

*Exploring the Connection: A State of the Science
Conference on Pesticides and Cancer*
13 November 2008

Precautionary policies for reducing pesticide exposure: European approaches



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Presentation Outline – Precautionary policies for pesticide use reduction

- About HEAL
- EU pesticides legislation reform and cancer work
- National approaches: Denmark and France
- Retailers: UK and Germany
- Role of public interest groups



About HEAL

Created in 2003 from European Public Health Alliance

- Membership organisation representing a diverse network of 50+ community, health-affected, women's, health professionals', research and environmental organisations from 22 different countries
- Sits on Advisory Board of EU research projects (INTERASE, New Generis, Hevinet...)

Located in EU capital
Brussels, Belgium



HEAL Mission

- Monitor ***environmental health concerns/evidence and advocate for it to be put at the centre of*** EU (and other governmental) ***environmental policy***
- Increase the ***broad health community's understanding and participation*** in EU and national decision-making processes
- Ensure ***timely communication of new scientific studies and consensus documents*** to policy makers/other stakeholders to reduce science-pc



HEAL Policy Priorities

- 1. 'Environment and Health' Policy Processes:**
 - Both EU and WHO Pan European Region
- 2. Chemicals**
 - EU Chemicals Law 'REACH' implementation
 - Pesticides; Mercury
- 3. Climate change - impact on health and healthcare**
- 4. Air pollution – indoor & outdoor**
- 5. Other issues:**
 - Sustainable Development
 - Public Participation
 - Urban environment



EU's Precautionary Principle

"The precautionary principle applies where scientific evidence is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and preliminary scientific evaluation indicates that there are reasonable grounds for concern that the potentially dangerous effects on the environment, human, animal or plant health may be inconsistent with the high level of protection chosen by the EU".

European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle, February 2000



Snapshot: Pesticides & EU

2008 EU Pesticides Residues Monitoring Report (2006 data)

45% of fruits and vegetables contain pesticide residues

4.7% above EU or national MRL limits

5 out of 17 multi-residue pesticides - CMR or ED

Sources: Commission Staff Working Document Monitoring of Pesticides Residues, Nov 2008
 (http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/specialreports/pesticide_residues/report_2006_en.pdf), PAN Europe press release

	Carcinogen	Mutagen	Reprotoxin	Endocrine Disruptor	Frequency in foods tested within the EU Coordinated Programme
Maneb	✓			✓	8.7%
Procymidone	✓		✓	✓	8.2%
Iprodione	✓				5.1%
Carbendazim		✓	✓		3.9%
Deltamethrin				✓	0.8%



Every year over 140,000 tonnes of pesticides applied in EU to food crops

1992-2003 data, European Commission, 2007

EU pesticides policy reform

Legislative Timeframe: 2006 – 2009??

Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides:

- Framework Directive on the **Sustainable Use of Pesticides**
- Revision of Regulation on the **Authorization of Plant Protection Products on the Market**



Health protection in pesticides reform

- ‘**Cut-off criteria**’ to eliminate the sale and use of pesticides that are CMRs, ED, immunotox and developmental neurotox
- *European Parliament study shows health benefits of cut-off criteria:*
www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?file=22471
 - The cut-off criteria address the **increasing evidence** that certain pesticides can cause damage to physiological systems
 - Diseases prevented by stricter cut off criteria could provide **significant economic benefits** - (26 billion euros spent on pesticide-related cancer deaths)



Health protection in pesticides reform

- **Strict cut off criteria would benefit farmers and rural communities, and vulnerable groups**
- **Not very many pesticides on the market would be affected by the ban**

Neurotoxicants on Annex I	Identified as ED
Chlorpyrifos	
Cypermethrin	
2.4-D	X
Deltamethrin	X
Dimethoate	X
Ethoprop	
Thiram	X

Health protection in pesticides reform

- **Pesticide use reduction targets**
- **Ban use of pesticides in (and around) public places, parks, schools and playgrounds**



EU Cancer Work

2008 EU developments

- **Slovenian EU Presidency** – made CANCER one of their priorities (January 2008)
- **European Parliament Resolution** (April 2008)
- **Council Conclusions** (June 2008)



Called for EU Task Force on Cancer *including reducing exposure to environmental contaminants*

