

ANNUAL REVIEW 2011



Promoting public health through a healthy
environment in Europe and beyond



About HEAL

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union (EU). We demonstrate how policy changes can help protect health and enhance people's quality of life.

HEAL's membership includes national organisations in 26 countries both within EU member states and the wider European region, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO). It also includes European and global networks.

Member organisations, representing a wide range of health professionals, patients, not-for-profit health insurers, citizens, women, youth and environmental experts, help to bring independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes.

Priorities

Our key issues include environmental prevention of chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory disease, diabetes and obesity; hazardous chemicals, including pesticides and biocides; climate change and energy; air quality; noise pollution; mercury; environmental injustice, and social inequalities.

Annual Review 2011

Financial year 15 March 2011 - 14 March 2012

HEAL, 28 Blvd. Charlemagne
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Responsible editor: Genon K. Jensen,
HEAL Executive Director

Editing team: Diana Smith, Anne Stauffer,
Wim van Delft and Christina Reinards

Design: Mazout.nu
Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled
paper with vegetal based ink.

Published in July 2012

Tasks

- Monitoring policy within EU institutions and at the international level to identify threats and opportunities for environment and health
- Running advocacy campaigns to bring the voice of the health community to policy makers
- Following policy-relevant research and making it accessible
- Facilitating public and stakeholder participation
- Building capacity through publications, conferences, workshops, and training.

Independence

HEAL is independent of any political party or commercial interest. The alliance receives funding from the European Union, governments and private foundations as well as through membership contributions. We do not accept funding from sources with commercial interests.

Representation

HEAL develops its policy positions with the help of its more than 70 members throughout Europe, many of which represent large network organisations of different specialist areas related to health and the environment. We create consensus statements by providing our expertise to members and then taking on board their many perspectives. The position statements therefore represent a broad constituency and allow greater public interest engagement in discussions in EU institutions and international arena.



Editorial

This year has kept European Union leaders busy with the financial crisis and setting the EU back on an economic recovery path. Working closely with the European institutions, HEAL had regular opportunities to stress that economic growth starts with a healthy population.

We did this by showcasing how environmental action results in better health and by spotlighting the win-win scenarios that exist for making Europe more sustainable while bringing down rates of cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes or asthma.

This year, there was evidence of a growing recognition among EU and international policy makers that changes in environment policy can create better health. Here are some examples:

- Health Commissioner John Dalli told the UN High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases that environmental factors were part of the approach needed to prevent cancer and other chronic disease. The European Parliament sent a similar message.
- The World Health Organization's Asturias Declaration recognised that cancer control programmes should address environmental and occupational exposures.

There has also been evidence of growing support for the environmental approach to better health within the wider community:

- UK medical and military personnel have joined forces to protect public health and human development with a call for strong targets to tackle climate change.
- Not-for-profit health insurers of the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) have become involved in environmental health prevention through a strategic partnership with HEAL.



- National and EU media have featured more health stories addressing the role of chemicals in current epidemics, the risks to health from fracking, and chemical-related patients' stories, especially in France.

We still have a long way to go until politicians fully recognise the health economic argument and put environmental prevention at the heart of their decision-making ...

Growing evidence exists on how far-reaching the harm to health is from exposure to chemicals and climate change; but science also provides the corresponding good news that lives could be saved, healthcare budgets slashed and, most importantly, well-being and quality of life improved by moving towards a low carbon, health promoting environment that is sustainable for future generations.

Gradually, working with HEAL member organisations, partners, supporters and funders, we are getting these messages across and we look forward to our continued work with them and with European citizens on environmental health protection.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Genon', written over a white background.

Genon K. Jensen
Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

Environment and health

Promoting environmental action to prevent serious illnesses

2011 has been a year in which HEAL has helped to define and promote opportunities within EU policy for preventing serious health problems such as cancer, asthma and other respiratory disease, heart problems, diabetes and obesity. We have put the spotlight on a particularly vulnerable group, namely children.

EU Health Commissioner talks “environment”



EU Health Commissioner John Dalli emphasised prevention and the “underlying economic, social and environmental factors”.

HEAL was delighted when European Health Commissioner, John Dalli acknowledged “environmental factors” in the European Commission’s address to the United Nations High-level Meeting on Non-communicable diseases in September 2011. Chronic or non-communicable disease, including cancer, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, are at least in part caused by environmental

factors. Scientific understanding of how air and water pollution, exposure to hazardous chemicals, and the health impacts of climate change are related to rising rates of serious, chronic disease is becoming clearer all the time.

