



Activity report

15 March 2008 - 14 March 2009

The following activity report is a comprehensive narrative of the Health and Environment Alliance's work programme and activities. It is divided up into overall objectives and the specific policy sector activities and outputs.

HEAL Work Programme Objectives

- ***Introduction and implementation of stringent and precautionary policies that protect the environment and promote sustainable development across the EU policy spectre to protect the health of people in Europe.*** This objective was satisfactorily met through effective advocacy work vis-à-vis the EU institutions and other international organisations, particularly in HEAL priority policy areas in the reporting period: chemicals policy, children's environment and health, the EU Action Plan on Environment and Health, mercury, pesticides, climate change, air quality and sustainable development.
- ***Engagement of stakeholders across sectors at local, national and European level for joint advocacy campaigns in priority areas and the formation of new coalitions on environment and health policy issues.*** Target groups in 2008 included health professionals (general practitioners, respiratory doctors, and paediatricians), health-affected groups (patients with asthma, allergies, breast cancer, cancer, Parkinson's disease, men's health), youth groups, local and regional health authorities. This objective was fully achieved with increased mobilisation and involvement of these groups in the EU decision-making process.
- ***Increasing citizens' participation in EU decision-making concerning the environment and its impact on human health.*** Priority policy areas were the Aarhus Convention and environmental justice. HEAL fulfilled this objective by raising awareness and informing citizens on their "right to know" about the negative health effects of environmental contamination.



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1. EU Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010

In 2008-2009, the EU Action Plan on Environment and Health continued to be implemented by the European Commission and Member States with focus on human biomonitoring activities, indoor air quality and environmental health research. The European Parliament in September 2008 provided a highly critical assessment of the action plan and called firmly for more resources and a second phase.

On EU Action Plan and related legislative files

In relation to the **implementation of the Commission European Action Plan on Environment and Health 2004-2010**, HEAL carried out advocacy and policy work vis-à-vis the European Parliament on MEP Frederique Ries own initiative report on the Mid term review of the EU Action Plan on Environment and Health 2004-2010:

- On 26 May 2008, HEAL sent a **letter** to the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Parliamentary Committee (ENVI), ahead of the vote on the Mid-term Review of the European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010, and reported to members. HEAL welcomed the ENVI Committee debate and vote, particularly the strong and clear signals that the EU needs to do much more to ensure that its policies protect people's health from environmental threats. As a result, **many of the EP's priorities mirror those of HEAL's** such as urgent review of EMF standards for vulnerable groups, and making sure that current EU policy files which could reduce the environmental risk factors of certain cancers like breast cancer, are not missed.
- On 4-5 November, HEAL participated in and gave a presentation at the French presidency **European conference on human biomonitoring: From biomarkers to human biomonitoring as a policy support tool in environmental health** in Paris. HEAL delivered a presentation outlining the NGO perspective and activities (see conference programme and report: http://www.invs.sante.fr/agenda/biosurveillance_2008/programme_2008.pdf).
- On **2 December 2008, HEAL organized a Workshop "Cancer Prevention & the Environment: Examples & opportunities for national & EU policy initiatives" in Brussels**. This half-day meeting was attended by HEAL members, cancer charities, other NGOs and EU institution representatives, aimed to highlight policy opportunities for cancer prevention through addressing environmental factors at the EU level and contribute to the implementation of the EU Action Plan as cancer is one of the disease priorities. Two Members of the European Parliament and a representative from DGSANCO (EU-)Commission opened the workshop. Prior to the conference, HEAL undertook a (non-exhaustive) **survey** of Member States that have formulated a national cancer control strategies and the role of environment within the strategy. Lisette van Vliet presented the preliminary results from this survey to initiate the discussion on opportunities for national-level policies. From this conference HEAL has created an **informal network** through which we will continue to exchange information and work collaboratively on ongoing EU-level cancer initiatives.
- On 17-18 December, HEAL participated and provided input into **DG Environment Consultative Forum on Environment and Health** and wrote a meeting report for members.



- HEAL coordinated the **Health and Environment chapter of the Green10 Manifesto** to the EP, and ensured the integration of the EU Action Plan within it.
- HEAL further disseminated the on-line **HEAL Environment and Health Primer** to policy makers and target groups in order to provide more opportunities for better policy integration, and promoted through **newly developed Bookmark** which includes the website address for download.
- HEAL supported and promoted the creation of the **French Environment and Health Network (Réseau Environnement Santé – RES)**, bringing together a coalition of groups including environmental NGOs, health affected and scientific groups as well as health professionals in France – MDRGF, WWF France, Objectif Bio, Nord Ecologie Consiel, Fac Verte, and Foundation Sciences Citoyennes (For more information, see: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3243> or <http://reseau-environnement-sante.fr>)
- HEAL provided European information on the **CHE/HEAL list serve** to foster information exchange on EU environment and health policy developments across the Atlantic
- HEAL provided interviews and presentations to North American audiences on HEAL and EU environment and health policy:
 - During summer 2008, two articles featuring HEAL appeared in the US. One was an interview with Genon Jensen, HEAL's Executive Director on the website of the Collaborative on Health and Environment.
 - The second article "European view nurtured by Nebraska roots" is based on an interview with Genon Jensen while she was in her home in Nebraska. The Grand Island Independent reflected HEAL's core mission in quoting Genon as saying: "We need to think wisely about the chemicals we use - and factor in the health costs that may be on society 50 years down the road."
 - On 1 April 2008, Genon Jensen and Monica Guarinoni met a representative of the Canadian David Suzuki Foundation to share activities and initiatives carried out in the European Union and Canada on various environment and health issues. This has resulted in regular collaboration and regular coverage of HEAL and EU activities on their website – a very high volume source of environmental health information in Canada.

EU Commission Work

DG SANCO

- In consultation with member organisations, HEAL submitted a **written contribution to DG SANCO work programme 2009**. It included recommendations to support to the WHO Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Italy, 2009); provide future support to the **Environment and Health Indicator system** and further integration into the **European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) work**; provide adequate resources for DG SANCO to respond to the inter-service consultation on Energy Performance Building Directive and the Construction Products Directive (foreseen in 2009) to ensure health is central to these themes. On climate change, HEAL recommended that DG SANCO should ensure that a European health delegation is present in the Copenhagen December 2009 negotiations, and that it prepares an overview of good practice on adapting to climate change health effects across the EU27 as part of its emphasis on *Developing Prevention within Health Security, Strand 1*.



- HEAL also called for a **Revision of EMF standards and support for a European approach to Human Biomonitoring (HBM)**.

DG SANCO Scientific committees/Research agenda

- HEAL produced a joint **HEAL/HCWH response to DG SANCO consultation** document on the revision of the scientific committees, and expanded the HEAL scientific expert database.

DG Research

HEAL is on the **advisory board of the following EU-funded research projects to increase policy relevance and stakeholder links**: INTERASE, New Generis, ESCAPE, Henvinet. In 2008-2009, HEAL participated to the following expert meetings related to EU Research projects and scientific committees:

- On 25 June, Lisette van Vliet took part in the EU Scientific Committees Stakeholder Dialogue meeting where the results of a recent stakeholder consultation, to which HEAL had contributed, were presented.
- On 11 November, Christian Farrar-Hockley participated and gave a presentation on communications and networking tools to the HENVINET project meeting.
- On 13 November, Christian Farrar-Hockley attended a conference on International Risk Assessment in Brussels.
- On 19 January, Christian Farrar-Hockley attended a meeting of the DG Research CAIR4HEALTH project and a meeting organized by the Oil Industry CONCAWE on future research needs on environment and health in particular looking at air pollution as well as climate change.

Indoor air quality

HEAL was a supporting organization and provided input to the **Council of Europe Conference on Environment and Health: Indoor Pollution and Multi System Illnesses** organised by HEAL members Akut and European Academy for Environmental Medicine on 5 December 2008. Christian Farrar Hockley participated in a Round Table on Information and Disinformation (For conference programme and outcomes, see: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3200>)

HEAL participated to the following DG SANCO expert meetings on indoor air quality:

- On 27 May, Christian attended DG SANCO/WHO meeting of the Expert Group on Indoor Air Quality, of which HEAL is a member. Indoor pollution from chemicals, combustion, damp and mould was on the agenda.
- On 5 June, Christian Farrar-Hockley participated in the annual Green Week, and gave a presentation on indoor air quality and healthy construction at the session on "Achieving Sustainable Construction"
- On 16-17 September, Christian Farrar-Hockley attended and gave a presentation at the EnVIE project conference: Policies for millions of indoor environments.
- On 17-18 December, DG SANCO Indoor Air Quality Expert group in Luxembourg.



Transport policy

- HEAL Vice-President, Peter van den Hazel, gave a presentation on behalf of HEAL at the **UN ECE Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment** in Amsterdam on 23 January 2009.
- HEAL provided input and co-signed a **letter of doctors and health workers on transport policy and the Eurovignette III**, sent to the members of the TRAN Committee in the European Parliament prior to a vote.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS (OTHER THAN ALREADY MENTIONED)

- On 7 April 2008, Lisette van Vliet attended the Cancer Patients' Summit - Making Cancer an EU Priority, organized by the European Cancer Patient Coalition under the patronage of the Slovenian EU Presidency. The conference represented an opportunity for further dissemination of the HEAL/CHEM Trust Breast Cancer material. [More information on the ECPC website.](#)
- On 25 April 2008, Hana Kuncova attended the International Cancer Prevention Conference at the Sterling University in Scotland. The conference addressed the toll taken by occupational and environmental exposures to carcinogens and how to prevent such exposures.
- On 16 June, Hana Kuncova participated in a conference on "21st century approaches to toxicity testing, biomonitoring, and Risk Assessment" in Amsterdam.
- On 3 October 2008, Aurèle Clémencin attended the launch of the French Society for Health and Environment, a "société savante" aiming at promoting research in this area.
- On 16-17 October, Hana Kuncova took part in the ECNIS (Environmental Cancer Risk, Nutrition and Individual Susceptibility) workshop on "Ethics and Data Interpretation in HBM studies and gave a presentation on Legal and ethical difficulties in awareness-raising campaigns.
- On 3 March 2009, Aurele Clemencin and Diana Smith attended the launch of the French environment and health network RES.
- On 11 March 2009, Lisette van Vliet participated and provided input into a European Commission meeting on the EU Partnership Action against Cancer.
- On 16 March 2009, Lisette van Vliet took part in the ECNIS - New Generis workshop "Food and Environmental Cancer Risks for Adults and Children" in Brussels and interviewed Chris Wild, new director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) .

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

- HEAL wrote **briefings** and email alerts to inform HEAL membership on EU policy developments on EU and WHO environment and health processes.
- HEAL coordinated and disseminated information through the **SCALE (44 emails), human biomonitoring (39 emails) and children (6 emails) list serves.**
- HEAL wrote **32 articles** for HEAL website section on environment and health policy (<http://www.env-health.org/r/82>).
- HEAL wrote **10 articles highlighting members' activities** on environment and health.



- HEAL wrote **3 editorials** on environment and health for the monthly newsletter, reaching more than 3000 subscribers.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Chemicals Watch quoted Genon Jensen in “MEPs attack EU Environment and Health Action Plan”, 28 May 2008.
- HEAL contributed an editorial for **DG SANCO Healthy EU Newsletter**: A healthier future means cleaning up the environment (http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/newsletter/28/newsletter_en.htm), and available in all EU languages for further outreach to environmental health community.
- HEAL was solicited as a leading civil society stakeholder to contribute an article on Human Biomonitoring “Tracking traces” to ‘**Public service review: Science & Technology**’, free of charge.

