

ECHA Stakeholders Day, Helsinki 27 May 2009

# Participation of Public Interest Organisations in consultation processes

**Lisette van Vliet**  
**Health and Environment Alliance**



# History

- Created by **European Public Health Alliance**, the largest European PIO health platform, in 2003



- Response to **increasing profile and recognition of environment and health links** across Europe

## *EPHA Environment Network (EEN)*



- Membership of **60+** organisations in **25+** countries: citizens', patients', women's, health professionals' and environmental organisations

## *Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL)*



- Member of 'Green 10': [www.green10.org](http://www.green10.org)

# Our Mission

- advocate for ***health concerns to be put at the centre of*** EU (& other governmental) ***environmental policy***
- increase the ***health community's understanding and participation*** in EU and national decision-making processes



# Why do we work on chemicals?



- Asthma
- Cancers:
  - breast,
  - prostate,
  - testicular,
  - & more
- Infertility
- Testicular Dysgenesis Syndrome
- Learning & Developmental Disabilities
- Obesity
- Parkinson's Disease

## ▼ Diseases and chemicals

- ▶ Asthma
- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Breast cancer
- ▶ Cancer
- ▶ Cardiovascular Diseases
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Endometriosis
- ▶ Infertility
- ▶ Obesity
- ▶ Parkinson's Disease
- ▶ Prostate Cancer
- ▶ Testicular Cancer
- ▶ Testicular Dysgenesis Syndrome
- ▶ News on Diseases and Chemicals
- ▶ News on compelling science

# Collaboration



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Plus close collaboration with consumer organisations and trade unions (ETUC, BEUC, Eurocoop)

# How do we work?

Policy work -

decision makers & ECHA

Businesses -

encouraging early phase out

S.I.N. List 1.0\*

Public Education &

Participation

Right to Know



# Chemicals Health Monitor



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Your online source  
of information  
about chemicals  
and diseases

## Diseases and chemicals

[Human Biomonitoring](#)

[Chemicals Policy \(including REACH\)](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Resources](#)

[Take Action!](#)

## Get involved!

# Take Action!

Public pressure often works faster than regulation. As a European citizen, you can send a strong signal to companies that you are concerned about the impact of harmful chemicals on our health and the environment, and that you don't want them in the products you buy. The new EU chemicals law, REACH, obliges companies, when asked, to tell consumers about the most harmful chemicals present in consumer products.

Take Action! and help stop the use of harmful chemicals in consumer products.

## In Focus

### Men under threat from chemical exposure!

A new report on male reproductive health shows the urgency of getting European authorities to assess the risks of exposure to multiple chemical simultaneously instead of individually.

Public pressure often works faster than regulation. As a European citizen, you can send a strong signal to companies that you are concerned about the impact of harmful chemicals on our health and the environment, and that you don't want them in the products you buy. The new EU chemicals law, REACH, obliges companies, when asked, to tell consumers about the most harmful chemicals present in consumer products.

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## Latest News

### Male reproductive health under threat

A scientific review released today highlights the dangers of exposing people and especially pregnant women to hormone disrupting chemicals in consumer products, and focuses on the risks these (...) [\(Read more...\)](#)

### French network responds to Health Minister on BPA

Professors Ana Soto and Carlos Sonnenschein from Tufts University, Boston presented "The indisputable scientific evidence of the toxicity of bisphenol A" at a press conference and public meeting (...) [\(Read more...\)](#)

### European Trade Union Confederation releases list of priority chemicals

En français en-dessous. On the 31st of March, 2009, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) released their Priority List of chemicals to be authorized under the European Union's chemicals (...) [\(Read more...\)](#)

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## Chemicals & Health Bulletin

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## Recent Publications

Male Reproductive Health Disorders and the Potential Role of Exposure to Environmental Chemicals



# Right to Know – Chems in Products



CHEMICALS  
HEALTH  
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You are here: [Home page](#) > [Take Action!](#) > Use Your Right To Know!

## Use Your Right To Know!

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List of all partners -- International organisations and

European networks -- Český  - Deutsch  --  
Français  -- Magyar  -- Nederlands  -- UK and  
Ireland  

Coming soon

Bulgarian  -- Icelandic  -- Slovenian  --  
Spanish 

Companies must tell you, at no charge, about harmful chemicals present in many consumer products, but ONLY if you ask. Read our leaflet on using your right to know, and show companies you want safer products.

[LEAFLET](#)

[MODEL LETTER](#)

[List of government ministries in charge of chemicals](#)

[Press release](#)

[Open letter: EU Consumer Commissioner](#)

- ▶ List of all partners
- ▶ International organisations and European networks
- ▶ Český
- ▶ Deutsch
- ▶ Français
- ▶ Magyar
- ▶ Nederlands
- ▶ UK and Ireland

## See also:

- ▶ Learn about the health effects of some chemicals lurking in consumer products and share with a friend!
- ▶ Get more chemicals regulated!
- ▶ Learn about chemicals the fun way.
- ▶ Take our survey! - Répondez à l'enquête!
- ▶ Read more

### ▼ Diseases and chemicals


[Human Biomonitoring](#)


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# Involvement in REACH bodies



Management Board

Member State committee

Risk Assessment committee

Socio Economic Analysis committee

REACH competent authorities /  
CARACAL



# Proposed SVHC Candidates

Annex XV dossiers - August 2008

- wide dissemination of announcement to scientific networks & other groups
- Comments on 16 substances
  - EXAMPLE DEHP
- SIN List project





# REACH SIN\* List 1.0

SEARCH DATABASE   PURPOSE/AIM   BACKGROUND   DOWNLOAD   REFERENCES   CHEMSEC.ORG



› SIN REPORTER - FIRST ISSUE OF SIN LIST NEWSLETTER

› NEW PUBLICATION: SIN LIST

› FIRST CLASS ATTENDANCE AT SUBSTITUTION CONFERENCE

# Multi Annual Work Plan 2009-12

*Comments on:*

*Resources for Authorisations & Restrictions*

*Access to Information*

*Substance Evaluation Selection criteria*

*Capacity for Annex XV dossiers*



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# Priority Setting for Authorisation

2 Public consultations April 2009:

Wide dissemination of announcement to scientific networks and other groups

Shorter timelines for Authorisation

Deletion of exemptions

Need to consider cumulative effects



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# Conclusions

- ECHA is making good efforts to obtain public interest input in consultations
- Problem of complex, lengthy procedures
- ECHA must
  - *ensure swift public access to information from registration dossiers*
  - *facilitate Member State contributions to candidate list*
  - *ensure more resources for authorisation procedure*

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*Thank you for your attention!*