Prior to the international summit, HEAL had sent an Open Letter to Commissioner Dalli outlining some of the environmental causes of disease and options for prevention. We had urged him to give greater attention to environmental factors at the New York meeting.



HEAL’s article on “Environmental factors” appeared in the special edition of The Parliament magazine, September 2011, which was distributed to thousands of participants at the EU’s leading health policy event, the European Health Forum in Gastein, Austria.

In parallel, HEAL provided expertise to the European Parliament’s resolution, which had also called on the UN meeting to consider environmental prevention as the fifth risk factor in prevention after tobacco, poor diet, alcohol and lack of exercise.

Yet the real test will be whether the EU includes this recognition within its financing of public health activities for 2014 onwards and the actions that will be developed for tackling chronic diseases in EU countries.

Helping to build consensus at WHO on environmental cancer prevention

A breakthrough meeting of the World Health Organization in Asturias, Spain in March 2011 put environmental and occupational factors in the primary prevention of cancer at the top of the agenda for the first time. The Asturias Declaration says: “Prevention of the environmental and occupational exposures that cause cancer must be an integral component of cancer control worldwide.”

Lisette van Vliet of HEAL helped build the consensus in Asturias with the help of our background document, which reviewed the main issues and gave particular emphasis to evidence on the role that harmful chemicals play in cancer causation. For example, studies on childhood cancer, including leukaemia and brain tumours, indicate that pre-natal exposure to cancer-related chemicals in the environment plays a role. Around 280 chemicals have been found in umbilical-cord blood. Our position paper was well-supported by partner organisations at the event.



Citizens against cancer: TV cameras at the HEAL stand during the ARTAC meeting in Paris. Later, Genou Jensen and Lisette van Vliet, HEAL appeared in a prime-time documentary on Swiss and French television entitled "Les citoyens contre le cancer", October 2011, which also featured cancer sufferers including children with cancer.



Supporting the 3rd Paris Appeal Congress - Youngest at risk

Since the first Paris Appeal conference in 2004, thousands of scientists and citizens have signed the consensus statement demonstrating their concern about the effects of a deteriorating environment on public health and HEAL is proud to have been a supporter from the start.

The 3rd International Congress in 2011 focused on "Children's health and the Environment" and was attended by 250 scientists and health professionals who brought home the message to both policy-makers and the public that urgent action was needed.

Organised by ARTAC, a French member of HEAL, with technical support from WHO and in partnership with HEAL and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, latest science from around the world addressed the links between children's exposure to environmental pollutants, including before birth, and the worrying trends in cancer rates, developmental problems and congenital abnormalities, declining fertility in young men, and high levels of asthma and allergy.

The conclusions from the 3rd Paris Appeal provide a solid foundation for advocates to push for better laws, for example to replace hazardous synthetic chemicals that are especially harmful for children. One of the congress outcomes was the creation of a new society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE France).

Anne Stauffer, HEAL Deputy Director told a hugely-successful conference that current noise levels are harming people's health and it was high time to bring them down. The meeting attracted over 100 participants from EU institutions, national ministries, local authorities and industry.

Health insurers tackle environmental causes of disease

The 38 federations of not-for-profit health insurance societies of the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) have added their voices and weight to the environmental health prevention community in Europe through a strategic alliance with HEAL for awareness-raising, research, information and best practice exchange and policy work.

AIM's new membership in HEAL is an expression of the recognition that the environment has become increasingly important in health matters: in 2010, AIM had issued a declaration on environmental prevention as an outcome of their first ever conference on this issue. In 2011, the eight mutual benefit societies in Belgium also joined HEAL as individual organisations.



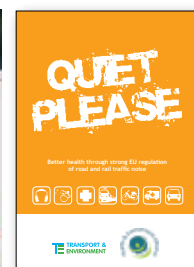
The partnership between HEAL and mutual benefit societies is strengthened through collaborations at the national level: in France with HEAL member RES and in Belgium through the inter-mutualist working group on environmental health.

Geert Messiaen, representing AIM and the Belgian Mutualities, presents the health insurers' view on why environmental health is key to prevention at the HEAL AGM 2011.

Noise: a rising concern for heart disease

Living near a busy road increases risks of heart disease and stroke and impairs children's concentration. By working closely with Transport & Environment (T&E), a co-member in the Green 10 group of Brussels-based environmental non-governmental groups, HEAL has been able to create greater awareness of the health impact of noise in EU policy making.

This is particularly important for the decisions on noise standards for cars, lorries and trucks, which will be updated for the first time in 20 years, and which are a not-to-be-missed opportunity to reduce noise where it starts.