Emerging issues - Electromagnetic fields (EMF)

The “continuing uncertainties about possible health risks” related to the exposure to electromagnetic fields are the basis of an own-initiative report by MEP Frédérique Ries (ALDE, BE), which was adopted on the 17 February 2009 by the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. On 4 September 2008, the European Parliament already adopted a resolution on the mid-term review of the European Environment and Health Action Plan (2004-2010), which expressed concerns on electromagnetic radiation. The last few years there has been an accelerated development of wireless technologies and an explosion of new sources of EMF. To seize this policy opportunity, HEAL has carried out extensive work on EMF in its work programme 2008-2009. It has developed a **briefing and position paper** in consultation with member organisations, which was the basis for providing recommendations and **policy input** to MEPs drafting and voting on the Parliament’s own initiative report. The following activities were also carried out:

- HEAL participated in a DG SANCO and DG Enterprise workshop on "EMF and Health: Science and Policy to Address Public Concerns" in Brussels. The workshop gathered about 150 policy makers (services from the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament), scientists, representatives of concerned citizens, representatives from industry and other stakeholders. The aim was to generate “a broad and constructive dialogue” and to come to “conclusions that would help to orient the EU policy process regarding electromagnetic fields”. HEAL gave a presentation (available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/documents/ev_20090211_co18_en.pdf) providing ideas for a pragmatic approach to reducing exposures to EMF and suggested several policy measures which could help minimise exposures to EMF. A HEAL report from the meeting has been disseminated to the CHE-HEAL list serve and to member organisations (Available at: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3233>)
- On 12 January 2009, Nele Robberechts participated in a colloquium on mobile telephones, WiFi, Wimax and health in Paris.



MONITORING, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

HEAL developed a special issue of its newsletter on EMF and editorial July-August 2008: Urgent review of electro-magnetic fields exposure required, reviewed by international expert Cindy Sage. (<http://www.env-health.org/a/3047>), and wrote 22 articles for the website.

Emerging issues - Nanotechnologies

- In April 2008, HEAL launched and widely disseminated an electronic **HEAL fact sheet on Nanotechnologies and Health Risks** after extensive consultation with member organizations (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/HEAL_Nano_Fact_Sheet_April_2008.pdf).
- HEAL wrote 7 articles for the HEAL website and monthly newsletter in section Nanotechnologies.
- HEAL further disseminated the electronic **HEAL fact sheet on Nanotechnologies and Health Risks:** (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/HEAL_Nano_Fact_Sheet_April_2008.pdf)
- The Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE) featured a news article on HEAL's Nanotechnology Fact sheet in their April 2008 newsletter issue.



2. World Health Organization Pan-European Environment and Health process

In 2008-2009, preparatory work continued for the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health to be held in Parma in March 2010. As a member of the steering group for the environment and health process, the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), HEAL contributed to the content of the draft Ministerial Declaration, EEHC meetings and the WHO Scientific Conference.

ADVOCACY AND MONITORING

- HEAL worked with WECF/ECO Forum to prepare **two draft proposals for the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma 2009)** to submit to member states for funding:
 - Proposal for 2010 Children's Environmental Health Awards building on the experience and highly successful outcome of the first CEHAPE Awards (2007)
 - Proposal for a Round Table between Ministers, Youth and NGOs with speakers from Civil Society

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- From 20 to 24 October 2008, the HEAL staff participated and provided input in a series of events on environment and health in Madrid, Spain: **a scientific International Public Health Symposium, a political High Level Meeting of the Pan-European Environment and Health process, an executive session of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), and a media workshop for the World Health Youth (WHY) Communication Network.**
 - During the scientific Symposium HEAL and WECF shared a presentation on the "**Role of NGOs in Identifying Knowledge Gaps and Policy Making.**" HEAL also presented the Chemicals Health Monitor project during a poster session.
 - Diana Smith, media advisor for HEAL, attended the **WHY Communication Network workshop** to publicise HEAL's work and provide briefings on recent developments in environment and health. Monica Guarinoni gave a presentation during a stakeholders' panel session on communicating policy and science to EU policy-makers from an NGO perspective.
 - HEAL and WECF/ECO forum coordinated and co-chaired an NGO session during the political High Level Meeting on **NGO involvement from Budapest to Vienna** with proposals for further NGO engagement at the next Ministerial Conference.
 - HEAL interviewed scientists during the Symposium and posted **video clips** on HEAL You Tube channel and website: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3115>
- On 3-4 December 2008, HEAL participated in the **meeting of the Ministerial Declaration drafting group and EEHC meeting** in Paris. HEAL received comments and input on the draft Declaration from four member organisations: IBFAN, ECOSA,



INCHES, EPHA, Natural England, and wrote a meeting report for members. The majority of HEAL's recommendations were taken up in the draft declaration.

- On 27-29 January 2009, HEAL participated in **the European Environment and Health Committee meeting and Thematic meeting on Healthy Environments** addressing respiratory disease, obesity and injuries through spatial planning of health promoting environments in Luxembourg, co-organised by DG SANCO. During the same days, HEAL also participated in the drafting committee of the Ministerial Declaration for the next conference in Parma-2010, and the European Environment and Health Committee meeting discussing the programme for the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, the documentation for Parma-2010, the draft Ministerial Declaration and the status of the document on climate change. A meeting report was widely circulated.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

- HEAL maintained and expanded the **Children's Environment and Health Action Plan (CEHAPE) Implementation website www.cehape.env-health.org** which provides an overview and contact information on the process and main players and gives an update, country-by-country, of how implementation is progressing and how NGOs and young people are contributing. It is officially linked to the WHO Environment and Health website.
 - There were **20 new articles** and country news written on the CEHAPE website
 - **Bookmark developed** to promote the CEHAPE website



3. Climate and health

Health proofing climate change campaign: Fighting climate change is good for your health

In 2008, HEAL launched its **Health proofing climate change campaign** to share with the health community the good news that climate change policy could bring immense benefits for public health. This campaign helped achieve our second objective, that of engaging stakeholders across sectors at local, national and European level and creating new coalitions on environment and health policy issues.

To increase the evidence base of policy choices, we worked alongside World Health Organization in several events. Prior to the landmark "World Health Day" dedicated to climate change in 2008, HEAL took part in a high level WHO communicators meeting bringing together over 20 international health networks and journalists. Our input ensured that the "messages" moved beyond "adapting to climate change" to mitigation issues, and helped to bring new focus to the public health benefits that a greener, low carbon economy could bring to society. On the actual World Health Day 2008, HEAL represented the health community on the WHO press conference panel and used the opportunity to remind EU policy makers that stronger emission reduction targets could improve European's health.

HEAL spent the following months increasing the engagement of **several key health community stakeholders** in two major EU policy files – the Energy and Climate Change package and the preparations for the White Paper on Adaptation.

First, HEAL worked with **local authorities** because of their important role in preparing for and implementing climate reduction measures. In partnership with the leading European network of health authorities, EUREGHA, HEAL organised a "good practice" competition and a major conference that helped increase interest and capacity on climate change and health. This work also helped showcase at key junctions in the EU policy discussions what could be done in the health sector. Recommendations from the conference were widely disseminated, including to MEPs prior to an important vote. The combined effects of this work is likely to have increased pressure for a 30% reduction target, and has produced a solid set of solutions on tackling climate change and preparing for mitigation within the health sector.

The second important group of stakeholders was made up of HEAL member organizations, the European Respiratory Doctors and the European Lung Foundation. Together, we developed educational and patient materials for **respiratory doctors and their patients across Europe**. The focus is on the impact of climate change on existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, particularly among children and the elderly. The materials also suggest what these groups can do to support EU efforts for mitigation.

However, perhaps our greatest success was a powerful and hard-hitting **joint report commissioned to calculate the health savings** across Europe of moving to a 30% greenhouse gas emission reduction rather than the 20% proposed by the European Council. Produced and promoted in collaboration with the leading environmental climate change campaigners, CAN Europe and WWF, we were successful in conveying to policy makers and the media the concept of health co-benefits.



CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES comprised

- **Campaign launch** on World Health Day, 7 April 2008 with press release “EU urged to act to lessen health impacts of climate change”.
- HEAL published a **brochure on ‘Public health and climate change’** describing the campaign, highlighting climate change approaches that benefit health and the role of health professionals.
- HEAL provided input into the WHO Europe preparations and activities for World Health Day on climate change. Génon Jensen gave a **presentation** on “Health proofing climate change” at the Brussels policy briefing organized by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, and was featured in a radio clip asking the EU to commit to 30% reduction targets to protect health.
- HEAL launched and coordinated “**Good practice awards on climate change and health**” for local and regional mitigation and adaptation projects that simultaneously promote human health and protect the climate. Around 40 applications were received and judged by an international, multi-stakeholder jury. The winning projects were presented at the HEAL-EUREGHA conference on 24 June. A specific web page was developed to announce the awards and feature the applicants (<http://www.env-health.org/climatechangeawards>).
- On 24 June 2008, HEAL organized a **conference on “Climate change and the challenges for public health: engaging the regions”** in conjunction with the EUREGHA Network (EUropean REgional and local Health Authorities platform) at the Committee of the Regions. The conference aimed to outline the policy framework and highlight best practice case studies of the health care sector across the EU in implementing adaptation and/or mitigation measures. Genon Jensen, Executive Director of HEAL, stated at the conference that *“climate change and the lack of action to tackle the problem is a public health disaster happening in Europe and the world today. Unless Ministers, Parliamentarians and decision makers act ambitiously and show leadership now within the EU and internationally, the prediction is a public health catastrophe that even the best health systems will be unable to cope with”*.
Conference outcomes:
 - During the conference, Dr Bettina Menne from WHO Europe presented the two winners of the HEAL/EUREGHA “**Good practice awards on climate change and health**” (Disability Essex for mitigation and the Municipality of Tatabanya in Hungary for adaptation).
 - More than 60 participants produced **conference recommendations** on public health and climate change. The recommendations were sent to key policy-makers and are open for signatures on the HEAL website (<http://www.env-health.org/a/2889>).
 - A **Press release “Climate change friendly health authorities awarded”** was sent out announcing award winners.
 - During the conference, HEAL produced short video clips (Q&A with conference speakers and award winners) that can be viewed on the **HEAL You Tube channel**: <http://fr.youtube.com/healbrussels>
- **Climate Change and Respiratory Health publication**: In partnership with the HEAL member, European Lung Foundation, developed a **fact sheet for adults and one for children entitled “Climate Change and Your Lungs”** to explain how climatic changes can affect lung health, point readers towards information sources and suggest measures that members of the public or respiratory patients can take to



mitigate the negative effects of climate change on their respiratory health, as well as showcase EU policy action. Experts from the European Respiratory Society Environment and Health working group drafted the facts sheets, and HEAL provided the policy relevant context. The adult fact sheet will be included in the back of Breathe - a publication distributed to more than 15,000 respiratory healthcare professionals, in the form of patient information. The fact sheets was also published separately for distribution and translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Polish and Danish. Printed, widely disseminated and available online at: www.env-health.org

- On 2 October 2008, HEAL launched the **HEAL/CAN Europe/WWF report: *The co-benefits to health of a strong EU climate change policy***. It showed that health savings of up to 25 billion euros could be achieved every year in Europe if the European Union immediately opted for stronger climate policies. The report received wide media coverage, from the New York Times to EU 'Science for Policy' newsletter just to cite a couple of examples (see Evidence for complete coverage). The report was sent directly to Members of the European Parliament and Ministers who would discuss a few days later the EU climate change and energy package, and was presented and widely distributed during the Madrid Symposium and High Level Meeting on environment and health. A French university (Unité de Recherche Clinique Paris-Ouest Hôpital Ambroise Paré) translated summary of the co-benefits report and put it on their website to inform Parisian physicians.