Forthcoming developments

- **HEAL Cancer and Environment meeting** December 2008
- **European Commission – Cancer as 2009 priority**

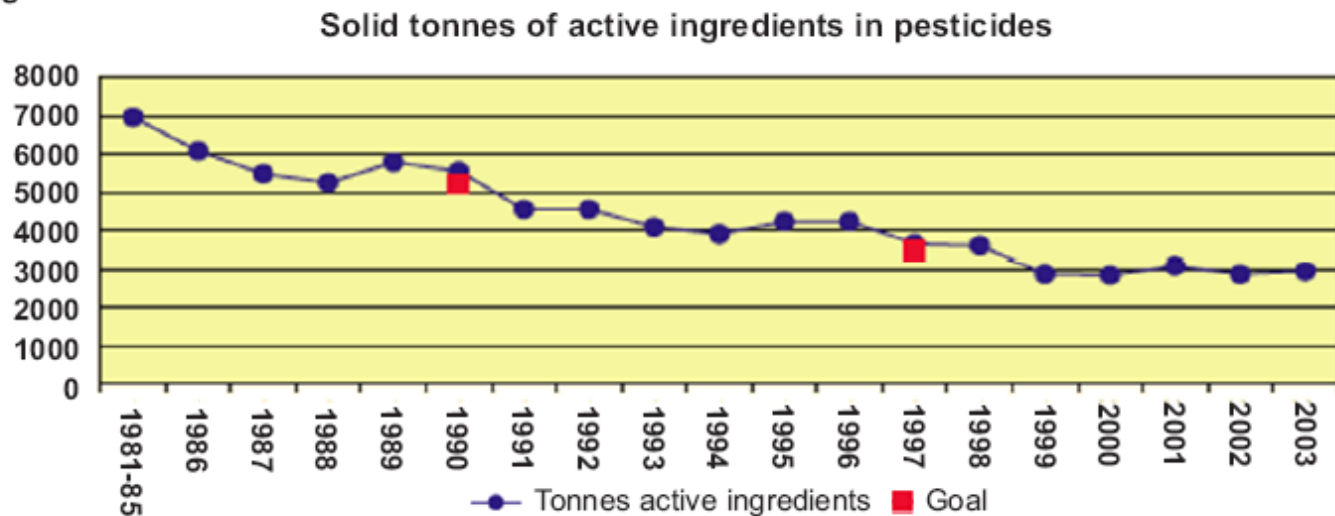


Precautionary approaches

At national level:

- **Denmark:** successful Governmental programme for pesticide use reduction started in the 1980s, model for other countries

Figure 6



Precautionary approaches

- **France: Ecophyto Plan 2018**
 - Largest pesticides consumer in Europe
 - 50% use reduction by 2018, withdrawal of 53 most preoccupying pesticides
 - 30 substances listed below by end 2008

<i>ALACHLORE</i>	<i>ENDOSULFAN</i>	<i>PARAQUAT</i>
<i>ALDICARBE</i>	<i>FENBUTATIN OXYDE</i>	<i>PARATHION-METHYL</i>
<i>AZINPHOS-METHYL</i>	<i>FENPROPATHRINE</i>	<i>PROCYMIDONE</i>
<i>AZOCYCLOTIN</i>	<i>FENTHION</i>	<i>TERBUFOS</i>
<i>CADUSAPHOS</i>	<i>FENARIMOL</i>	<i>TOLYFLUANIDE</i>
<i>CARBOFURAN</i>	<i>FLUQUINCONAZOLE</i>	<i>TRIFLURALINE</i>
<i>CHLORFENVINPHOS</i>	<i>MÉTHAMIDOPHOS</i>	<i>VINCHLOZOLINE</i>
<i>COUMAFÈNE</i>	<i>MÉTHIDATHION</i>	
<i>DICHLORVOS</i>	<i>METHOMYL</i>	
<i>DIURON</i>	<i>OXYDEMETON-METHYL</i>	<i>CARBENDAZIME</i>
		<i>MOLINATE</i>
		<i>DINOCAP</i>



Precautionary approaches

New French landmark report : *INSERM*

(National institute on health and medical research) report:

http://www.inserm.fr/fr/presse/communiqués/ec_cancer_environnement_21008.html

- *“The increase in the incidence rate since 1980 estimated to be **+35 % in men and +43 % in women**”*

http://www.inserm.fr/en/presse/communiqués/att00008200/ec_cancer_en_der.pdf

- **Environmental factors** may be partially responsible – more research needed on causal cancer links
- **9 cancers** - lung cancer, mesothelioma, hematological malignancies, brain tumors and breast, ovary, testicular, prostate and thyroid cancers.