Chemicals

Raising awareness of endocrine disrupting chemicals

REACH legislation has undoubtedly established the European Union as the global leader in chemical law to protect health and environment. However, proper regulation of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) remains a complex issue that has yet to be effectively managed.

Endocrine disruptors are chemicals that interfere with the human body's hormone system. Scientific studies have linked EDCs to many different health conditions, including hormone-related cancers (such as those of the breast, prostate and testes), obesity, diabetes, neuro-developmental and neurodegenerative diseases, precocious puberty, and reproductive problems, including low semen quality.



The HEAL and CHEM Trust briefing sets out the key issues for defining EDCs and was translated by our partner, RES into French and into German by BUND Germany

HEAL's overarching goal on chemicals is to promote a toxic-free future by bringing forward the scientific evidence that reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals will prevent ill-health, and by advocating for and supporting policy reform to phase out hazardous chemicals. Where the evidence remains uncertain, we encourage precautionary action, including the substitution of chemicals of concern with alternatives.

Spreading the word on evidence of an everyday problem - toxic dust

HEAL worked with Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, ChemSec and many other partners in Europe to raise awareness of the harmful chemicals found in dust samples "under the bed". The study tested dust samples from many EU countries and found traces of EDCs and other chemical substances. HEAL and others shared the findings and highlighted the need for new risk assessment methods that would properly assess the harmful effects of EDCs and take into account the capacity of these chemicals to have significant effects even at very low doses.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness of concerns related to EDCs and to strongly encourage the European



Babies are first to be exposed to hazardous chemicals on dusty floors found under the bed.

Commission and every EU member state to speed up the process of regulation, including the nomination of EDCs to the REACH Candidate List. It also encouraged companies to phase out EDCs from their products.

Promoting EU policy change on hazardous chemicals

HEAL has been in regular contact and working closely with the European Parliament, the European Commission and Member State representatives on steps for policy reform on endocrine disrupting and other hazardous chemicals. In partnership with other NGOs, HEAL has issued position papers on the requirements for a proper regulation of endocrine disruptors, and produced leaflets and disseminated a report on the links between endocrine disrupting chemicals EDCs and diabetes and obesity.

Bisphenol A, as a high priority EDC, continued to be of specific concern for our work. In collaboration with HEAL's French member Réseau Environnement Santé (RES), we followed the French Parliament ban on BPA in food contact materials and promoted the new French approach to BPA risk assessment.

HEAL is a member of EU Commission expert groups on EDC assessment and policy. We promoted the NGO-led 'SIN' List of chemicals to be replaced, which features 22 endocrine disruptors.



The book “Notre Poison quotidien” (Our daily poison) provides the scientific references and further details on Marie-Monique Robin’s investigations.

Uncovering shortcomings in the regulation of chemicals

HEAL organised the first Brussels screening of a major new French documentary “Notre poison quotidien” (Our daily poison) to share this careful examination of some of the complex science and the conflicts of interest that determine how chemical “safety” is decided, and whether or not it sufficiently protects our health.

The film follows the regulatory history of three potentially hazardous chemicals: pesticides, aspartame and bisphenol A (BPA). The film’s director, Marie-Monique Robin, investigated the archives of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and made her way into a closed WHO meeting. She talks to regulators, researchers and advocacy groups to build her case.

The result is a story that reveals a broken safety system that is more concerned with protecting trade secrets than human health. The film shows that one of the main causes of the current epidemics of cancer, Parkinson’s disease and



Alzheimer’s is probably environmental, and especially linked to the 100,000 chemical molecules that have invaded our food and environment since the end of the Second World War.

At an informal reception after the film show, HEAL Executive Director Genon Jensen thanks film director Marie-Monique Robin for animating a passionate discussion after the screening and invites guests for a book signing.

Fracking: what will be the health costs?

By summer 2011, fracturing shale rock to extract gas or oil (fracking) was the talk of the town not only in Brussels but in many EU capitals from Paris to Warsaw to Bucharest. Companies in EU countries and governments were rushing to explore the potential of securing energy supply through fracking while HEAL’s aim was to make known the many public environmental health risks of this technique – one being that many and high volumes of hazardous chemicals are used in the process, and can pollute drinking water and other water bodies. Others include the huge waste of water, air pollution, emissions of greenhouse gases and noise problems.

HEAL took the lead in coordinating the information sharing between public interest organisations at EU and national level concerned about health and environmental impacts, and organised a seminar on the theme in October 2011, which was met with great interest from our members, the European Commission, and the media. This event underlined HEAL’s demand that no new permits on exploration or extraction should be issued until the health and environment problems posed by fracking are adequately addressed.