ADVOCACY AND MONITORING

- On 3 June 2008, HEAL sent an **open letter to the Environment Council on the Climate and Renewable Energy Package**, and supported member organizations to do the same. (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Letter_to_Ministers_on_Climate_and_Energy_Package_FINAL_.pdf).
- On 3 July 2008, HEAL sent an **open letter to EU Energy and Environment Ministers on Turning EU Effort Sharing Proposal into EU Benefit Sharing Agreement "Climate Action and Renewable Energy Package"** (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Letter_Turning_Effort_Sharing_into_Benefit_Sharing_030708.pdf). As EU Ministers discussed in Paris the future of climate change and the EU's energy policy, HEAL called on them to cut domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2020 rather than 20% by 2020, in line with the International panel on Climate Change 25-40% recommendation. Ministers must consider not just the costs but also the benefits of tackling climate change effectively and rapidly. Most of these benefits are linked to improved health, particularly those related to obesity, cardio-respiratory and mental health, reduced air pollution and accidents.
- HEAL prompted and supported **HEAL members to send letters to their MEPs** – e.g. the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (Europe), the European Respiratory Society, the Irish Doctors for the Environment and WECF.
- HEAL submitted a **response to a European Commission consultation** on post-Kyoto agreement.
- HEAL sent **two detailed briefing notes to member organizations** on the Climate Change and Energy Package and opportunities for action, including a model letter.
- HEAL worked and consulted with member organizations on a paper on the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive** being discussed at EU level in February 2009. The recast of the EPBD offers a unique opportunity to bring together environment



and health objectives, and to generate substantial cost savings. HEAL believes that the directive should set the right standards to make our homes, schools and offices not only more energy-efficient but also healthier places in which to live with higher levels of indoor air quality

- HEAL participated in the **drafting group of the WHO Europe Regional Framework for Action** on climate change and health. Meetings took place in Rome on 15-16 January 2009 and in London on 5-6 March. Christian Farrar-Hockley provided HEAL's and members' input and perspective into the Strategy, which is to be adopted at the next Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Italy in 2010. HEAL main concern was to ensure that the health community becomes advocates for more ambitious EU emission reductions and that health care sector itself commits to reducing GHG emissions. This is reflected in the draft "Final Declaration" to be discussed in Bonn in April 2009 by all member states.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- On 18-19 March 2008, Christian Farrar-Hockley presented at the EU research networks: ERS/HENVINET climate change and air pollution conference.
- On 14 May 2008, Christian Farrar-Hockley was invited to provide policy expertise in the European Commission DG SANCO meeting on climate change and gave a presentation on "Health & Climate change Mitigation/Adaptation: what mandate has been given to DG SANCO? Resources versus the art of inter-service consultation". His presentation was also used by HEAL member organisations for dialogue at national level.
- On 16 May 2008, Christian Farrar-Hockley participated in the European Commission DG Environment Stakeholder consultation meeting in preparation of a White Paper on adaptation to climate change and highlighted the health community's concerns and priorities.
- On 12-13 June 2008, Janaina Topley-Lira and some HEAL members participated in the Citizens' Agora on climate change organised by the European Parliament. Widely publicized and mobilised membership participation in the European Parliament Agora, a forum of European representatives from civil society gathering to express their opinions and exchange their views with MEPs, key EU decision makers and international experts on climate change.
- On 6-7 October 2008, Dave Stone from Natural England on behalf of HEAL presented our priorities at a WHO Global Research Agenda conference in Madrid, and provided members an internal report.
- On 15 October 2008, Christian Farrar-Hockley and Nele Robberechts participated in the European Commission, DG Environment stakeholder conference "Towards a comprehensive and ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement in Copenhagen".
- On 26 January 2009, Monica Guarinoni attended the launch of the report 'Pathways to a low carbon economy'. A meeting report is available at: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3220>.
- On 4 March 2009, Monica Guarinoni took part in member organisation Natural England's reception "Adapting to Climate Change: Taking forward an Eco-systems Approach for Europe".



- On 12 March 2009, Gill Erskine attended a debate on young people and climate change organised by the European Youth Forum at the European Economic and Social Committee.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

- HEAL wrote **briefings** and email alerts to inform HEAL membership on EU policy developments and latest scientific evidence on climate change and health.
- HEAL coordinated and disseminated information through the **climate change and health public list serve** counting approximately 150 subscribers, including experts and policy-makers.
- **37 articles** were published in the Climate change section of HEAL's website and monthly newsletter received by more than 3000 policy-makers and other stakeholders (<http://www.env-health.org/r/93>).
- **4 HEAL articles featured HEAL Members' activities** on climate change and health:
- **3 HEAL newsletter editorials:**
 - June 2008: EU needs more ambitious strategy to tackle climate change and avoid public health crisis (<http://www.env-health.org/a/3023>)
 - October 2008: Putting our messages direct to policy-makers on chemicals and climate (<http://www.env-health.org/a/3138>)
 - February 2009: Energy-efficient buildings: A chance to create healthy and eco-friendly indoor environments (<http://www.env-health.org/a/3247>)

Press Releases

- 2 October 2008: Massive health benefits from stronger climate policies, shows new study (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Climate_change_benefits_report_press_release_FINAL.pdf)
- 26 June 2008: Health authorities urge strong measures on climate change (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Press_release_climate_change_conf_outcome_26_June.pdf)
- 23 June 2008: Climate change friendly health authorities awarded (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Press_release_cc_awards_final_.pdf)
- 7 April 2008: EU urged to act to lessen health impacts of climate change (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/PR_climate_change_FINAL_.pdf)
- 7 April 2008: Climate Change and Health Good Practice Award (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Information_Release_Good_Practice_Award.pdf)

Articles

HEAL contributed articles on climate change and health in following magazines:

- **Hospital Healthcare Europe Autumn 2008/2009** "Approaches to reducing carbon footprint in hospitals";
- **Public Service Review** "A healthy environment";
- **Environmental Health Practitioner** "Putting Health at the Centre of Action on Climate Change"
- **European Parliament Magazine:** Why isn't climate change on the agenda (of Gastein European Health Forum)? 29 September 2008
- **British Medical Journal:** *Tougher targets on climate change would bring big health savings*



- **Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health: *The White Horse of Climate Change – The Health Equity Filter***
- **European Parliament magazine: *HEAL warning to GASTEIN EU Health Forum: Why isn't climate change on the agenda?***
- ***The co-benefits to health of stronger climate change policies*** by Genon Jensen, published in Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Volume: 63, Issue: 4

Media coverage

- HEAL's report on "The co-benefits to health of climate change" was covered in the New York Times (Green Inc blob, 2 October 2008), "Europe urged to tighten CO2 target for health gains; Science for Environment Policy, Issue 128, "Reduce GHGs, reduce health problems", and in the In Brief section of the British Medical Journal (BMJ 2008;377:a2016). The New York Times story was picked up by The Daily Climate service of Environmental Health Services.
- HEAL video clips of speakers at our climate change conference in June 2008 were featured on the DG Sanco newsletter (Health-EU e-newsletter, Issue 26, November 2008) and the French health journal "Revue du soignant en sante publique" (Mai-juin 2008, no. 25) featured HEAL's work change in a major feature on the effects of climate change on health.
- Media coverage of our "Climate change and the challenges for public health: engaging the regions" meeting organised with the European Regional Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA) in June 2008 continues with articles in two prestigious European magazines published articles about health and climate change. Public Service Review: European Union, Issue 16, published an article entitled "A healthy environment" featuring the event, and Environmental Health Practitioners published "Climate change: Think global, act local" in September 2008.
- The June conference outcome has been used to increase action by HEAL members, the Standing Committee of European Doctors(CPME), which distributed a short article on "Health proofing climate change" to their members, and by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) Italia News, No. 310, September 2008. Websites that posted our press release include: European Urban Knowledge Network http://www.eukn.org/sweden/news/2008/06/Climate-change-and-public-health_1020.html and The Global to Local Foundation. <http://www.globaltolocal.com/egemagazine/news/climate-change-and-the-challenges-for-public-health-engaging-the-regions>
- WHO calls for health system response to warming, ENDS Europe Daily quotes Genon Jensen, HEAL on World Health Day, 7 April 2008 <http://www.endseurope.com/14867>



4. Chemicals and health

Chemicals Health Monitor – using chemicals legislation for better health and increased public participation

When the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) opened in June 2008, our Chemicals Health Monitor was available to provide consistent and timely technical expertise and to promote public pressure to highlight the health impacts of chemicals and potential benefits of the EU's chemical regulation. As an NGO representative to the ECHA Management Board and with a place in several key ECHA committees, HEAL has been able to draw on its network via the Chemicals Health Monitor to bring independent health-centred information to the table. This has contributed significantly to our objective of increasing citizens' participation in EU decision-making.

HEAL contributed extensive technical expertise to REACH implementation: As the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) opened its doors in June 2008, and began the monumental task of running the REACH system, our public interest coalition, the NGO chemicals task force, in which the Chemicals Health Monitor plays a central role, brought expertise to the table. Our coalition of health, environmental, consumers' and women's organisations not only **sits on the ECHA Management Board as an NGO member, it also holds observers seats on the Competent Authorities group, and the main Agency Committees:** Member State (Greenpeace and WWF), Risk Assessment (EEB and HEAL), and Socio-Economic (a joint NGO expert). HEAL provides funding along with other NGOs for the joint representative to the ECHA Management Board.

Launched in 2007, the Chemicals Health Monitor project aims to improve human health by encouraging more protective regulation of chemicals with REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) through substitution of toxic chemicals with safer alternatives. During 2008, our focus has been on:

- Contributing expertise and advocacy vis-à-vis REACH implementation through letters, meetings and submissions to relevant policy stakeholders and forums (European Chemicals Agency and committees, Competent Authorities, Commission and EP).
- Raising awareness and highlighting policy opportunities around emerging science on the links between hazardous chemicals and diseases between scientists, health constituencies and EU policy makers through targeted advocacy and high level events.
- Developing and actively disseminating high quality information and outreach materials on breast cancer, public health and REACH, as well as REACH consumers' right to know.

ADVOCACY WORK

- On 2 April 2008, HEAL organised a **high level science policy event on breast cancer and chemicals**. The event was co-organised by HEAL and CHEM Trust and hosted by conservative MEP Avril Doyle. It attracted cross-party attendance from Members of European Parliament (MEPs), including MEPs Against Cancer and the European Parliamentary Group on Breast Cancer, as well as representatives from the European Commission - DG Environment and from Europa Donna, the European breast cancer coalition. The event was organized to launch the **scientific report**



“Breast cancer and exposure to hormonally active chemicals: An appraisal of the scientific evidence” written by Prof. Andreas Kortenkamp, who presented the main findings at the launch event (<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article245>).

The scientific report was accompanied by the following two publications:

- **Specific disease briefing for general public and breast cancer patients’ groups** - *“Factors influencing the risk of breast cancer”*. April 2008. (English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, and Russian)
<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique100>
- **Leaflet** – “Breast cancer: Preventing the preventable” - It introduces briefly the disease briefings mentioned above. The leaflet is addressed to reach primarily general public. April 2008. (English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Russian and Czech)
<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique100>
- **Portfolio of papers** that highlight how chemical exposures may be implicated in breast cancer - The Portfolio is a selection of peer-reviewed and published papers presenting the scientific case for chemical exposures playing a role in breast cancer.
<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique100>

The publications were produced under the previous work programme and are downloadable from the Chemicals Health Monitor website. A **policy brief on Breast Cancer and Chemicals**: Proposals for political actions to “prevent the preventable” was presented at the meeting and disseminated to MEPs.

- To highlight emerging science on the health effects of even low doses of hormone disrupting chemicals, **HEAL and WWF European Policy Office invited the famed US Endocrine Disruption scientist Dr. Theo Colborn**, author of the book ‘Our Stolen Future’ on 13 November 2008 to share her expertise with the Brussels based policy crowd. We also set up a private meeting with Environment Commissioner Dimas to hear about how hormone mimicking chemicals may be jeopardizing male reproductive health.
- HEAL jointly developed **policy contributions, letters, briefings, and tool kits** combined with media work to re-iterate the need for a comprehensive chemicals candidate list.
 - In August 2008, HEAL **Submitted comments on 16 nominated chemicals (dossiers) to European Chemicals Agency**, Over 200 people visited our project’s toolkit (<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article287>) for the consultation on the nominated chemicals and it featured on many scientific, medical and NGOs’ websites. We focused on those chemicals that resonate most with ongoing public campaigns, namely the brominated flame retardant hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD), commonly used in plastics, textiles, electronic goods and construction materials, and 3 phthalates (DEHP, DBP and BBP) mostly used as plastic softeners. These phthalates are reproductive toxins which can affect human fertility, are present in glues, inks, cosmetics, toiletries, and many products made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and link well with our 2009 project on male fertility.
 - In August 2008, HEAL **Submitted comments on PBT criteria (review of Annex XIII)**.
 - 16th / 17th June 2008, **Joint position paper**: Call to develop a comprehensive REACH candidate list; REACH Competent Authorities meeting.



