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## **The International POPs Elimination Project**

*Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in  
Preparations for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention*

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# **Conference on Pesticide Impacts in the Danube and Black Sea Region**

**The National Movement of Ecoglasnost  
Member of Friends of the Earth International**

**Bulgaria  
October 2005**



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Member of Friends of the Earth International*

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### **About the International POPs Elimination Project**

On May 1, 2004, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN <http://www.ipen.org>) began a global NGO project called the International POPs Elimination Project (IPEP) in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provided core funding for the project.

IPEP has three principal objectives:

- Encourage and enable NGOs in 40 developing and transitional countries to engage in activities that provide concrete and immediate contributions to country efforts in preparing for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;
- Enhance the skills and knowledge of NGOs to help build their capacity as effective stakeholders in the Convention implementation process;
- Help establish regional and national NGO coordination and capacity in all regions of the world in support of longer term efforts to achieve chemical safety.

IPEP will support preparation of reports on country situation, hotspots, policy briefs, and regional activities. Three principal types of activities will be supported by IPEP: participation in the National Implementation Plan, training and awareness workshops, and public information and awareness campaigns.

For more information, please see <http://www.ipen.org>

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the institutions providing management and/or financial support.

*This report is available in the following languages: English*

# Conference on Pesticide Impacts in the Danube and Black Sea Region

Executing the planned activities NM Ecoglasnost performed the following activities:

## A. Identification of the participants, identification of the plenary session, and the preliminary program

Participants were searched among NGOs in the countries which belong to the Black Sea and Danube river region as representatives from Balkans were prioritized. We were looking for the NGOs that could present their successfully completed projects focused on this issue.

We invited as lectures representatives of 3 NGOs networks – BSN , IPEN and Global Water Partnership.

The lecturers from Ministry of Environment and water – Bulgaria and Executive Environmental Agency -Bulgaria were asked to present strategies for the regulation of pesticides and information with concrete data about pesticide contamination of the Danube River. The two Basin Directorates – for the Danube basin and for the Black Sea Basin were invited to present local information.

Bulgarian participants were selected only from the NGOs in the target regions of the Danube and Black Sea.

Finally the following Program of the Conference was set:

### Agenda of the workshop:

| <b>May 13, Friday</b>                             |   |
|---|---|
| 13:00   | Opening of the Conference   |
| <b>BLOCK A - Networking</b>                       |   |
| 13:30   | Susanne Smolka , Pesticide Action Network – Germany   |
| 14:10   | Hana Kuncova , International POPs Elimination Network   |
| 14:50   | Galia Bardarska, Global Water Partnership   |
| 15:30   | Coffee break  |
| <b>BLOCK B - Officials Lectures\discussions :</b> |   |
| 16:00   | Valentina Vassileva, Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria, "Sustainable use of pesticides - EU Strategy"   |
| 16:40   | Stela Stankova , Executive Environmental Agency- MOEW -Bulgaria (Galia Bardarska, Institute of Water Problems-BAS), "Pesticides Water Contamination in Danube Region" |
| 17:10   | Natallia Koleva, Danube Region Basin Directorate  |
| 17:30   | Ventsislav Nikolov, Black Sea Basin Directorate   |
| 19:00   | Welcome reception   |

| <b>May 14, Saturday</b> |  |
|-------------------------|--|
|                         | Short presentation of successfully completed projects of NGO participants :  |
| 09:00                   | Lars Neumeister , Pesticide Action Network , Germany , "Policy Recommendations towards Pollution Reduction".   |
| 9:30                    | Ralph Ryder, Communities Against Toxics, UK, Persistent Organic Pollution from incinerators  |
| 10:00                   | Daniel Lešínský , OIKOS-FoE , Slovakia, "Integrated monitoring system of pesticides – IMP in Slovakia"   |
| 10:30                   | Coffee Break   |
| 11:00                   | Valentina Lukova, National Movement Ecoglasnost, "Campaigning for reduction of Pesticides Use in Bulgaria"   |
| 11:30                   | Svetla Nikolova, Agrolink, Bulgaria, "Pesticides - Alternatives "  |
| 12:00                   | Emma Gileva , Black sea NGO network, Bulgaria, "Public Advocacy for Pesticide Use Reduction and Support to the Promotion of Good Plant Protection Practices"   |
| 12:30                   | Lunch  |
| 14:00                   | Short presentations 14:00 - 18:00  |
|                         | Melis Yarman, NGO - Bumerang, Turkey, "Derince Pesticide Stockpile"  |
|                         | Aleksandar Obrovski, Vrelo, Serbia and Montenegro  |
|                         | Stella Tabacova, NM Ecoglasnost-Veliko Tarnovo , Bulgaria, "Yantra River basin and pesticides contamination"   |
|                         | Victoria Resetnic , Ecological Movement of Moldova, Moldova – "Agriculture Pollution Control Project", "Persistent Organic Pollutants", "The Prut River Basin Wide Approach for Nutrient Reduction " |

| <b>May 15, Sunday</b> |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 9:00                  | Discussion              |
| 13:30                 | Closing of the workshop |

## **B. Implementation of the Conference**

The Conference was held according to the program 13 - 15 May 2005. Participants from nine countries took part in it. Lectures and short presentation were read.