This call was taken up in a common statement by over 30 non-governmental organisations, and is particularly important in view of an upcoming European Parliament resolution on fracking and continued discussions on how EU law needs to be adapted to address fracking risks.



HEAL’s Lisette van Vliet described some of the health risks associated with fracturing shale rock to extract gas or oil on a EuroNews television feature reviewing the Poland’s EU presidency.

Biocides

Ensuring the legislation captures endocrine disruptors

HEAL worked intensively to encourage a high standard of health protection to be set in the biocides legislation agreed this year.

The aim was to see standards that were at least as good as those set in the pesticides package agreed in 2009. Of particular concern was that the new legislation should apply to biocides that are endocrine disruptors, that chemical mixtures were addressed, that it did not contain loopholes for harmful biocides to continue to be used, and that sustainable use of biocides should become a priority.

Throughout the process we issued recommendations, provided technical expertise and relayed concerns from the health community to MEPs and the environment ministers. This was done in close collaboration with HEAL members and partners Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Germany, PAN Europe, WECF, Générations Futures, Clean Air Action Group, Inter-Environnement Wallonie, and the Department of Clinical Microbiology, Uppsala University Hospital.

When the law passed in January 2012, it was not a big step forward for public health protection but HEAL welcomed the fact that it would apply to biocides that are EDCs, for which there is growing scientific evidence of harm to health. Biocides with endocrine disrupting properties are scheduled for phase out once the European Commission agrees its definition of EDCs by 2013.

HEAL continues its advocacy on both biocides and pesticides as part of its chemicals work on EDCs. To bring about a swift and effective reduction of people's exposure to EDCs, our aim is to ensure the forthcoming definition of EDC criteria are comprehensive, hazard based and will lead to swift substitutions under the biocides legislation and the pesticide package as well as in REACH and other EU chemical policies.

Biocides are chemical substances in settings used other than agriculture. They include pest control products, for example insect repellents; wood preservatives; and, disinfectants, such as some widely used surface cleaning and hand wash products. Biocides are a particular concern for human health because their rapidly growing use may be contributing to antibiotic resistance.



Making known flaws in the authorisation process

This year saw the re-approval by the EU of a pesticide that had been banned in 2009. Metam is suspected to have endocrine disrupting properties and therefore a human health concern. HEAL worked with member organisation Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe against the re-approval but it nevertheless went through with authorisation extended until June 2022.



The case of metam is one of many back-door re-authorisations highlighted by HEAL members, PAN Europe and Générations Futures in their report "Meet (chemical) agriculture: the world of backdoors, derogations, sneaky pathways and loopholes".

Pesticides

Health-affected groups make their voice heard

"Pesticides Alternatives Week", launched by HEAL member organisation Générations Futures in France in 2006, is expanding each year and HEAL is proud to be a partner in this creative, practical and very diverse grassroots initiative. Six hundred events were planned during 20-30 March 2011 in eight countries of Europe and Africa.

As part of 2011 week, HEAL attended the official launch of the network "Phytovictimes" (sufferers of pesticide related health problems) in Ruffec, near Poitiers, France. The meeting included a screening to about 200 people of "Notre poison quotidien" which features several network members. HEAL has supported this network via Générations Futures since its inception.

Pesticide sufferers capture hearts and minds

Television and press coverage of the stories of network members has marked a change in public understanding of the devastating effects of long-term pesticide exposure in France.

In early 2012, the "pesticide victims" network attracted major national media coverage. First, Paul Francois, the network's leader and who suffers serious neurological problems, was successful in proving that his condition was the result of inhaling pesticides. The legal challenge had placed him in a difficult fight against Monsanto, one of the largest pesticide producers in the world.

A few days later, the network staged a demonstration at the stand of the French pesticide industry association (UIPP) during the agricultural show in Paris.

It brought further attention to the health conditions suffered by the members, including leukaemia, bladder cancer and Parkinson's disease.

HEAL has shared widely these developments in France by translating and disseminating news via our newsletter, listserves, Facebook and Twitter, and works towards encouraging farmers and agricultural workers in other countries to speak out on the health damage they suffer because of pesticide exposure.



Paul Francois of "Phyto-victimes" in France puts some difficult questions to a representative of the UIPP, the French organisation that brings together pesticide manufacturers. The Phyto-victimes network held a demonstration at the UIPP stand during the agricultural fair in Paris in February 2012 to draw attention to the harm that pesticides are causing to farmers' health.

Climate change

Moving health co-benefits up the agenda

The year began on a very positive beat. European Member of Parliament, Bas Eickhout featured the findings of our flagship publication “Acting NOW for better health, A 30% reduction target for EU climate policy” in his parliamentary report aimed at persuading the EU to move beyond its current 20% target.