- In December 2008, **Join NGOs letter** to Commissioner Verheugen, DG Enterprise & Industry and to Commissioner Dimas, DG Environment. Letter re review of Annex XIII of the REACH Regulation.
 - In April 2008, **Join NGOs letter to the German Minister of Environment** (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit), CANDIDATE LIST OF CHEMICALS UNDER THE EU CHEMICALS REGULATION (REACH);
 - 2nd May 2008, **HEAL Letters to the Minister for Health: Poland, Slovenia;** Chemicals and the prevention of breast cancer incidence.
 - 2nd May 2008, **HEAL Letters to the REACH Competent Authorities in Sweden, Belgium and France;** Control of hazardous chemicals via EU 'REACH' regulation.
 - April 2008, **Letter from the Members of European Parliament to Executive Director of European Chemicals Agency.** *Subject: Breast cancer and chemicals.* This letter was signed by 11 MEPs.
 - 21-22 January 2009, **Joint position paper:** A comprehensive candidate list as the first necessary step to further regulatory action, ECHA's workshop on the candidate list and authorization as risk management instruments,. It is available upon request.
 - March 2009. **Open letter to Consumer Commissioner Kuneva** concerning the consumers' right to know and harmful chemicals in consumer products,
 - In February 2009, **Joint NGOs letter "Declaration on banning Bisphenol A in babies' bottles"** supporting the written declaration on banning bisphenol A in baby bottles was once sent to all MEPs in.
- In September 2008, a more ambitious alternative NGO list known as the **REACH SIN list** (Substitute It Now) 1.0 was launched, to which HEAL contributed. It is comprised of 267 chemicals to illustrate the inadequacy of the first Candidate list, guide progressive industry, and push national authorities in their considerations for the next nominations in Summer 2009. This continues to be a benchmark for progressive companies to phase out hazardous chemicals, not only in Europe but globally.
 - HEAL was invited by CASCADE Network to attend the CASCADE Open Forum to represent the **NGOs' work on endocrine disrupting substances**. HEAL and CASCADE representatives spoke with several experts at the meeting. **On-line available videos** presenting short messages from scientists attending this CASCADE Open Forum were produced. (October 2008) - <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article306> or CASCADE website: <http://uk.youtube.com/user/cascadenetwork>. Several other EU funded networks reported on HEAL's "Breast cancer and exposure to hormonally active chemicals: An appraisal of the scientific evidence".

ADVOCACY WORK ON SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE FILES

- **On RoHS:**
 - On 10 November 2008; HEAL sent a joint NGO letter and statement ("NGOs urge the Commission to strengthen RoHS" http://www.chemsec.org/downloads/?filename=081110_rohs_ngo_joint_statement.pdf) calling upon the European Commission to strengthen RoHS during the ongoing review process, to level the playing field in the European Union



for electronic manufacturers and to improve the protection of human health and the environment.

- On 3 December 2008, HEAL developed a joint NGO press release (“NGOs criticize weak Commission proposal on Hazardous Substances”: http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/081203_RoHS_joint_NGO_press_release.pdf)

- **On Toys:**

- HEAL worked with BEUC and HEAL member Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) to provide amendments and policy support. On 3 September, Lisette van Vliet and Katrina Perekudoff participated in a Toys Expert Dialogue hosted in the European Parliament by Women in Europe for a Common Future, and wrote a meeting report for the website: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3056>
- In October 2008, HEAL participated at the WECF lunch event at European Parliament on developmental harm of children to provide EU policy support, Brussels,

- **On Cosmetics:**

- HEAL provided advice to other organizations i.e. BEUC and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF).

- **On DEHP :**

- In April 2008, HEAL attended a meeting at European Commission DG Enterprise on the labelling of phthalates in medical devices; formulated and presented HCWH Europe position,.
- In May 2008, sent joint HEAL - HCWH response to DG Sanco Consultation Document on Revision of the Scientific Committees,
- In June 2008, HEAL attended a Stakeholder Dialogue Session of EC DG Health & Consumer Affairs ‘Risk Assessment Days’; and made interventions concerning EU scientific committees with reference to SCENIHR opinion on DEHP in medical devices; regarding treatment of uncertainty, and precaution,
- In August 2008, HEAL submitted comments to European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) during the public consultation on proposed candidate list chemicals under REACH: including 3 phthalates DBP, BBP, DEHP. HEAL also disseminated the announcement of the public consultation widely to various stakeholders and scientific networks to facilitate others’ contributions,
- In November 2008, HEAL and EEB sent a joint submission on public consultation by joint EU Scientific Committees on Risk Assessment Methodologies and Approaches for Mutagenic and Carcinogenic substances,
- In January 2009, HEAL and EEB sent a joint submission on public consultation by joint EU Scientific Committees on Use of Threshold of Toxicological Concern approach for safety assessment of chemical substances,.



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Personal Meetings

- 12 CHEM Trust outreach meetings on behalf of HEAL with oncologists, scientists on breast cancer and testicular dysgenesis and health organizations and associations (i.e. British Medical Association)
- HEAL - Meeting with the European Cancer Leagues, Belgian cancer charity (Fondation contre le Cancer)
- HEAL and CHEM Trust – meetings with Members of European Parliament and European Commission (DG Health and Consumers and DG Environment)

Chemicals Health Monitor Steering Committee Meetings

- February 13 – 14, 2008, Brussels Belgium.
- October 19, 2008, Madrid Spain.

Events

Participation, networking and materials dissemination at important cancer / health related and other events (HEAL staff and project partner CHEM Trust):

- September 2008 SIN List launch, Brussels, , HEAL staff
- September 2008 The Europe for Patients launch reception, Event organized by DG Health and Consumers, Brussels, , HEAL staff
- September 2008, Early Life Origins of Cancer, UK, CHEM Trust also on behalf of HEAL
- September 2008 Prevention du cancer du sein – conference on breast cancer prevention, Paris, France, , HEAL staff
- October 2008 CASCADE Open Forum, Brussels, , HEAL staff, <http://www.cascadenet.org/projectweb/portalproject/CASCADE%20Open%20Forum%202008.html>
- Oct 2008 European Parliament: Green Women - Breast Cancer meeting, Brussels, , HEAL staff.
- October 2008, International Public Health Symposium on Environment and Health Research "Science for Policy, Policy for Science: Bridging the gap.", Madrid, Spain, HEAL staff
- 11th March 2009 EU Partnership Action against Cancer Luxemburg, , HEAL staff
- 16th March 2009 ECNIS and New Generis Stakeholder's Workshop "Food and environmental cancer risks for adults and children", Brussels, HEAL staff
- Substantially contributed to and attended the **EU Presidency Slovenian's photo exhibition on chemicals in daily life**, and succeeded in helping WECF's toolkit to be translated for this purpose.
- in India on 12-15 August 2008 As a member of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), HEAL participated in several calls of its Steering Committee as well as in the **General Assembly of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)**. HEAL's Chemicals Health Monitor Coordinator Hana Kuncova gave a presentation on "Working with the Health Sector on Chemical issues in Europe".
- HEAL endorsed and promoted **SAICM Global Outreach campaign** of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN): <http://www.ipen.org/campaign/statement.html>



- Disseminated information from and about IPEN resources on persistent organic pollutants and other issues (i.e. nanotechnologies, SAICM) to members, other partners and EU policy makers.
- Signed up to **CHE policy statement on environmental agents and neurodevelopmental disorders** and disseminated sign-on to members and partners.
- Disseminated information from and about **CHE resources on Chemicals and Diseases**.
- Exchanged best practice examples and engagement strategies with **CHE partners worldwide, via CHE-HEAL list serve, and other CHE communications resources**.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS WORK

Publications and Information Materials

- In January 2009, HEAL **jointly published a leaflet** with CHEM Trust and WWF on persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals to add a public interest voice on how PBTs should be defined under REACH. Entitled “**Invisible burden: Good reasons to get rid of PBT chemicals**” (http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/pbt_factsheet_jan2009-2.pdf), it capitalizes on growing European concern about these chemicals and offers sound information on health effects and ways to avoid them.
- ON 13 March 2009, HEAL launched a Published a (electronic) leaflet entitled **Harmful chemicals in products you buy? Your right to know** in English (http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/REACH_consumers_FINAL.pdf) and many other languages thanks to in kind translation of our partners (Czech, Hungarian, French, German, Dutch and Slovenian). This leaflet is foreseen to be available in Bulgarian, Greek and Danish very soon. It describes and guides consumer through the labyrinth of the new consumer’s right to know about harmful chemicals in consumer products as established by the REACH chemicals law. It was launched on **European consumers’ day** with a press release and in conjunction with partner organisations across Europe. To engage more groups and citizens to call on national governments to swiftly nominate more candidate chemicals and properly implement REACH, HEAL dedicated one part of its project website for this action – **Use Your Right To Know!** available in several languages (<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique111>)
- In August 2008, A consumers’ guide jointly developed and published with Friends of the Earth Europe, “**Bisphenol A in plastics: is it making us sick?**” capitalizes on growing European concern about this chemical and offers sound information on health effects and ways to avoid it. (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/15_foe_bisphenol_cons_lr.pdf) It has also been translated into French by our partner Réseau Environnement Santé.
- On 1 December HEAL Launched at a reception at the presence of the French cartoonist David Ratte developed a **Comics Strip booklet entitled “Choosing our Future”** in English and French, in partnership with French member MDRGF (<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article319>)., the comics strip has four funny and colorful stories which provide a glimpse of current concerns about health and man-made chemicals. It brings these concerns to a wider public and



through its own **website actions** (<http://www.choosingourfuture.eu/>), provides some pointers on what individuals and governments must do to create a better future, especially regarding REACH, but also on pesticides. Thanks to promotion by networks and organisations in more than 20 countries around the world, greater awareness has been created of health and toxic exposure and of the EU's role in chemical safety. The comics booklet was accompanied by the **Choosing Our Future postcard**, October 2008 – English and French languages.

<http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article319>

HEAL widely disseminated the Comic Strip in many EU countries, for example in:

- UK: Women's Environmental Network blog
- Belgium: the national health and environment portal: Portail Santé-Environnement
- Italy: Health institute website
- France: Association of Environmental Journalists (AJE) website
- Czech Republic: Dissemination at Czech presidency youth conference
- Germany: Distribution to air quality representatives from 10 European countries at a WHO expert meeting
- Luxembourg: Publication in IBFAN (breastfeeding promotion) newsletter

HEAL also disseminated the Choosing Our Future cartoon strip outside of Europe. New countries have also been reached with a request from an environmental organisation in China to allow them to translate the publication. The Russian member of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) are featuring Choosing our Future in their Russian-language publication. A medical group in Argentina asked for a Spanish translation of the publication to be made.

- **Innovative venues for promotion** have also been reached with the help of the publication. For example, cartoons have featured on the Pesticides and Cancer Facebook website and in many individual and organisational blogs. The front cover cartoon was used in HEAL Christmas card in December 2008 and inside pages were exhibited in a public display on Sustainable Development at the University of Reims, France.
- HEAL further disseminated CHM material produced in previous work programmes such as the **pilot educational tool “What will new EU chemicals legislation deliver for public health?”** to health and medical professionals, policy makers and public (available in 7 EU languages).
- HEAL further disseminated CHM material produced in previous work “Chemicals Compromising Our Children” to health and medical professionals, policy makers and public (available in 4 EU languages).

Chemicals Health Monitor Website

- HEAL further developed and promoted the **Chemicals Health Monitor website on:**
 - **Multiple diseases / disorder categories** linked to chemicals and connections with REACH implementation.
 - **Public engagement** – Take Action! Centre and its subparts (some of them available in several languages i.e. ‘Use Your Right To Know!’).