2009 - Revision of **French National Cancer Plan** -- focus on prevention



Precautionary approaches

Pesticide reduction programs by retailers:

- **UK Co-operative Group:** prohibits and restricts usage of certain pesticides based on their intrinsic hazards and actively supports farmers with advice, training and research. It was the first supermarket in the UK to undertake a pesticide policy in 1999
- **LIDL in Germany** – policies to encourage suppliers to reduce pesticide use and limit residues



Public interest and community groups


- **Bringing new scientific understanding of the health impact of pesticides to EU policy**

Scientific evidence of the health impacts of pesticides summarized in **briefing** and **poster** ahead of Parliament's first discussions




Cut back on pesticides for healthier lives

New scientific understanding of health impacts of pesticides demands precautionary policy-making



BRIEFING
February 2007



PAN Europe
Pesticide Action Network Europe

One in every six children has a developmental disability, in most cases affecting the nervous system

These are only some of the commonly used pesticides documented to be neurotoxic that need to be prioritized for testing and substitution

Chlorpyrifos
Chlorfenvinphos
Chlorpyrifos (residues detected in 10% of all apple and 5% of all fruit and vegetable samples in the EU)
Cypermethrin (residues detected in 3.4% of all lettuce samples in the EU)
2,4-D
Deltamethrin (residues found in lettuce might cause acute risk in children)
Dimethoate (residues found in cabbage might cause acute risk in children)
Ethoprop
Metaklethide
Methamidophos (residues found in lettuce exceed 5-fold the levels that can cause acute risk in children)
Methidathion (residues found in apples exceed 2-fold the levels that can cause acute risk in children)
Methomyl (residues found in lettuce might cause acute risk in children)
Methyl bromide
Tefluthrin
Thiram

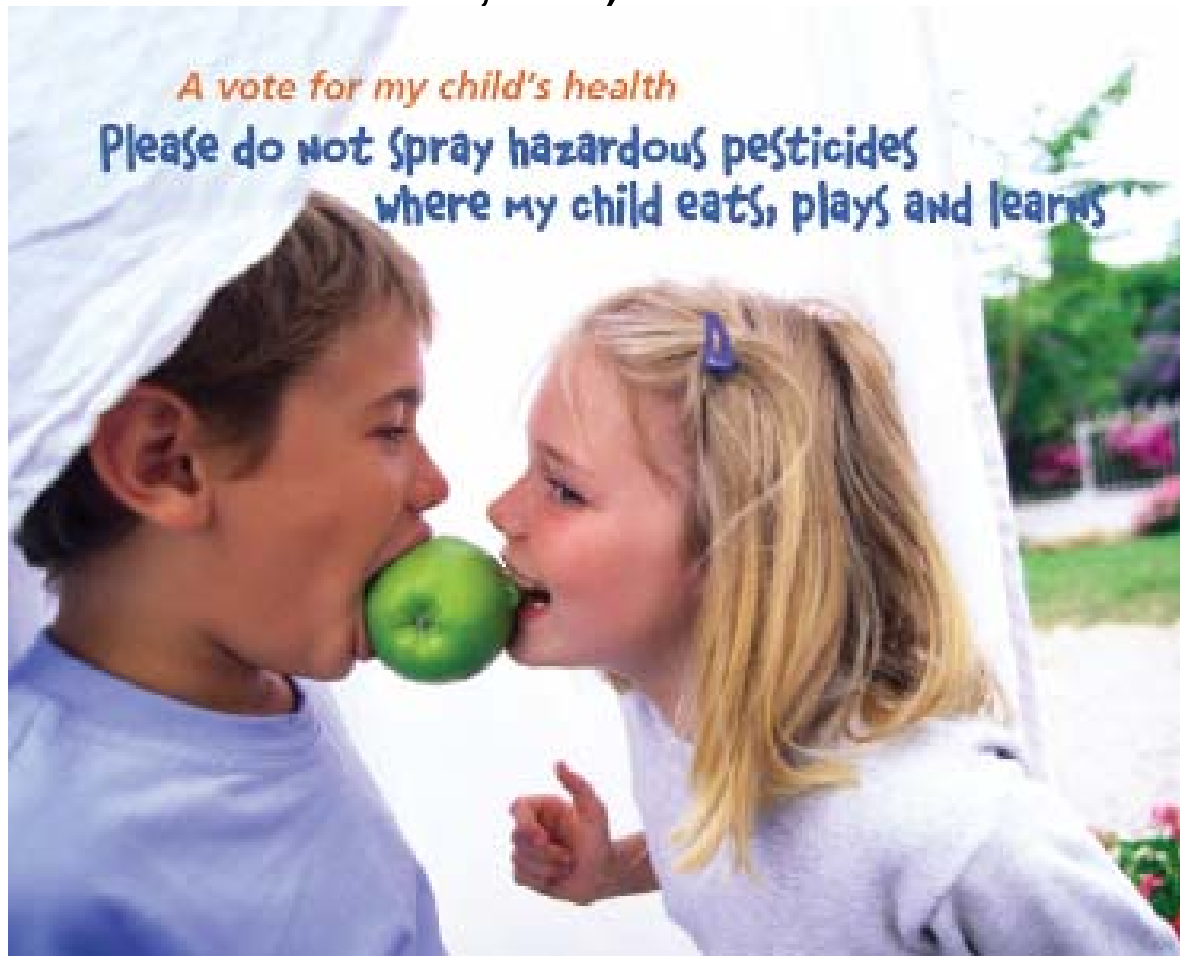
Is the EU protecting our children's brains?