The launch of his report gave the HEAL team a new opportunity for a spell of personal visits, letters and messages to MEPs, Commission staff and the Environment Council aimed at drawing attention to the health co-benefits of a more ambitious target on emission reductions. Special efforts were made to involve medical and expert partners in professional associations and public health institutes in several target countries.

Building national support for 30% target

HEAL focused particular efforts on the UK, France and Poland, the latter country holding the EU presidency in the second half of 2011.

In the UK, HEAL partnered the Climate and Health Council, Health Care Without Harm and others in organising a conference attended by 300 medical and military professionals. The meeting agreed a statement which urged the EU to unconditionally agree to a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020 and asked governments to stop building new coal-fired power stations and to phase out existing plants.

A HEAL delegation to Poland was received by government officials in Warsaw and addressed a major conference in Poznan attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health and many



Three hundred medical and military experts asked the EU to move to a 30% target on climate change. Many more signed on to the conference statement.

hospital administrators. A Polish non-governmental organisation translated the entire Acting NOW report into Polish and has shared it with doctors, local climate action groups, and the media.

The report, Acting NOW has also been translated and promoted by a Czech group, and several organisations in France and Ireland have made available the findings.

Health achieves a higher profile at global talks

HEAL was one of several groups that co-organised the first “Health Summit” in Durban. Attended by hundreds of participants, including representatives from the World Health Organization, it provided an opportunity to distribute our new postcard and display posters featuring the findings of the Acting NOW report and helped build the international health and climate voice.



HEAL posters at the UNFCCC global climate talks



Joint HEAL and HCWH advisor Pendo Maro appeared on internal UNFCCC television in Durban with WHO's climate and health expert, Dr Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum. Ms Maro also ran a side-event on health at the COP17 talks in Durban.

HEAL profiled by the global campaign

HEAL works closely with the Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA), the coordinator of the 300 or more leading non-governmental organisations involved in action on climate around the world. The value attributed to our role in the global campaign was reflected in our being chosen as the featured partner in tcktck, the GCCA newsletter, immediately before the Durban conference.



Tcktck, a global campaign for climate change, interviewed Genon Jensen, HEAL Executive Director

HEAL uses Commission's estimates on health co-benefits to promote 30% target

In January 2012, the European Commission released a paper assessing the costs and benefits of moving from a 20% to a 30% target on greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2020. It showed that billions of Euros in health benefits would accrue from stronger climate action. HEAL promptly responded by urging governments to use the findings as the economic case for moving to a higher target and that health ministers should argue for higher climate targets as an investment in public health.

HEAL worked closely with Climate Action Network Europe (CAN E) to promote the findings of the new paper saying that even though the Commission's emphasis on health co-benefits were welcome, they were only a tiny fraction of the real benefits for health of mitigating future climate change.



Brussels' newspaper, European voice published this editorial on the health co-benefits highlighted in the Commission's paper. It is by UK professor and medical doctor Hugh Montgomery, who has led several HEAL delegations to the UNFCCC climate talks.

Air Quality

Bringing irrefutable evidence for the EU legislative review

The scientific evidence that air pollution kills half a million people each year makes air quality a major public health issue.

The European Commission has started a comprehensive review of its air quality policy – a process which allows HEAL to make recommendations from the public health community as a member of a stakeholder group coordinated by DG Environment. Our key task is to bring the scientific health evidence to EU policy makers. This year, we disseminated the results of several EU funded research projects, such as those from APHEKOM which quantified the potential benefits of cleaner air for 25 European cities and highlighted the environmental health inequalities suffered by children and respiratory patients living next to busy roads.

We also worked with member organisation, the European Respiratory Society in promoting a scientific paper on 10 guiding principles to address “an invisible killer”. The paper summarises the evidence linking air pollution to ill-health and provides guidance for policy makers. The respiratory health experts say that exposure to poor outdoor air quality reduces the average European’s life expectancy by 8.6 months. They call for stronger air quality legislation to improve public health as the current EU standards are still below WHO guidelines and do not adequately protect our health.

HEAL also highlighted the positive effect on air quality of stronger climate goals and collaborated with the environmental groups, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Transport and Environment (T&E) to highlight the health impacts of air pollution from road and sea transport.

We will continue to highlight the huge health benefits that can be reaped from improved air quality by cutting emissions from industrial plants, domestic installations, the transport sector and agriculture, and demand a re-newed commitment from EU leaders, national politicians and local authorities for stronger EU air quality standards.



Opting for cycling rather than using a private car helps decarbonise our economies yielding huge health benefits.