- **Chemicals Health Monitor Bookmark**, October 2008 – http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/CHM_Bookmark.pdf, to further promote our project website as a source of information on chemicals and diseases.
- **Q and A on ECHA launch June 2008 (NGO internal)**. Developed for the opening of ECHA in June 2008.
- HEAL further **developed and regularly updated project website www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org** to engage general public and other stakeholders. It has doubled its visitors and is an important source of information used by EU institutions and across Europe and globally, and is officially linked from dozens of activist and governmental websites. It includes a new online **Take Action! Centre** - <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique106>.
 - **News and articles published on Chemicals Health Monitor website:**
 - REACH: <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique86>
 - General news on chemicals - <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique98>
 - Disease sections – You can visit section “News” under each disease section.
 - Human biomonitoring: <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique101>
 - New section “News on compelling science” - <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?rubrique103>
 - **30 issues of “Chemicals Health Monitor: Electronic Bulletin – Resources on Chemicals and Health reaching more than 260 recipients (as of the end of March 2009)”** – to highlight mainstream media coverage and new science of chemicals impact on human health. Issues are available on-line at Chemicals Health Monitor website: <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article152>.
- Tools for NGOs working on chemical and health issues – **scoping briefings and a calendar** of various health affected, medical professional and other stakeholder groups for selected diseases and countries; an **expert database** collecting doctors, government officials, research scientists, other specialists; **journalist database** collecting European journalist writing about the health and environmental issues for the European newspapers and health/medical journals/magazines; **video and movie database** collecting movies and movies websites about the health and environmental issues.
- **Presentations on the Chemicals Health Monitor** at NGO, scientific, governmental and medical community events to highlight science and policy opportunities around chemicals and diseases. All presentations are available upon request.
 - January 2008.Christie Trust EU Study Visit: “HEAL: The Links between Environment and Cancer”.
 - January 2008.Japanese Chemical Reform Coalition - Brussels Visit: HEAL: The Links between Chemicals and Health.
 - January 2008. Atelier de Dialogue: Civil Society’s Perspective on Research Needs.
 - “April 2008.Breast cancer – Preventing the preventable” event: “Discussion on the policy opportunities for preventing breast cancer”.
 - August 2008. International POPs Elimination Network General Assembly: “Working with the Health Sector in Europe”.



- October 2, 2008 CASCADE Open Forum,; “EDCs and Breast Cancer”. Videos and presentations from the meeting are available here: <http://www.cascadenet.org/projectweb/portalproject/CASCADE%20Open%20Forum%202008.html>
 - October 14, 2008: European Parliament: Green Women - Breast Cancer meeting. Meeting was organized by Green MEP Hiltrud Breyer, European Parliament, “Pestiziden, Endokrine Disruptoren und Brust Krebs”
 - October 20 – 22, 2008 World Health Organisation: International Public Health Symposium on Environment and Health Research,– Plenary session and poster session.
 - October 2008 High Level Meeting Madrid, Spain,– Plenary session.
- HEAL wrote **briefings** and email alerts to inform HEAL membership on EU policy developments and latest scientific evidence on chemicals and health.
 - HEAL coordinated and disseminated information through the **Chemicals list serve (104 emails)**.
 - HEAL wrote **more than 50 articles** for HEAL website section on chemicals (<http://www.env-health.org/r/69>) emphasising the effects of chemicals on health and developments in EU’s chemicals policy.
 - HEAL wrote **4 editorials** on chemicals and health for the monthly newsletter:
 - April 2008: New scientific report on breast cancer and chemicals urges policy-makers to “prevent the preventable: <http://www.env-health.org/a/2908>
 - May 2008: Political developments accelerate on the effect of chemicals on our health: <http://www.env-health.org/a/2961>
 - September 2008: Three-pronged approach to bolster REACH: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3094>
 - October 2008: Putting our messages direct to policy-makers on chemicals and climate: <http://www.env-health.org/a/3138>

HEAL received substantial **coverage in European and international media** on chemicals and its Chemicals Health Monitor project (This is not an exhaustive list. Full list and/or media clippings available upon request.).

Press Releases

- 2nd April 2008: Scientists deliver wake-up call: “Reduce chemical exposure to reduce breast cancer”
 - English - http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/Press_release__EN.pdf
 - French - http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/Press_Release_Cancer_du_Sein.pdf
- 26th May 2008: New European Chemicals Agency must act on hazardous chemicals http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/MEDIA_ADVISORY_European_Chemicals_Agency.pdf
- 22nd October 2008: First REACH hazardous chemicals list is a drop in the ocean English - http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/IMG/pdf/first_candidate_list.pdf
- 1st December: Comic strips show why the EU should be acting faster on chemicals that menace our health – available in French and English here: <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article156>



- 13th March 2009: “5-MINUTE TASK FOR YOUR HEALTH: Help push harmful chemicals off the market!” – available in 5 different languages here: <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/spip.php?article156>

Media coverage

1. General media

Chemicals Watch

- Member States, MEPs urge progress on biomonitoring, 15 February 2008, <http://chemicalwatch.com/503>
- NGO site to track links between chemical exposure and health, 12 March 2008, <http://chemicalwatch.com/553>
- HEAL, FoE publish consumer guide to bisphenol A, September 2008 - <http://chemicalwatch.com/index.cfm?action=news.home&m=9&y=2008>

2. “Breast cancer – Preventing the preventable” event

- General media – Press review: more than 45 articles in 8 different EU languages, including media coverage outside European Union (Canada, USA, Russian writing media). Press clippings available upon request.
- Health professionals’ and Network of excellence and MEPs’ websites:
 - CASCADE - “Chemicals may increase breast cancer risk” - <http://www.cascadenet.org/>
 - European Society for Medical Oncology – “MEPs urged to act over hormonal chemicals that may cause breast cancer” - http://www.esmo.org/news/?news_id=206
 - International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE newsletter - Number 295 (10th May 2008)) - <http://www.isde.it/index.htm>
 - ÄGU website (The Austrian Doctors for a Healthy Environment (AeGU)) - link to Chemicals Health Monitor website - breast cancer publication – leaflet - <http://members.nextra.at/aegu/Ger/index.htm>
 - British Medical Journal - <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7648/797-d>
 - The Collaborative on Health and the Environment: E Newsletter: April 10, 2008 - <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/articles/newsletters/3846>
 - MEPs: Frieda Brepoels, Avril Doyle: Press Release – “Reduce chemical exposure to reduce breast cancer. Avril Doyle MEP” - <http://www.epp-ed.eu/Press/showpr.asp?PRControlDocTypeID=1&PRControlID=7221&PRContentID=12617&PRContentLG=en>
 - Policy changes can help beat cancer, November 2008 - http://www.europeancancerleagues.org/DOSS/uploaded/249_ECL%20Newsletter%20November08.pdf
 - Cancer and the environment, January 2009 - http://www.europeancancerleagues.org/DOSS/uploaded/260_ECL%20Newsletter%20Jan09.pdf

The report’s message that tougher controls are needed on man-made chemicals **resonated across the European media**, with coverage on Euronews and several national television stations, the largest German public radio



Deutschlandfunk (DLF); the Guardian on-line; Le Monde; Euroactiv; the British Medical Journal; and leading EU research consortium newsletters and on Commission's 'Science for Environment Policy' news. Conservative parliamentarians wrote to the Agency and their national ministries urging the scientific recommendations to be translated into REACH policy. HEAL continues to receive requests for the publications a year after their launch, particularly from national health advocacy and research groups in Europe and North America, and national breast cancer groups across Europe.

3. REACH

- Wonca Europe home page - REACH milestone: Public Comment sought for the first proposals for the "Candidate List" - http://www.woncaeurope.org/Web%20documents/Article%20REACH_WONCA.pdf
 - Based on our internal communication and information sharing with the representative from the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) they have published REACH related pieces of news on their website:
 - 22nd April, 2008 - REACH follow up: ECHA's call for expression of interest - http://www.cpme.be/news_eunews.php?id=951&q
 - 16th July, 2008 - European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Consultation on substances of very high concern - http://www.cpme.be/news_eunews.php?id=964
 - Chemicals Watch
 - The REACH pre-candidate list, CW Briefing July 2008, <http://chemicalwatch.com/889>
 - CEFIC, NGOs comment on first REACH candidate list proposals, 2 July 2008, <http://chemicalwatch.com/861>
 - NGOs gear up for launch of SIN List of very hazardous substances, 16 September 2008, <http://chemicalwatch.com/index.cfm?action=news.home&m=9&y=2008#1101>
 - Guest column - SIN List released: a leap forward for European firms?, CW Briefing September 2008, <http://chemicalwatch.com/1100>
 - NGOs to launch comic strip book on chemicals and health, 25 November 2008 - <http://chemicalwatch.com/1390>
 - ENDS coverage
 - EU Chemicals reporting obligations enter force; 29 October 2008. It mentions NGOs join press release - <http://www.endseuropedaily.com/articles/index.cfm?action=issue&No=2646>. Full article is available upon request.
- ### 4. Right to know leaflet (List not exhaustive)
- NGOs launch "REACH - your right to know" leaflet for European Consumer Day, 13 March 2009 - <http://chemicalwatch.com/1914>
 - Pětiminutový úkol pro lidské zdraví – leták poradí, jak vytlačit škodlivé chemické látky z trhu, Econnect – Czech Rep., March 2009. - <http://zpravodajstvi.ecn.cz/index.stm?x=2157454>



- Pětiminutový úkol pro lidské zdraví – leták poradí, jak vytlačit škodlivé chemické látky z trhu, Ecomonitor Czech Rep. , 13 March 2009, http://www.ecomonitor.cz/txt_tzpr_full.stm?x=2156968
 - Pět minut pro své zdraví, OS Noviny, Czech Rep, 17 March 2009 <http://www.osnoviny.cz/pet-minut-pro-sve-zdravi>
 - Pětiminutový úkol pro lidské zdraví – leták poradí, jak vytlačit škodlivé chemické látky z trhu, Zdrave Mesto Strakonice (City portal), 19 march 2009, <http://www.zdravemesto.strakonice.eu/aggregator?page=5>
 - Eliminating harmful chemicals from the market, EMT Worldwide, 16 March 2009 <http://www.emtworldwide.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=23213>
 - New REACH Substance Declarations to be Updated Every Six Months, ENVIRON, 25 March 2009 <http://www.pcb007.com/pages/zone.cgi?artcatid=&a=49008&artpg=1&artid=49008&pg=1>
<http://www.emsnow.com/npps/story.cfm?id=39136>
<http://www.ems007.com/pages/zone.cgi?a=49008>
5. Examples on **Choosing our Future** comic book include:
- Metro newspaper (700,000 copies printed and distributed on 11 12 08)
 - Comic book promotes 'green' health , Men's Health Forum, 09 March 2009, http://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/userpage1.cfm?item_id=2744
 - “Choisir notre avenir”, une BD non toxique, Metro France, 10 December 2008, <http://www.metrofrance.com/x/metro/2008/12/10/uN1F9QYKUcR1k/index.xml>
 - Téléchargez la BD "Choisir notre Avenir ", Le Post, 09 December 2008, http://www.lepost.fr/article/2008/12/09/1351478_telechargez-la-bd-choisir-notre-avenir.html
 - Choisir notre avenir: pour une utilisation raisonnée des produits chimiques, Planete Nature, 24 December 2008, a Belgian monthly magazine, http://blogtrbf.typepad.com/planete_nature/2008/12/choisir-notre-a.html
6. **CHM activities, articles and deliverables published on other websites and/or in newsletters (NGOs networks and organizations, charities):**
- DG Health and Consumers – Health-EU: http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/my_environment/chemical_risks/ngo_en.htm
 - European trade Union Institute - http://hesa.etui-rehs.org/uk/dossiers/dossier.asp?dos_pk=1
 - TUC UK – Trade Unions from Britain - http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-14468-f0.pdf
 - Läkare för Miljön (LfM), Sweden - <http://www.ifm.nu/lfm/Lankar/>
 - PAN Europe - New report on breast cancer urges MEPs to cut back on pesticides - http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Newsletter/Spring_2008.pdf
 - EUROPEAN ECO-FORUM NEWSLETTER N33 MAY 2008 - RS language: <http://www.ecoaccord.org/news/ecoforum.htm>, EN language: <http://www.ecoaccord.org/english/news/ecoforum.htm>
 - Cancer Prevention and Education Society, UK – recommended reading: <http://www.cancerpreventionsociety.org/links.htm>
 - Breast Cancer Action Montreal, Canada – <http://www.bcam.qc.ca/siteweb/html/liens.html>



- Silent Spring Institute, USA - <http://silentspring.org/take-action/additional-resources-taking-action>



5. Mercury and health

In 2008-2009, HEAL contributed to the Zero Mercury campaign, raising awareness of health impacts and windows of vulnerability to low mercury exposures and the needed policy options and solutions, particularly with respect to the need for a global mercury ban, and EU related policy files on dental amalgams, the EU mercury export ban and the measuring devices. It co-published a significant report on the health impacts of mercury and fish just prior to the UNEP negotiations for a global mercury treaty (February 2009).