Cut back on pesticides for healthier lives

Grandjean, Landrigan, *Developmental neurotoxicity of industrial chemicals* <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17174709>

Protecting the most vulnerable

Postcard: A vote for my child's health, summarizing key facts. Sent by health-affected groups (asthma, cancer, etc) and doctors



Did you know ...

- Pesticide exposure today may increase a child's risk of developing a chronic disease or dysfunction later in life. [1]
- Evidence indicates that many pesticides are toxic to the brain of the developing child. Up to one in six children grows up with a developmental disability, in many cases affecting the nervous system, including learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders and mental retardation. [2]
- Several studies implicate pesticides in a range of conditions affecting children's health, including cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukaemia. [3]
- Father's exposure to agricultural pesticides appears to increase the likelihood of kidney and brain cancer in the child. [3]
- Pesticide exposure during childhood may increase the risk of asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness. [4] [5]
- Very young children absorb more pesticides from what they eat than adults. [3]

REFERENCES: [1] 2011, 'Pesticides and Children's Health', *Health Affairs*, 30(10): 2800-2805. [2] 2005, 'Pesticides and Children's Health', *Health Affairs*, 24(10): 2300-2305. [3] 2005, 'Pesticides and Children's Health', *Health Affairs*, 24(10): 2300-2305. [4] 2005, 'Pesticides and Children's Health', *Health Affairs*, 24(10): 2300-2305. [5] 2005, 'Pesticides and Children's Health', *Health Affairs*, 24(10): 2300-2305.

EU School Fruit Scheme

Use public money to protect your children's health from pesticides

7 good reasons to choose sustainable and pesticides-free fruit and vegetables for European School Schemes