The more walking and cycling we do, the more we benefit from cleaner air, reduced noise and greater fitness. We also contribute to reducing carbon emissions. HEAL’s task is to make these connections and share them with policy makers.

Homes must be health friendly as well as energy efficient

Of specific concern in 2011 was the need to raise concerns about compromising air quality in the push for energy efficient buildings. Energy efficiency saves money and keeps carbon emissions down but poor ventilation can create mould and greater insulation can lead to a build-up of fumes from chemicals in new paint or flooring sealants.

Our call to protect indoor air quality during the debate on the new EU Energy Efficiency Directive was taken up in two parliamentary reports. Although HEAL has been the main organisation to bring this issue to the European Parliament and Council, we are strongly supported by several HEAL members, including the European Federation of Asthma and Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA).

Finances

HEAL is funded through our membership fees and grants from the European Commission, governments and international organisations, such as the World Health Organization, and by private foundations.

HEAL's financial year ran from 15 March 2011 until 14 March 2012. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor's company.

INCOME	
EU Commission grant	€362,992.00
Other grants (governments, private foundations)	€ 243,952.58
Membership fees	€ 10,920.00
Total income	€ 617,864.58

EXPENDITURES	
Personnel	€ 339,965.36
Activity costs including subcontractors	€ 176,168.94
Travel and subsistence	€ 28,738.99
Overheads	€ 53,288.84
Other costs	€ 9,082.45
Total expenditure	€ 607,244.58

Provisions for social regulations	€ 10,620.00
--	--------------------

Communications

Making the science more accessible

HEAL made important strides this year in making latest science available and accessible to policy makers, partners and the media.

We produced position papers on different issues and worked with EU research projects and CHEM Trust to bring scientific findings to a wider audience in Brussels and throughout the EU.



CHEM Trust published a comprehensive review of the science linking chemical exposures to obesity and diabetes in early 2012, and HEAL worked with this UK charity to produce a leaflet to make the findings and their implications easily understandable to a wide audience. To promote the findings, we worked with our members and partners in EU countries resulting in about 120 articles appearing in

15 European countries with coverage on German television, national newspapers in the UK, France and Ireland, and in the EU policy media.

If chemical exposures play even a small part in diabetes, the benefits of better chemicals regulation will be significant, the brochure says.

Science to policy

HEAL's policy briefings provide politicians, risk managers and the general public with information on scientific evidence and offer suggestions on which measures to take to better protect our health from environmental threats. 2011 briefings include environmental prevention of cancer, children's health and environmental pollution, climate change and health and others. Through HEAL's involvement in EU funded research projects APHEKOM, ESCAPE, SINPHONIE, ERA-ENVHEALTH, we carry out two way

communication from the science to the policy-makers, and from the policy level to the scientists in order to ensure a better uptake of scientific evidence in policy-making.

Timely science and policy news – the HEAL newsflash

HEAL's monthly newsflash is the information resource for the environment and health community and decision-makers on policy developments and the latest science. It features highlights of HEAL's advocacy work, updates from our diverse members across Europe, a Take Action section, and a listing of environmental health events. Nine issues of the HEAL Newsflash provided more than 5,000 subscribers with policy and scientific information in a timely and accessible fashion.

Information alerts

Timely announcements on EU and international policy developments and the latest science are available via our Twitter account; two public listserves, Health and climate change and Environment and cancer prevention; and six working groups: Environment & Health, Children's environment and health, Chemicals, Human biomonitoring, Shale fracturing for gas and oil, and Public participation. As a European partner to the US Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE), HEAL also facilitates the transatlantic information exchange and moderates a HEAL Europe working group and a climate list serve.

Twitter

HEAL tweeted just under 400 times to more than 1,000 followers this year. Other twitterers mentioned HEAL tweets on 89 occasions during the course of the year.

Those following us include some influential tweeters such as high-profile climate change campaigns (350.dot - 93,000 followers and tckctck - 19,000), environmental information sources (Guardian Environment - 82,000) and health policy centres (King's Fund, UK - 14,000).