HEAL also continued to widely disseminate materials from the joint HEAL/HCWH Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury campaign and website, which remains one of HEAL's most frequently consulted site by website visitors.

ADVOCACY WORK

HEAL provided input into the **Zero Mercury Campaign** on the policy and legislative proposals related to the EU Mercury Strategy

- HEAL co-signed joint letters with other NGOs on:
 - on 24 March 2008 "*Environmental and Health NGOs appeal: Support a broad export ban and safe storage of mercury*"
 - on 20- 21 May 2008 "*Environmental and Health NGOs recommendation on EU export ban and safe storage of mercury*" ahead of the debate and 2nd plenary vote on the Papadimoulis Report,
- HEAL participated and provided input on mercury and health at the Regional Civil Society Forum **UNEP meeting** on 17-18 November 2008 in Geneva. HEAL contributed to the final statement for Nairobi UNEP Governing Council in February 2009.
- HEAL further disseminated to relevant policy-makers and other stakeholders HEAL/HCWH report "Halting the child brain drain – Why we need to tackle global mercury contamination" in English and German, and its Executive Summary in 9 other languages. In particular, the report was disseminated at the Regional Civil Society Forum UNEP meeting on 17-18 November 2008, at the ECNIS Workshop, Leuven University, Belgium, Oct 16-17, 2008, at the Humanbiomonitoring Conference, Paris, France, November 4-5, 2008 and to the individuals from InVS, Institut de veille sanitaire France and to the Europäisches Dokumentationszentrum Universität Mannheim, Germany.
- HEAL further disseminated to relevant policy-makers and other stakeholders the HEAL/HCWH fact sheet on **Mercury and Health** (same as above).
- HEAL further promoted the HEAL campaign website "**Stay Healthy Stop Mercury**" (www.env-health.org/stopmercury) as a one-stop shop for information on mercury and health in various languages. The page is the most visited of the HEAL website.
- HEAL published an article on **Mercury, Fish and Childbearing** in Women & Environments International Magazine, Issue 76/77.
- HEAL joined the Environmental and Health Public Interest Organisations and NGOs' first submission to the **Commission review of the availability of safer alternatives to Measuring Devices containing mercury** on 23 September 2008 (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/080923_NGOs-input-Meas_Dev.pdf).



- HEAL widely publicised resources on implementing **mercury thermometer exchanges** available from Health Care Without Harm and relevant HEAL/HCWH Fact Sheets.
- HEAL further disseminated to relevant policy-makers and other stakeholders the HEAL/HCWH fact sheet on **Mercury in Health Care**.
- HEAL further disseminated the **Stay Healthy Stop Mercury campaign material in Russian** (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) in the context of the Pan European Environment and Health process, and **in Spanish** (Central and Latin America) through the IPEN network. Electronic version of “*HEAL-HCWH: Mercury report and factsheets*” sent to International POPs Elimination Network Listserve.

Restriction of Dental Amalgams

- HEAL monitored and disseminated information on the SCHER and SCENIHR dental amalgam opinions to members.
- **HEAL supported work of HEAL members** advocating for restrictions on dental amalgams in the EU by widely disseminating the Luxembourg Appeal and relevant new science.
- HEAL further disseminated to relevant policy-makers and other stakeholders the HEAL/HCWH fact sheet on **Mercury and Dental Amalgams**.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

- **HEAL wrote 19 articles for HEAL website section** on Mercury and Health (<http://www.env-health.org/r/81>) and monthly electronic newsletter received by over 2000 policy-makers, NGOs and other stakeholders (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).
- **HEAL wrote 10 briefings and email alerts** to inform HEAL membership on policy developments and latest scientific evidence related to mercury and health (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).
- **HEAL conducted media and communication work** on mercury and health as appropriate (see press releases above).
- In February 2009 HEAL co-published the **report Mercury in Fish, a global Health Hazard** with the Zero Mercury Campaign on the significant global human health hazards caused by mercury in fish and fish-eating marine mammals. The report was launched with a **joint press release** entitled “*Mercury in Fish is a Global Health Concern*”, and was widely disseminated: <http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/090210-MercuryFishRelease.pdf>.
- HEAL issued a joint **NGO press release** *EU set to lock down mercury* after the Parliament agreed on an EU-wide ban on exports of mercury and to safely store the surplus (second reading): http://www.env-health.org/IMG/doc/080521_NGOs-on-2ndReadingPlenary-HgExportBan_PR.doc.
- Following the EU vote on mercury, Lisette Van Vliet was quoted in “Agreement reached on EU mercury export ban”, Euractiv website, 22 May 2008. Euractiv also published a letter “Concerns over mercury use in dental amalgam” from HEAL Executive Director clarifying the scientific basis of our work on mercury. HEAL was also quoted on the Environmental Expert website in “EU set to lock down mercury”, 23 May 2008



6. Pesticides and health

In 2008, HEAL launched a new campaign, Sick of Pesticides, to advocate for stronger pesticides policies which take into account the scientific evidence on the hazardous effects of pesticides, particularly for children's health.

The campaign achieved this objective and also helped promote one of HEAL's main overall objectives, that of introducing and implementing stringent and precautionary policies that protect the environment and encourage sustainable development to promote the health of people.

During the EU decision-making process on the pesticides policy reform, HEAL advocated for **more stringent criteria** on eliminating the use of pesticides associated with health problems than were contained in the Commission proposal. We also asked for a **ban of pesticides use in public places** where children spend most of their time, such as parks, school and sports grounds. HEAL involved a wide group of health organisations, cancer charities, patients' groups and doctors' association in letter writing to policy-makers on the basis of sound, scientifically referenced information.

Both HEAL's main requests are reflected in the final legislation. Although HEAL cannot claim sole credit for this positive outcome, our health and medical coalition helped provide another authoritative and convincing expert voice to the mix of stakeholders. It also helped re-focus the debate towards protecting vulnerable groups and the long-term health impacts of pesticide use.

HEAL also prepared the ground for the **future implementation** of the pesticides policy package at national level, particularly in France and in the UK. In both these countries, HEAL joined forces with national environment and health groups in actions to raise awareness of the health effects of pesticides, and particularly the role of pesticides in cancer causation. HEAL and its partner organisations are using a number of innovative tools to reach out to national audiences, such as online social networking and website polls. These national level activities form the basis of HEAL's Sick of Pesticides campaign, the objective of which is to provide input into the National Action Plans being drafted in compliance with the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. In France, the campaign has already been very successful in bringing the health dimension more prominently to the forefront of the pesticides debate. It has also helped ensure that the need for a reduction in pesticide exposure is included in the new French national cancer plan.

ADVOCACY WORK

In 2008-2009, HEAL continued to follow very closely the negotiation of the EU pesticides policy package. All along the decision-making process, HEAL worked very closely with partner and member organisations Pesticides Action Network and the European Environment Bureau to bring in the health perspective. In particular, HEAL advocated for the inclusion of the so-called cut-off criteria to eliminate the sale and use of pesticides that can cause cancer, reproductive disorders, are endocrine disruptors or neurotoxic. HEAL also advocated for a ban of pesticides use in and around public places, especially parks, school and sport grounds where children spend most of their times. For this



purpose, HEAL sent letters and had numerous meetings with policy-makers to highlight the health concerns related to pesticides exposure. In October and November 2008, HEAL had meetings with MEPs and MEP assistants as well as with the French Presidency Agriculture attaché.

Ahead of the first reading by the Council of Ministers:

- On 22 April 2008, HEAL sent a **letter to all members of Council working group** on pesticides on the Commission's proposal for cut off criteria.
- On 28 April 2008, HEAL sent a **letter to Health, Trade, Industry, Environment Commissioners and the Commission President** on the need to eliminate the most hazardous pesticides from the EU food chain for public health ahead of Council discussions on the authorisation regulation.
- On 28 April 2008, HEAL sent a **letter to COREPERs** on the above subject, which was also used by HEAL members Cancer Prevention and Education Society to send to the UK Permanent Representative and INCHES to send to the Dutch representative.
- On 25 September 2008, HEAL sent a **letter to COREPERs** on their upcoming discussion on the EU pesticides policy reform highlighting the need to protect public health.

Ahead of the second reading in the European Parliament:

- On 24 September, HEAL sent a **letter to key MEPs** on "Scientific academy issues statement on control of pesticides in the EU (Ramazzini statement)".
- On 3 October, HEAL sent a **letter to MEPs** on "Pesticides Regulation and Framework Directive: Consideration of draft recommendation for second reading".
- On 20 October, HEAL sent a **letter to MEPs** on the European Parliament study on the benefits of the cut-off criteria in relation to PPP.
- On 28 October, HEAL sent a **letter to MEPs and AGRI and ENVI attachés** on "New scientific review on pesticides points to a public health imperative".
- On 3 November, HEAL sent **voting recommendations** to ENVI committee on pesticides policy package.
- On 12 January 2009, HEAL sent a **letter to all MEPs** on the vote in plenary on the proposed Regulation for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products - on endocrine disrupting chemicals (also translated into French and sent to French MEPs).

EU School Fruit Scheme

- HEAL contributed to the discussions around the EU School Fruit Scheme promoted by the European Commission – DG Agriculture. On the occasion of the Conference: "School Fruit: a healthy start for our children - Promoting School Fruit Schemes in the European Union", HEAL submitted a poster for exhibition on **'7 good reasons to choose sustainable and pesticides-free fruit and vegetables for European School Scheme'**. The poster was included in the online poster exhibition on DG Agriculture website and is being used by members to get involved in implementation of European School Scheme at national level. HEAL poster included in the online poster exhibition of DG Agriculture:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/fruitveg/sfs/events/conference/posters_en.htm



ADVOCACY WORK: SICK OF PESTICIDES – PESTICIDES AND CANCER CAMPAIGN

In 2008, HEAL launched a new campaign on pesticides and cancer called 'Sick of Pesticides'. It aims to build up public awareness on how pesticides are contributing to the rising rates of diseases such as cancer, and mobilize individuals and communities to take action to reduce pesticide use and better protect their health. Through a combination of information and action tools, the campaign will increase public participation for - and feed into the creation of - National Action Plans for pesticides use reduction implementing the recently approved Directive.

In this context, the campaign objectives can be summarised as follows:

- A ban on avoidable, cancer-causing pesticides earlier than what is foreseen in the current EU regulation.
- Targets to reduce the use of pesticides and eliminate or minimise exposure.
- Pesticide-free areas where children are most exposed, such as parks, schools, and sports grounds.
- Health care strategies and national cancer plans that include plans to reduce exposure.

Project activities include:

- **Launch of 'Sick of pesticides' campaign** at European level and in France on 13 November 2008 during a reception with Dr Theo Colborn, author of 'Our Stolen Future'
- Creation of **campaign website** (www.pesticidescancer.eu) in English and French, frequently updated with new articles, and including campaign demands, information resources, video clips, an Action Centre with tools and model letters to call for a reduction in pesticides use, and an interactive poll which received more than 600 responses.
- Creation of a **Facebook cause page Sick of pesticides** (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/Sick-of-Pesticides/38411248553?ref=share>), which already counts 130 fans
- **Communications and media work** that led to high profile media coverage, especially in France. **Press releases:**
 - 13/11/2008 Campaign launched to reduce cancers due to pesticide exposure
 - 13/11/2008 Campagne pour réduire les cancers dus à l'exposition aux pesticides

In France:

- Creation of **campaign platform** including health and environment NGOs, health professionals' associations and health affected groups (Réseau Environnement Santé, Women in Europe for a Common Future France, Association pour la Recherche Thérapeutique Anti-Cancéreuse, ordination Nationale Médicale Santé Environnement, Associations Santé-Environnement France et Provence, Association des Médecins Indépendants pour L'environnement et le Santé Publique, Carole Entraide Cancer, ASS : Action Santé Solidarité Jura)
- Regular **email alerts to campaign platform members** to inform and involve them in ongoing and planned activities
- **Advocacy and policy work in France on pesticides reduction and French cancer plan.** In January 2009, HEAL sent in a formal response to a government consultation on the French cancer plan highlighting the role of environmental



contaminants including pesticides in cancer causation. HEAL also organised an **online petition Plan Cancer - Prévenir ce qui peut l'être** (<http://www.cyberacteurs.org/actions/archive.php?id=200>) which had more than 6000 supporters in only a few weeks.