## **C. Discussions and decisions**

After the presentations the discussions were conducted and a final one was held in the working group meeting last day. Some of the NGOs declare their intentions to activate their work on the pesticides problems by collecting information about this issue and distribute them in their region.

There were two main issues identified for the Danube and Black Sea region:

- i) There are temporary high levels of atrazine contamination in Danube and other rivers which indicate high usage of this dangerous herbicide in agriculture. Atrazine is not authorized in the European Union because of the negative impact on drinking

water resources and the aquatic ecosystems. In addition, the official accepted residue limits in water are very much higher than in the European Union.

ii) There are no regulations, guidelines or recommendations on the “Good Agriculture Practice in plant protection” by the responsible administration, which provide farmer with relevant information, e.g. how to avoid water contamination of pesticides.

The possibilities for a future meeting in 2007 were discussed and recommendation for better communication between interested NGOs was made.

A concrete collaboration between Bulgarian NGOs was decided using already created list “Pesticides” in the Bulgarian NGO’s network “Blue Link”. Three NGOs were decided to be in charge for the future cooperation in the different stages of the joint work NM Ecoglasnost will undertake the responsible coordination.

### Annex - Photos:

- 1) Suzanne Smolka – Pesticide Action Network, Germany
- 2) Participants
- 3) Ralph Ryder – Communities Against Toxics, UK
- 4) Daniel Lešínský , OIKOS-FoE , Slovakia
- 5) Valentina Lukova, National Movement Ecoglasnost, Bulgaria

### List of Participants:

| Name/Surname        | Organisation  | Country               |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Cechina Natalia     | Ecological Movement of Moldova                                      | Moldova               |
| Natalia Cholovska   | Lviv Municipal Ecological Public Organization “Ecoterra”            | Ukraine               |
| Aleksandar Obrovski | “VRELO”-the society for healthy feeding and enviromental protection | Serbia and Montenegro |
| Daniel Lesinsky     | OIKOS   | Slovakia              |
| Suzanne Smolka      | Pesticide Action Network  | Germany               |
| Lars Neumeister     | Pesticide Action Network  | Germany               |
| Hana Kuncova        | Arnika / International POPs Elimination Network                     | Czech Republic        |
| Martin Skalsky      | Arnika / International POPs Elimination Network                     | Czech Republic        |
| Ralph Ryder         | Communities Against Toxics  | UK                    |
| Milorad Grbovic     | Ekolosko drustvo “Badem”  | Serbia and Montenegro |
| Valentina Lukova    | NM Ecoglasnost-FoE Bulgaria <i>Sofia</i>                            | Bulgaria              |
| Nevena Dimitrova    | NM Ecoglasnost-FoE <i>Sofia</i>                                     | Bulgaria              |
| Lubomir Angelov     | NM Ecoglasnost-FoE <i>Sofia</i>                                     | Bulgaria              |
| Vania Dimitrova     | NM Ecoglasnost-FoE – <i>Branch Pleven</i>                           | Bulgaria              |
| Yordanka Milanova   | NM Ecoglasnost-FoE – <i>Branch Bulgaria Pernik</i>                  | Bulgaria              |
| Ivan Bonchev        | ЧУЕИО   | Bulgaria              |
| Boyan Boyanovski    | Balkani   | Bulgaria              |
| Stella Tabacova,    | NM Ecoglasnost- <i>Brnach Veliko Tarnovo</i>                        | Bulgaria              |
| George Ivanov       | Earth Forever   | Bulgaria              |
| Galia Bardarska     | Global Water Partnership  | Bulgaria              |
| Ema Gileva          | BSNN  | Bulgaria              |

|                    |  |          |
|--------------------|--|----------|
| Vencislav Nikolov  | Danube Region Basin Directorate        | Bulgaria |
| Natallia Koleva    | Danube Region Basin Directorate        | Bulgaria |
| Svetla Nikolova    | Agroling                               | Bulgaria |
| Natasha Bacurova   | NM Ecoglasnost- <i>Brnach Bregovo</i>  | Bulgaria |
| Maria Moleshka     | Eco Vratsa                             | Bulgaria |
| Ivan Hristov       | Bulgarra                               | Bulgaria |
| Maria Sotirova     | Bulgarra                               | Bulgaria |
| Svetla Yankova     | MST                                    | Bulgaria |
| Valentina Vasileva | Ministry of Environment and Water      | Bulgaria |
| Dochka Bozilova    | NM Ecoglasnost-FoE <i>branch Sofia</i> | Bulgaria |