Media coverage

HEAL works hard to ensure its findings are clearly communicated to EU and national media outlets, including through the dissemination of more than 30 press releases in 2011. Press releases and contacts with EU, national and specialist journalists have resulted in many articles featuring HEAL and our work. Highlights in the EU policy press media included the following:

- EuroNews: Assessing Poland's EU presidential performance, 20 December 2011 featured Lisette van Vliet highlighting the health risks of fracking
- The European Voice, "Cut emissions, boost health" by Prof Hugh Montgomery, 2 February 2012
- European Parliament magazine: Shale gas: A burning issue, 7 November 2011
- ENDS Europe: Parliament committee calls for 30% CO₂ cut, 25 May 2011
- Chemical Watch: Scientific review links chemicals to obesity and diabetes, 20 March 2011

THE PARLIAMENT
MAGAZINE

EuropeanVoice

CHEMICALWATCH

ENDS Europe



- EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Member State Committee, Management Board and Advisory Group on the dissemination of public information on chemical substances, EU EDCs Strategy Ad hoc Group
- WHO European Environment and Health Task Force (EEHTF)
- WHO Europe Working Group on Climate change and Health (HIC)

Resource Tools

- Resource list: Cancer and the Environment
- Fact sheet: Chronic disease and the environment
- Informational postcard: Acting now for better health – 30% reduction target for EU climate policy

Policy briefings

- Questions & Answers: Moving beyond 20% - How reducing greenhouse gas emissions benefits people's health in the EU
- Health benefits of GHG reduction policies
- Report: Acting NOW for better health – Polish version
- Reducing cancer through environmental policy change
- Children's health and the environment
- NGO position paper: Requirements for the proper regulation of chemicals with endocrine disrupting properties
- Endocrine disrupting chemicals under REACH: 4 priority areas for regulation
- NGO recommendations on biocides for the European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Joint NGO comments to DG Environment on the analysis underpinning the review of EU air quality policy.
- Quiet Please: Better health through strong EU regulation of road and rail traffic noise

HEAL helped facilitate and signed:

- BMJ Climate, Health and Security Statement
- Durban Declaration on Climate and Health
- Durban Global Call to Action on Climate and Health
- Open Letter to Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General and Margret Chan, WHO Director General, on diseases and risk factors to be considered in highlevel meeting on non-communicable diseases.

Working with partners

We value working with other organisations to gather expertise and sound evidence, and to multiply our efforts. Each year, we consult with a growing number of NGOs and professional bodies to give yet more scope and energy to our advocacy work.

HEAL also has an ongoing collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE).

HEAL is a member of the following expert groups and networks:

- Green 10, a group of leading environmental NGOs working at EU level
- Civil Society Contact Group
- International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)
- EU Stakeholder Group on review of air policy
- EU Indoor air quality expert group

HEAL Secretariat



Genon Jensen
Executive Director



Anne Stauffer
Deputy Director



Lisette van Vliet
Toxics Policy Adviser



Diana Smith
Communications and Media consultant



Julia Huscher
Climate and Air Quality Policy Officer



Christina Reinards
Communications and Campaigns Officer



Sara Azcona Zabala
Finance and Administrative Officer

Our work was supported by:

Daniel Duarte
Chemicals Policy Assistant

Wim van Delft
Communications Assistant

We were sorry to say good-bye to:

Gill Erskine
Campaigns and Communications Officer

Jeanette Kaltschmied
Finance and Administrative Officer

Pendo Maro
Senior Climate and Energy Adviser

HEAL warmly thanks our Executive Committee members for their technical expertise, strategic input and commitment and contribution to our network and our vision during the course of this year.

We also extend our thanks to all our member organisations and partners. Many individuals and non-member organisations have also supported us. We especially thank the European Environment and Health Initiative and the European Climate Foundation.

HEAL gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the European Commission for this publication.

Executive Committee

HEAL's work and mission is governed by its membership and advanced by the activities of our members and partners with the help of the Brussels-based Secretariat.

The organisation has two governing bodies, the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. The General Assembly is comprised of all member organisations and generally meets once a year in Brussels.

HEAL's Executive Committee is made up of elected representatives of the membership. It is elected for a two-year mandate. The current members were elected in 2010.



HEAL President
Marie-Christine Dewolf
Hygiène Publique
en Hainaut (Belgium)



HEAL Vice-President
Peter van den Hazel
International Network
for Children's Health,
Environment and Safety
(the Netherlands)



HEAL Treasurer
David Stone
Natural England (UK)



Monika Kosinska
European Public Health
Alliance (Belgium)



Peter Ohnsorge
European Academy of
Environmental Medicine
(Germany)



Valérie Xhonneux
Inter Environnement
Wallonie (Belgium)



André Cicolella
Réseau Environnement
Santé (France)

HEAL Member Organisations

HEAL has 71 members in 26 countries.