- HEAL participated, disseminated information and campaign material during several projections in Brussels and France of **French movie 'Les enfants nous accuseront / Our children will accuse us'** on the role of environmental factors, particularly pesticides, in cancer causation.
- Further dissemination of **HEAL's postcard 'A vote for my child's health'** summarising the scientific evidence on the health effects of pesticides (produced in the previous workprogramme in English and French).

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- On 15-16 September, HEAL hosted the annual meeting of Pesticides Action Network Europe. Genon Jensen and Monica Guarinoni participated in the meeting and related activities.
- On 21-22 January 2009, Monica Guarinoni participated in a meeting organised by Pesticides Action Network Europe to discuss with the European Commission and other stakeholders the next steps in the implementation of the pesticides policy reform.
- HEAL provided support to the **Canadian Cancer Society** in the programme development of a Scientific Conference on Pesticides and Cancer.
- On 13 November, HEAL Executive Director participated and gave a presentation on **"Precautionary policies for reducing pesticide exposure: European approaches"** at **Canadian Cancer Society conference "Exploring the Connection: A State of the Science Conference on Pesticides and Cancer"**, in Toronto, Canada.

HEAL campaigner and coordinator in France participated and disseminated campaign information material at the following meetings:

- 30 October 2008 - 17 December 2008 : technical meetings on the preparation of the pesticides use reduction plan in France (EcoPhyto2018).
- 21 November 2008: Pesticides and health conference in Lons le Saunier with around 100 participants – campaign promotion with a speech and documents dissemination: 50 copies of the Cut Back on Pesticides report; 50 copies of the campaign presentation sheet; 50 copies of the campaign Press release in French; 50 copies of the Breast Cancer leaflets.
- 25 November 2008: Chemicals and fertility EU French Presidency conference in Paris with 150 participants – 50 copies of the Breast Cancer report; 50 copies of the endocrine disruptors briefing.
- On 7 January, Monica Guarinoni attended the projection of **'Les enfants nous accuseront'** and following debate in the European Parliament. A similar event was organised by the European Commission cancer support group, and attended by Lisette van Vliet and Aurele Clemencin on the next day.
- 15 January 2009: meeting with Pr Grunfeld, in charge of preparing the report for the French Cancer Plan on the role of environmental factors including pesticide exposures and the link with EU policy and EP's report on the health benefits of cut-off criteria.
- 22 January 2009: meeting with the Environment Minister's cabinet in charge of the preparation of the new French Health and Environment National Action Plan



- 03 February 2009: meeting with French authorities in charge of the Endocrine Disruptors research programme.
- 03 March 2009: press conference for the French Health and Environment Network and presentation of opportunities under REACH regarding Bisphenol A.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

- HEAL wrote **briefings** and email alerts to inform HEAL membership on EU policy developments and latest scientific evidence on pesticides and health.
- HEAL provided input into the following fora via HEAL representation: NGO working group and list serve on Pesticides; NGO coalition on pesticides (PAN Europe, PAN Europe national members, EEB, Friends of the Earth, WECF and others).
- HEAL wrote **30 articles** for HEAL website section on pesticides (<http://www.env-health.org/r/68>).
- HEAL wrote **2 articles highlighting members' activities** on pesticides.
- HEAL wrote an **editorial** on pesticides and health for the monthly newsletter
 - November-December 2008: Changes in environmental policy can bring down cancer rates (on Sick of pesticides campaign): <http://www.env-health.org/a/319>.

Press releases and articles:

- HEAL conducted media and communication work on pesticides and health, and got substantial **coverage in European and international media. Press releases:**
 - 13/01/2009 Parliament clears final hurdle towards EU pesticide blacklist
 - 18/12/2008 Pesticide deal could result in bans on important health hazards
 - 05/11/2008 Parliament reaches compromise on health and environment
- HEAL contributed articles on pesticides and health in following magazines:
 - **Outlooks on Pest Management** (industry publication), December 2008: *EU's proposed pesticide legislation promises better environmental health*
 - **PAN Europe Spring Newsletter**: *New report on breast cancer urges MEPs to cut back on pesticides*
 - **Global Medicine**, March 2008: *"Sick of pesticides": a campaign for policy change"*
 - **Environmental Health Practitioners**, March 2009 "Hazard control"

Media coverage:

- In January 2009, HEAL was quoted in leading Italian daily La Stampa newspaper, in Galileo and in a Greek newspaper called "Real News" on our reaction to the positive EU parliamentary vote on pesticide regulation (13 January).
- HEAL was also featured in [Euractiv](#) (a European policy website published in several languages), the Parliament.com news service, ENDS Europe report (press release with PAN Europe), and the industry website Chemicals Watch.
- TF1/ LCI: **Des pesticides dans le raisin** (25 November)
- Interview with Aurele Clemencin, HEAL / MDRGF campaigner <http://tf1.lci.fr/infos/jt/0,,4171335,00-des-pesticides-dans-le-raisin-.html>
- TF1/ LCI: **La Fertilité en Danger?** (26 September)
- Interview with Aurele Clemencin, HEAL / MDRGF campaigner
- **La Revue Durable**, December 2008 includes a mention of the campaign
- Univers Nature http://www.univers-nature.com/inf/inf_actualite1.cgi?id=3465
- Chemical Watch <http://chemicalwatch.com>



- Environmental Expert: <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultEachPressRelease.aspx?cid=31560&codi=40041&idproducttype=8&level=0>
- Inter Environment Wallonie website : <http://www.sante-environnement.be/spip.php?article210>
- Destination Santé : <http://www.destinationsante.com/Cancers-les-pesticides-sur-la-sellette.html>
- Bonjour Planet Earth : <http://bonjourplanetearth.blogspot.com/2008/11/pesticides-et-cancers-les-soupons-se.html>
- Au Feminin.com: http://forum.aufeminin.com/forum/actu1/___f65046_actu1-1-femme-sur-2-va-etre-atteinte-du-cancer-du-sein-pesticides-et-pollution-mis-en-cause.html
- Mon Moulin.com : <http://monmoulins.com/index.php?2008/11/18/423-400-pesticides-utilises-en-france-sont-reconnus-ou-suspectes-detre-cancerigene>
- Géopolis: <http://geopolis.over-blog.net/archive-11-16-2008.html>
- Trades Union Congress http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-15643-f0.cfm#tuc-15643-13
- Blog: <http://cruaux.blogspot.com/2008/11/pesticides-et-cancer.html>
- Health and Environment in Belgium <http://www.sante-environnement.be/spip.php?article210>
- Etat de la planète website (taken the article from Univers Nature) <http://www.delaplanete.org/actualite.php3?ref=672>
- Blog : <http://pm-39.blogspot.com/2008/11/slections-171108.html>
- Les panniens marseillais <http://lespaniersmarseillais.org/2008/11/pesticides-et-cancers-les-soupcons-se-confirment/>
- Echo nature (article from universe-Nature) <http://www.echo-nature.com/inf/actu.cgi?id=3465>

7. Air quality and health

In 2008-2009, HEAL continued its work to raise awareness greater awareness among policy-makers of the health effects of air pollution on EU files. Work was carried out to increase the mobilisation of the health NGO community, in particular respiratory doctors and asthma and allergies patients' groups, and use of the latest air quality science in EU policy debates.

In partnership with member organisation the European Federation of Asthma, Allergy and COPD patients' associations (EFA), we launched a new project and website entitled 'Know your Air for Health' to increase the engagement of the allergy and asthma patient community on air pollution, its effects on health, relevant legislation and levels of pollution in the EU.

ADVOCACY WORK

- On 14 July 2008, HEAL and EEB sent a **joint letter** to the Commission on the **National Emission Ceilings Directive** urging the Commission to reactivate the revision process of the NEC Directive.
- HEAL participated in European Environmental Bureau's Air Quality list serve and working group to provide health expertise.
- HEAL highlighted the linkages between air quality and climate change in its report **"The co-benefits to health of a stronger climate change policy"** (see Climate Change section for more details or http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Co-benefits_to_health_report_-september_2008.pdf).
- HEAL participated in **DG SANCO Expert Committee on Indoor Air Quality** particularly in the working group on EU added value (see EU environment and health section for more details).
- HEAL requested that DG SANCO Working Party on Environment and Health examine the policy need of prioritising **the indicators PM10/PM2.5 and asthma and allergies** within DGSANCO's core health indicator set.
- HEAL became **a member of ECOS (NGO covering CEN/CENELEC)** to ensure that CEN 351 standard setting for emissions to air of hazardous substances from construction products is considered in the Construction Products Directive, and participated in ECOS meetings.
- HEAL investigated better US links and monitored information from with US EPA and associate organisations, Health Effects Institute and NGOs (NRDC, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Environmental NGOs in the field).
- HEAL monitored and disseminated information to Members and European Environment Bureau from the CHE listserve on asthma (see http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/asthma).
- HEAL signed up to and monitored the work of the Health Effects Institute in Boston (see <http://www.healtheffects.org/>). HEAL has a link on our web page to HEI under interesting links and spoke extensively to HEI at the WHO Science Policy meeting in Madrid in 2008 about current and upcoming research.



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- In April 2008, HEAL participated in the **HENVINET/ERS event on climate change and health**, and presented the NGO perspective on EU policy framework and advocacy opportunities.
- On 19 June 2008, HEAL participated in the Workshop "CAIR for Health" organised in the framework of a FP6 project and focussing on what is needed for the 2013 revision of the air quality directive.
- On 26 May 2008, HEAL took part in the European Environment Bureau Clean Air Seminar, and facilitated a session on the health benefits of air quality.

Know your Air for Health project

HEAL worked with member organisation the European Federation of Asthma, Allergy and COPD patients' associations (EFA) to develop a project and a project website entitled 'Know your Air for Health'. The objective of the project is to improve implementation of the EU legislation on air quality by Member States as well as to increase awareness within and engagement of the allergy, asthma and COPD patient community on air pollution, its effects on health, relevant legislation and levels of pollution in the EU.

Specific project activities include:

- Background research and setting up of a **webpage Know your Air for Health (www.knowyourairforhealth.eu)** in collaboration with EFA and EFA members in English, Finnish and Italian including a **clickable map** featuring all EU countries and collecting links and useful references on how to find information about air quality at national and local level. The website highlights sources of information on air pollution levels in each EU member state (facilitating member states' legal requirements to inform these health groups).
- **Launch of website** on World COPD day on 19 November 2009 with a **press release "EU air pollution forecasting offered to those with breathing problems"** which had Europe-wide media coverage. The language versions were launched by EFA members through a model press release provided by HEAL.
- EFA and EFA members sent **letters** to Commissioners for Health and Environment as well as to their national ministries asking for air pollution information specifically targeted at susceptible individuals as foresees in the EU legislation.
- Project website in three languages: www.knowyourairforhealth.eu
- Project launch and press release: http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/Air_quality_PR_FINAL.pdf
- Letters sent to Ministers of Health and Environment <http://www.efanet.org/enews/documents/EFAletterEUEnvironmentandHealthMinisters.pdf>

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION WORK

- HEAL **wrote 17 articles for HEAL website** Air Quality section (<http://www.env-health.org/r/90>) and monthly newsletter received by over 3000 policy-makers and stakeholders (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).



- HEAL **wrote briefings and email alerts** to inform HEAL membership on policy developments and latest scientific evidence related to air quality and health (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education), and did joint work with member organisations the European Respiratory Society and the European Federation of Asthma and Allergies Patients Associations.
- Press Release and Photo <http://www.efanet.org/enews/press.html> & <http://www.env-health.org/a/3151>
- The launch of the "Know your own health" website was featured in El Mundo (20 November 2008) and in the news section of the website of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME, 20 November). It was also covered by Medical News Today (20 November), Medical Journal (www.rxjournals.com) (20 November) and HealthABC website in English, French and German (20 November).
- The Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE) featured a news article on HEAL's Know your Air for Health project in their December 2008 newsletter issue.
- On 14 July 2008, HEAL and EEB issued a **joint press release "Commission delays once more critical air pollution legislation"** (http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/140708-NECDelay-FINAL__6_.pdf).