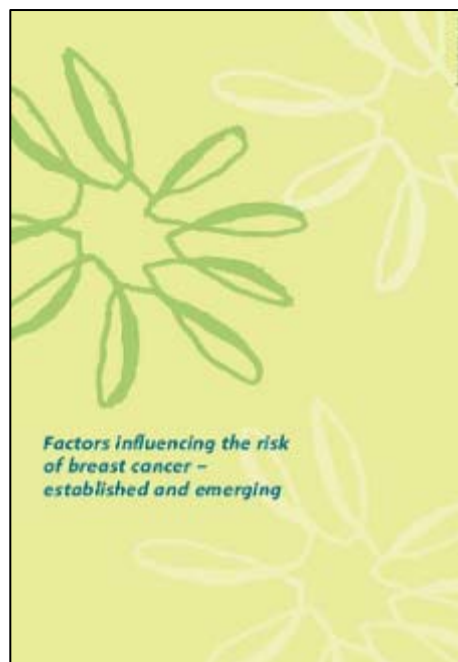
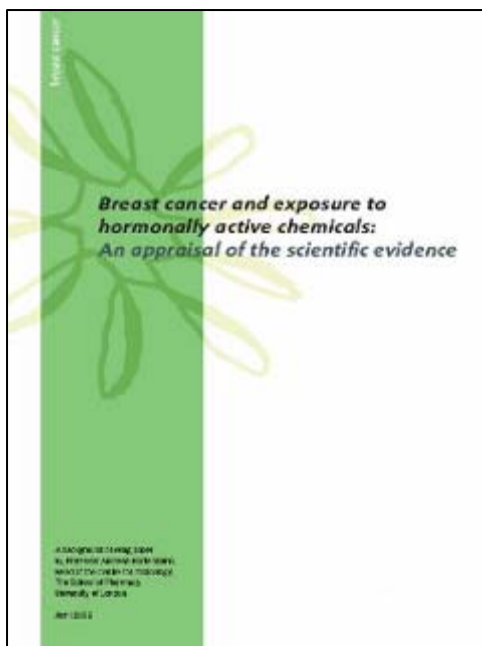


1. Children eating a conventional diet are found to have pesticides in their bodies exceeding acceptable levels¹.
2. Very young children absorb more pesticides from what they eat than adults².
3. Many pesticides can be toxic to the brain of the developing child. Up to one in six children grows up with a developmental disability, in many cases affecting the nervous system, including learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders and mental retardation³.
4. Pesticides are implicated in a range of conditions affecting children's health, including cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and leukaemia⁴.
5. Pesticide exposure during childhood may increase the risk of asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness^{5,6}.
6. Pesticide exposure today may increase a child's risk of developing a chronic disease or dysfunction later in life².
7. The World Health Organization recommends that locally produced food should be considered in the context of a healthy diet⁷.



Breast Cancer and the environment

Preventing the preventable – literature review, public briefing and policy options for precautionary policies



www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org



Pesticides and cancer campaign

www.pesticidescancer.eu

Pesticides & Cancer



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De plus en plus de citoyens et de scientifiques se prononcent contre l'utilisation des pesticides les plus dangereux et leurs impacts négatifs sur la santé. Un **sondage récent** indique que 95% des personnes interrogées pensent qu'il est important de réduire de moitié l'utilisation des pesticides. Avec l'appel de Paris lancé en 2004, d'éminents scientifiques demandent que l'on réduise significativement la pollution chimique, et les médecins se prononcent aussi sur l'évidence grandissante liant les problèmes de santé à l'exposition professionnelle et environnementale aux substances chimiques.

En France, l'incidence des cancers a doublé au cours des 25 dernières années. Il est surtout très inquiétant de voir une progression des cancers chez les enfants. L'origine exacte de ces cancers est inconnue dans la moitié des cas et même dans 85% des cas en ce qui concerne les non-fumeurs. Plusieurs études scientifiques, notamment une étude récente de l'INSERM, montrent avec de plus en plus de certitudes les liens entre les cancers et l'exposition à certaines substances chimiques, particulièrement les pesticides. **Une étude menée en 2004** montre que 25% des 400 pesticides utilisés en France sont reconnus ou suspectés d'être cancérogène.

Un environnement sain et de qualité pour tous les citoyens a besoin de législations solides mais surtout pour protéger les groupes les plus vulnérables dans nos sociétés, à savoir les travailleurs du monde agricole, les femmes enceintes et les enfants.

Dans un contexte de précaution, nous voulons plus spécifiquement appeler à :

- ▶ **Interdire les pesticides reconnus ou suspectés d'être dangereux**
- ▶ **Réduire l'utilisation des pesticides pour diminuer ou éliminer l'exposition humaine**

Agissons !

- [Ecrivez à votre député](#)

Sondage

Doit-on retirer du marché les pesticides qui sont suspectés d'être à l'origine des cancers, même en l'absence de certitude absolue ?

- Oui
 Non

Dernières nouvelles

- [Nos enfants nous accuseront : le film](#)
- [Rapport collectif de l'INSERM](#)
- [Communiqué de presse :](#)

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Thank you for your attention!

