



Youth Recommendations



EPHA Environment Network workshop

Children's environment and health:

Young people's investigations into chemicals and health

Date: 10 November 2005 (14:00-17:00)

Venue: Brussels, Committee of the Regions

Our investigations have highlighted many health problems associated with the use of chemicals in our daily lives, we recommend to Members of the European Parliament and other decision makers the following:

1. Favor less harmful goods

All chemicals should be considered hazardous until proven otherwise. Therefore, ensure our laws and financial systems allow for new products (natural) that are not or are less-harmful to our health to replace toxic chemicals.

2. Ensure proper labeling

European children and youths have a right to know about chemicals in their everyday lives. Ensure adequate labeling and information on chemicals that is understandable and comprehensive. Develop innovative labeling systems (such as color schemes or one label for all European producers). Produce a list of forbidden chemicals.

3. Testing for health effects

When assessing safety of chemicals consider: The long term cumulative effects, not just the short ones. The effect of a mixture of different chemicals.

4. Consider whole life of chemicals

Ensure hazardous chemicals are considered throughout their life-cycle, (from development to use to disposal and recycling).

5. Eliminate harmful products

Reduce or eliminate harmful chemicals in household goods, particularly those aimed at children.

6. Provide more information

Support education and awareness raising, for children and youth representatives, on the safe use of chemicals in their everyday lives, (e.g. schools, homes and workplaces).

7. Monitor pollution effects

Ensure we increase our knowledge about the health effects of pollution by monitoring health impacts of environmental pollution and by doing more testing for the health effects of chemicals. Also inform children and youths about forbidden chemicals.

8. Make more accountable decision-makers

Ensure transparency in any system so that there is less conflict between all stakeholders and therefore better decisions are made on chemicals.

9. Support Research

Financially support research centers to find natural and less hazardous substances for replacing chemicals (especially dyes).

10. Implement laws in a timely manner

Guarantee that our laws are implemented and those that break the law are punished. Set a time frame for change to achieve these recommendations.

For further information please contact: Ms. Génon K. Jensen, Director, EPHA Environment Network (EEN) 39-41 rue d'Arlon, B-1000 Brussels, Tel: +32 2 233 3875 Fax: +32 2 233 3880, E-mail: info@env-health.org Visit our website: <http://www.env-health.org>