

20 November 2006

Agenda item 4

Implementation of SAICM in EU-JUSSCANNZ countries

Issue: Non-paper of Spain on several points, including the eliminated table C from the Global Plan of Action (GPA) and whether it needs to be taken up for discussion and resulting decision making on this matter at ICCM 2, 2009

WECF/DR: The ministerial declaration and the OPS (overarching policy strategy) contain multiple reference with regard to the protection of vulnerable groups, in particular children and women. The deleted Table C of the GPA proposes action in order to ensure that women and children are better protected. Therefore, WECF very much welcomes governments taking up the discussion on how to proceed in this matter and come to a resolution about at ICCM 2.

21 November 2006

Agenda item 6

NGO plans for SAICM implementation

WECF/DR:

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair. On behalf of Women in Europe for a Common Future, I am happy to briefly introduce you to our plans in support of SAICM implementation.

We are a network of over 70 women's and environmental organizations in 30 countries, encompassing then EU and the wider European Region. Our network has been working on chemicals and public health for a number of years on the national, regional, EU and international level.

In the EU, much of our efforts over the past 3-4 years have focused on securing a strong REACH. Beyond the EU, our members have been active pushing the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, dealing with obsolete pesticide stockpiles and discussing chemicals safety.

We know that women and future generations given their different physiological make-up, exposure patterns and vulnerability will be the first ones to benefit from effective chemicals management. The results of effective chemicals management are not only healthy women, healthy families and a healthy environment, but also safe products, increasing industry sales renewed consumer trust and lower costs for the clean up of hazardous consumer waste.

As a first step in support of SAICM implementation, we published the first comprehensive English language publication written by women, for women called "Women and their Toxic World". The publication focuses on hazardous chemicals in every day consumer products, how women's health are affected, what legislative frameworks exist to protect women and future generations, and finally what women can do themselves to reduce exposure and as the biggest group of shoppers worldwide, promote safer products.

Our future work will continue to focus on high concern chemicals, such as PBTs, vPvBs, CMRs, EDCs and POPs as listed for example as activity 54 in the GPA. Given their hazards

**DR Intervention at SAICM, 1st EU-JUSSCANNZ Regional Meeting
20 - 22 November 2006, Barcelona**

and risks, we believe that in the long-term, their replacement by safer alternatives will be the most effective, also the most cost-effective, way to protect women and future generations. In that context, we will be looking at setting up national and regional projects addressing a variety of consumer products ranging from toys to baby equipment and cosmetics, focused not only on raising awareness and informing but also at working with industry, especially downstream users and retailers on how promote safer alternatives.

All of this work will next to SAICM, also tie in with our continued efforts to support and promote the implementation of REACH, which will hopefully begin in 2007. Above this, our efforts will also ensure that SAICM governance objective 16 h will be met and women are equally involved in decision making on chemicals policy and management.