

International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA)

Mr. Victor Slavuta
Minister of Agricultural Policy
Kyiv
Ukraine
Fax: +38044 206 31 08

Holte, 18th of February 2004

Re: Obsolete pesticides as a priority issue for the Ukrainian Government

Dear excellency,

Since 14 years we are involved in the work to help the region of Central and Eastern Europe with the elimination of the dangerous problems of obsolete pesticides. Therefore we have organized together with the National Agricultural University of Ukraine and Sustainable Development and Ecological Educational Center in close co-operation with your Ministry, the Ministry for Environmental Protection and the Ukrainian Parliament, the 7th International HCH and Pesticides Forum in June 2003. The Forum was registered as a side -event of 5th European Ministerial Conference and was supported by the Federal Environmental Agency of Germany, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment of Finland and DEFRA, Great Britain and EU TACIS. This Forum has created a major international breakthrough for the international recognition of the problem in Ukraine and a Kyiv Declaration was adopted during final Forum session in the Ukrainian Parliament. Ministers of Environment of all over Europe and the international organizations have sent 42 letters and declarations confirming their concern and support for a plan of action for the region. Also awareness was expressed by a number of Ukrainian NGOs such as "Women's for agrarian education", "Ukrainian Youth Liga", "Friends of nature" and "Eco-club".

This was followed by strong actions of the EU Parliament Committee for the Budget, which has requested EU Commission in their draft budget for 2004 to make additional funds available to tackle the issue in the region. This was followed-up by a debate in the European Parliament, where together with your former Minister for Environment Protection and Natural Resources, today's Deputy Head of the Ecological Committee in Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Zaets, we have discussed the Ukrainian issue with the Members of EU Parliament.

This has lead on January 14th this year to a discussion of Members of the EU Parliament with EU Commissioner Chris Patten. Here Mr. Patten confirmed his concern on this issue and has declared his willingness to discuss the issue with the Ukrainian authorities.

He also expressed the need that Ukraine should ratify the Stockholm Convention and that Ukraine never had addressed the issue towards the Commission and that such an expression from the Ukrainian side was a vital point on any actions from the side of the Commission.

We think that with all the joint efforts we have made, the time is opportune to address in the coming discussions with Commissioner Patten or by official letter, the importance of the problem and the need for urgent solutions in order to open new possibilities for financial support from EU Commission in the near future.

We hope with this letter to have expressed our concern, but also the new possibilities of solutions of the Ukrainian problem on obsolete pesticides.

Hoping to hear soon from you

Yours truly,



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International HCH & Pesticides Association (IHPA)

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Holte, 18th of February 2004

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