- Action for Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF) (Malta)
- AKUT (Luxembourg)
- Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) (Armenia)
- Association for Environmental Health (Hungary)
- Association for Research on Treatment against Cancer (ARTAC) (France)
- Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM) (Belgium)
- Breast Cancer UK (United Kingdom)
- C2DS - Comité pour le Développement Durable en Santé (France)
- Caisse Auxiliaire d'Assurance Maladie - Invalidité (CAAMI) / Hulpkas voor Ziekte- en Invaliditeitsverzekering (HZIV) (Belgium)
- Caisse des soins de santé de la SNCB Holding (CSS) (Belgium)
- Cancer Prevention and Education Society (CPES) (United Kingdom)
- Center for Reproductive Health and Environment "Perzent" (Uzbekistan)
- Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (United Kingdom)
- Centre Local de Promotion de la Santé du Brabant Wallon (CLPS bw) (Belgium)
- CEPRO-MED Health Development Promotional and Educational Center (Serbia)
- Chartered Institute for Environmental Health (United Kingdom)
- Clean Air Action Group (Levegő Munkacsoport Országos Környezetvédő Szövetség) (Hungary)
- Croatian Nurses Association (Croatia)
- Department of Earth Sciences and Clinical Microbiology (Sweden)
- Dutch Organisation for Monitoring Health and Environment (the Netherlands)
- Dutch Platform Health and Environment (the Netherlands)
- ECHO (Slovenia)
- Eco-Accord on Environmental Problems Solution (Russia)
- Eco-sense (Macedonia)
- EcoTox Environment & Health (Armenia)
- European Academy of Environmental Medicine (EUROPAEM) (Germany)
- European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA) (UK)
- European Federation of Allergy & Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA) (Belgium)
- European Lung Foundation (ELF) (United Kingdom)
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) (Belgium)
- European Respiratory Society (ERS) (Belgium)
- Fundacion Vivo Sano (Spain)
- Générations Futures (France)
- German Network Children's Health and Environment (Network CHE) (Germany)
- Green Doctors – ISDE Ukraine (Ukraine)
- Greens for Montenegro (Montenegro)
- Hygiène Public en Hainaut (Belgium)
- Health and Environmental Care Technical Organization (HECTOR) (Belgium)
- Infection Ecology and Epidemiology Network (IEE) (Sweden)
- Initiativ Liewensufank, IBFAN Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
- Institute for Ecological Modernisation (IEM) (Bulgaria)
- Inter-Environment Wallonie (Belgium)
- International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) (the Netherlands)
- International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) (Switzerland)
- Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA) (Ireland)
- ISDE Austria - Ärztinnen und Ärzte für eine Gesunde Umwelt (ÄGU) (Austria)
- Landsbond van Liberale Mutualiteiten (LLM) (Belgium)
- Lansbond der Christelijke Mutualiteiten (Belgium)
- Leefmilieu (the Netherlands)
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom)
- Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE) (Macedonia)
- My right to know foundation (Bulgaria)
- Nationaal Verbond van Socialistische Mutualiteiten (NVSM) (Belgium)
- Natural England (United Kingdom)
- North West Health, Brussels Office (Belgium)
- On Crossroad Foundation / Válaszútón Alapítvány (Hungary)
- Pediatric Cultural Association (Italy)
- Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN) (Belgium)
- PIN Partnership-Information-Networking for Health (Croatia)
- Public Fund Maternity and Childhood Protection (Kyrgyz Republic)
- Réseau Environnement Santé (RES) (France)
- Stichting Ecobaby (the Netherlands)
- Union Nationale des Mutualités Libres (MLOZ) (Belgium)
- Union Nationale des Mutualités Neutres (UNMN) (Belgium)
- Union of Ecologists "Eco Protection" (Macedonia)
- University of Medicine, Department of Environmental Health (Romania)
- Women and Mothers against Violence (Bulgaria)
- Women for Green Way for Generations (Armenia)
- Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) (the Netherlands)
- Women's Environmental Network (United Kingdom)

HEAL member organisations, October 2011

Our Membership



HEAL's membership includes national organisations in 26 countries both within the EU member states and the wider European region, as defined by the World Health Organization, as well as European and international networks.

Member organisations represent a wide range of health professionals, patients, citizens, women, youth and environmental experts, and help to bring independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes.

All member organisations are not-for-profit and most are non-governmental, public interest organisations that have joined HEAL as full members. Associate members include health professional associations, expert institutes and regional public health authorities.





The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union. With the support of its more than 70 member organisations, which represent health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations as well as national and local groups.

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

28 Boulevard Charlemagne, B-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 234 3640

Fax : +32 2 234 3649

E-mail: info@env-health.org

Main website: www.env-health.org

HEAL project websites:

www.env-health.org/resources/project-websites/

- [Chemicals Health Monitor](#)
- [Sick of Pesticides](#)
- [Healthier Environments for Children](#)
- [Know your Air for Health](#)
- [Choosing our Future \(comic book\)](#)
- [Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury](#)