8. Sustainable development

ADVOCACY WORK

- Together with the Green 10 group of European environmental NGOs, HEAL developed a joint EU election campaign manifesto “**Environment at the heart of Europe: An environmental roadmap for 2009-2010. The role of the European Parliament**”, available in English and German.
The 10 demands highlight the overall framework for Sustainable Development:
 1. Prevent the 6th Great Extinction: Biodiversity Loss and Ecosystem Breakdown
 2. Agriculture Policy Reform: Public Money for Public Goods
 3. Promote A Clean and Efficient Energy System
 4. Matching Words with Action ? For a Sustainable EU-Budget
 5. A cleaner, safer environment for healthier Europeans
 6. Take Global Responsibility
 7. EU leadership to enable a new international Climate Change agreement
 8. Make Europe the most Transport-efficient economy in the world
 9. Act upon the limits of natural resource availability
 10. Improve the implementation and Enforcement of Legislation
- The campaign manifesto was sent to all European political parties for consideration in developing manifesto, and several meetings were held. It was also disseminated to all Green 10 member organisations to be used at national level.
- In particular, HEAL in collaboration with our member organisations providing input worked on the **Health chapter** and highlighted the policy opportunities to protect and promote human health in the next five years, for example on chemicals, pesticides, air quality legislation.
- On 2 December, HEAL organised a **session** during our Annual General Assembly 2008 to train member organisations on the importance of the EU parliament's elections and where to find information. The health chapter of the Green 10 manifesto was used as a basis to brainstorm on **specific pledges on environment and health** for candidate MEPs to commit to. HEAL's election campaign is to be launched in April 2009 after the end of the current work programme which has an overall message framed around sustainable development.
- HEAL started preparations of a **Civil Society Exhibition with the new Parliament** to be held in fall 2009 in collaboration with the Civil Society Contact Group and the Eurogroup for Animals.
- On 29-30 January 2009, HEAL participated and provided input in the kick off conference of the **Spring Alliance: Preparing for EU Leadership on Sustainability** The Alliance is an initiative of the environment, social and trade union sectors to put together a joint call for action with specific proposals on the sustainable development strategy to be considered by the European Parliament and Commissioners.
- In April 2008, HEAL responded to the EU consultation on the EU budget with a joint Green 10 submission “**Green 10 vision for a new EU budget**”.
- In July 2008, HEAL **responded to a consultation by the European Environment Agency on EEA draft multi-annual strategy 2009-2013.**
- On 5 June, during **Green Week 2008**, Christian Farrar-Hockley gave a presentation on "Achieving Sustainable Construction".



- On 3 December, HEAL sent a **joint letter with the Green 10 on the Sustainable Development Strategy** to EU Secretary General Catherine Day.
- On 28 November, HEAL sent a **joint letter with the Green 10** to Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament regarding European Parliament risk to be sidelined on climate and energy package, before the triologue.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- HEAL participated in **several meetings** of the Green 10 with high-level policy makers:
 - On 2 June 2008, Genon Jensen took part in a dinner with the European Environment Agency Director Jacqueline McGlade as part of EEA Stakeholder Consultation on next multi-annual strategy.
 - On 20 January, Genon attended a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic Mr. Martin Bursík.
 - On 1 March, Christian Farrar-Hockley attended a reception dinner with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic Mr. Martin Bursík, Green 10, Environment Ministers of Belgium, Denmark, France, Hungary, Spain, Sweden and Commissioner Dimas.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

- HEAL wrote **6 articles for the HEAL website section** on Sustainable Development (<http://www.env-health.org/r/123>) and monthly newsletter (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).
- HEAL wrote **briefings and email alerts** to inform HEAL membership on EU policy developments around sustainable development and keep them involved in Green 10 related activities (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).



9. Public participation

During 2008-2009, HEAL work with members and partners to increase awareness of Aarhus Convention provisions and the possibilities this offers for increasing citizens' participation and transparency, thus contributing to the protection of the environment and human health. HEAL worked to incorporate the principles and the provisions of the *Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters* and the related *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* in the formulation of all environment-related EU policy (e.g. chemicals policy, pesticide policy).

It also monitored developments of EU policy in the area of Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and provided input into ECO Forum's Public Participation Working Group.

- HEAL included references to the Aarhus Convention principles in policy papers and briefings related to different environmental legislation in progress (e.g. pesticides, chemicals).
- In collaboration with the World Health Organisation – European Office, **HEAL raised awareness among young people** on the links between environment and health, and advocate for an increased participation in European and international decision-making fora.
 - HEAL gave a presentation on environment and health advocacy to a group of young journalists at the Madrid Symposium (see EU Environment and Health section for more details).
 - HEAL video projects with young people *It's our world & Delta Danube* project produced under previous work programmes were sent to a Slovenian Film Festival: www.videorats.org.
- HEAL further disseminated the **report and brochure “Making the Case for Environmental Justice in Central and Eastern Europe”** jointly produced by the Centre for Environmental Policy and Law and the Health & Environment Alliance to key policy-makers, for example at the above mentioned conference. The report was also featured in an article on *Articulating the Basis for Promoting Environmental Justice in Central and Eastern Europe* by Tamara Steger, published in *Environmental Justice* journal, Vol 1, Number 1.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- 2 June 2008, HEAL participated in the **European Commission Conference on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**, and highlighted the main conference outcomes in an article for the website and monthly newsletter.
- On 11 December 2008, HEAL participated in an EU seminar on regulation 1049/2001 and access to EU documents
- On 9 and 10 December 2008, HEAL took part in the Social Platform annual conference on civil dialogue
- HEAL registered and disseminated information on the **EU lobby register**, whilst highlighting its shortcomings in website articles, and encouraged its relevant members to do so as well.



- On 24-26 November, HEAL Vice President Tamara Steger participated on behalf of HEAL in the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Working Group meeting on the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Protocol**, , highlighting the health and inequities dimension of the PRTR Protocol.
- HEAL participated in the European ECO Forum's Public Participation Working Group and PARTICIPATE campaign and activities, and took part in official meetings as part of the ECO Forum delegation:
 - On 9-11 June, Tamara Steger, member of the HEAL Executive Committee, participated in the **meeting of the Members of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and related ECO-Forum events** in Riga on behalf of HEAL. As a result, HEAL/CEPL report on environmental justice was featured on the Aarhus Clearinghouse website <http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>

MEDIA AND MONITORING

- HEAL coordinated the **HEAL's list serve and virtual working group on Public Participation** to disseminate information on EU policy developments in the area of Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (policy developments, new studies, reports, key articles, status of files in the EU decision-making process, key dates for action, consultation etc). (Also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).
- HEAL wrote **10 articles for HEAL website section** on Public Participation (<http://www.env-health.org/r/88>) and monthly electronic newsletter received by over 3000 policy-makers, NGOs and other stakeholders (also relevant for Policy Implementation, Integration and Education).
- HEAL wrote briefings and email alerts to inform HEAL's **public participation list serve** on policy developments related to the Aarhus Convention and EU policy developments on access to justice.



10. Network building

In 2008-2009, HEAL continued to build and expand its growing network of member organisations and partners and its communication channels and tools.

HEAL objectives included to:

- Raise awareness within HEAL membership and partners of the EU environment and health-related policy priorities and legislative developments.
- Draw on members' and partners' expertise in drafting policy responses to EU consultations on environment and health issues.
- Enable HEAL member organisations to share information on broad environment and health policy developments and processes.
- Engage HEAL member organisations in advocacy and lobbying activities on EU policy formulation and implementation vis-à-vis the EU institutions and national policy makers.
- Recruit new national and local NGOs for membership (especially in under-represented regions) and promote understanding of the European environment and health policy agenda.

HEAL Annual General Assembly

On 1-2 December 2008, HEAL organized the **Annual General Assembly** in Brussels. The meeting brought together around 25 representatives from HEAL member organisations across Europe. Highlights from the meeting included:

- **Election of new Executive Committee 2008-2010**, as follows: Marie Christine Dewolf (HEAL President) Hygiène Publique en Hainaut (Belgium), Tamara Steger (Vice-President) Centre for Environmental Policy and Law (Hungary), Peter van den Hazel (Vice-President) International Network for Children's Health, Environment and Safety (the Netherlands), Dave Stone (Treasurer) Natural England (UK), Monika Kosinska European Public Health Alliance (Belgium), Peter Ohnsorge European Academy of Environmental Medicine (Germany), Elliott Cannell Pesticides Action Network Europe (United Kingdom).
- **Approval of eight new member organisations** that become part of the Alliance.
- **Approval of HEAL strategic goals 2010.**
- **Discussion and approval of HEAL work plan for 2009.**
- **Approval of HEAL accounts 2007-2008 and budgets 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.**
- **Launch of Choosing our Future comics strip book during evening reception** with well known French author David Ratte: see www.choosingourfuture.eu.

On 2 December During the Annual General Assembly, HEAL organised a **Workshop "Cancer Prevention & the Environment: Examples & opportunities for national & EU policy initiatives"** (see EU Environment and Health section for more details), as well as a policy coordination and training session on the **2009 Parliamentary elections** (see Sustainable Development section for more details).

HEAL working groups and list serves



Electronic exchange of information through members' list serve and **seven virtual working groups** on: chemicals policy, EU Environment and Health Action Plan, public participation, children's environment & health, climate change, biomonitoring and air quality.

HEAL electronic newsletter

HEAL published **10 issues of its monthly newsletter** and increased the number of subscribers from 2000 to over 3000 including policy-makers, environment and health experts and the NGO community in the wider European region and outside Europe.

The newsletter:

- Contains topical articles on environmental health issues and their reflection in Community environmental legislation proposals;
- Provides timely and understandable information and educational material on EU policy developments on environment and health for the general public;
- Contributes to policy shaping by providing easily-accessible information for action and implementation of Community environmental policy to policy makers, NGOs and other stakeholders throughout the EU member states and wider international arena;
- Raises awareness on EU and general environment and health news for specialised audiences and the general public;
- Showcases member organisations' activities in the "News from Membership" section.

HEAL website communication

- HEAL constantly updated its **website** with articles on its main environment and health policy priorities and other related issues. The HEAL website also includes a section "Secretariat and membership news" (<http://www.env-health.org/r/104>) providing visibility to HEAL members' initiatives, as well as a Members' only section for internal documents, staff reports from conferences and meetings and consultation purposes. The HEAL website is officially linked to in the DG SANCO public health portal "Health EU": http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index_en.htm
- During the reporting period, March 2007-March 2008, the HEAL website had **37,500 visits with 25,000 absolute unique visitors and 90,000 page views**. The Chemicals Health Monitor website had **14,000 visits with 9,500 absolute unique visitors and 40,000 page views**. The Know Your Air for Health website had **2,800 visits with 2,400 absolute unique visitors and 9,300 page views**. The Sick of Pesticides website had **3,000 visits with 2,360 absolute unique visitors and 8,500 page views** (Google Analytics report, available upon request).
- **350 articles** were written and posted on website and newsletter (www.env-health.org) during the reporting period.
- **50 articles** in website and newsletter highlighting member' activities (<http://www.env-health.org/r/104>).
- **10 HEAL newsletter editorials:** <http://www.env-health.org/r/61>.

HEAL created **3 new websites** in addition to the main organizational website and Chemicals Health Monitor website: **Sick of Pesticides** (www.pesticidescancer.eu), **Know Your Air for Health** (www.knowyourairforhealth.eu), and **Choosing our Future** (www.choosingourfuture.eu).



HEAL membership outreach

HEAL **promoted its activities** through mailing and electronic contacts to recruit new member organisations, especially in under-represented regions. **Eight new organisations** became members during the reporting period:

- Ecoservice Foundation, Hungary
 - Eco-Protection, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - Association for Environmental Health, Hungary
 - Polish Green Association - Zieloni R.P., Poland
 - Mouvement pour les Droits des Generations Futures - MDRGF, France
 - Eco-Accord on Environmental Problems Solution, Russia
 - ECHO, Ecology, Cultural Diversity, Health, Slovenia
 - My right to know foundation, Bulgaria
-
- Launch of **individual supporters category**, around 30 individual supporters signed up to HEAL already in the first few months.
 - **Outreach to specific groups** (health professionals, youth, community groups, individuals) by disseminating targeted HEAL material and communication tools on EU policy priorities (see above under different sections for more details).