implementation. And finally we want to invite all participants to come to the European Parliament in Brussels at the beginning of next year to discuss how we can realize the elimination of obsolete pesticides in the near and long-term in the EECCA region



The 13th International HCH and Pesticides Forum

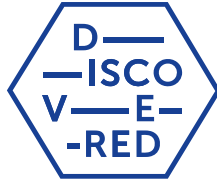
The 13th International HCH and Pesticides Forum created a platform for discussing the national and regional strategies, action plans and financial resources for elimination of obsolete pesticides with a special focus on the need for accelerated action. Valuable scientific results and best practices were exchanged; and the progress of EECCA region was showcased in special sessions, emphasizing the importance of Government determination and focus. On November 3-6th the 13th Forum on HCH and Pesticides Forum was held in Zaragoza, Spain with participation of more than 230 experts from more than 35 countries.



The International HCH and Pesticides Forum in Zaragoza was sponsored by:

- EU LIFE + Programme, project “Lab to field, soil remediation demonstrative project: new ISCO application to DNAPL Multicomponent environmental problem” (DISCOVERED LIFE),
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- University of Applied Sciences of Northwestern Switzerland, School of Life Sciences
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Food and Agriculture Organisation
of the United Nations



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