



**HEAL**

Promoting environmental policy that contributes to good health

# HEAL Activity Report 2014

Environment & Health

Chemicals

Pesticides

Air quality

Climate and energy



**AIR QUALITY**

**Air Pollution and Health in Turkey**  
Facts, Figures and Recommendations

Published October 2014 with endorsement from the Ministry of Health, Istanbul, Turkey

HEAL  
Health & Environment Alliance

Türkiye Solunum Araştırmaları Derneği  
TUSAD  
Türkiye Solunum Araştırmaları Derneği  
Türk Thorax Derneği  
Türk Toraks Derneği  
IMUD  
İstanbul İmmünoloji ve Allerji Uzmanları Derneği

Air pollution is an important risk factor for health in Europe and worldwide. A recent review of the global burden of disease showed that it is one of the top ten risk factors for health globally. In addition to estimates of total global and premature burden of disease in the European Union (EU), HEAL also presents a review of the impact of air pollution on health, including the impact of air pollution on the environment, the economy and development (EMED) countries. Year in 2010, outdoor air pollution was the 14th cause of environmental health death worldwide. In addition, air pollution has also been classified as the leading environmental cause of cancer.

Impacts of air pollution in Turkey

It is still difficult to gather adequate and unified data on air pollution in Turkey, from the national authorities. Turkey emerges as a country with one of the highest rates of premature deaths due to air pollution in Europe, according to recent estimates. In 2010, 23,845 people in Turkey died prematurely from ambient PM and ozone exposure.

Why is AIR POLLUTION a CONCERN FOR HEALTH?

Exposure to outdoor air pollution is associated with a broad spectrum of acute and chronic health effects ranging from respiratory effects to cancer. Under the impact of respiratory and cardiovascular pollution, air quality deteriorates. The adverse health effects of air pollution are an emerging risk factor for children's health and development. Sensitive and vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, the elderly and those already suffering from respiratory and other serious illnesses or from low income groups are particularly affected.

The health effects of air pollution are well documented, even though the pollution continues to rise in our country. Air pollution leads to a mixture of local and acid rain, a mixture of ground, ozone, particulates and other pollutants. It is the most complex of the risks, the most persistent, for which numerous studies on health effects have been conducted. Some of the pollutants, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, mercury and lead carbon.

Każdego roku 45 000 ludzi w Polsce umiera przedwcześnie z powodu zanieczyszczeń powietrza!

**CZY WIESZ, CZYM ODDYCHASZ?**

**ŹRÓDŁA ZANIECZYSZCZEŃ**

**SCHORZENIA POWODOWANE PRZEZ ZANIECZYSZCZENIA**

- choroby krążenia
- zawał serca
- rak płuc
- astma
- zapalenie oskrzeli
- obniżona odporność u dzieci
- powiktania ciąży
- POChP
- i wiele innych

**CZYSZTE POWIETRZE DLA POLSKI**

WIELKOPOLSKA  
www.tusad.org.pl  
www.facebook.com/E.H.Polska

www.heal.eu.org/E.H.Polska  
www.konsep.pl/aktualnosci

HEAL  
Health & Environment Alliance

**20,440** SAY NO TO HORMONE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS

# ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

## **Cleaner air legislation saved from withdrawal**

This year, HEAL was instrumental in ensuring that the draft EU law on air quality (National Emissions Ceilings Directive) did not disappear. By September, it was obvious that the mandates and political priorities of the new Commission posed an extreme threat to this important piece of health legislation. Fortunately, HEAL was well prepared.

Materials for policy makers were ready. They make clear the scientific evidence of causal effects on health from exposure to air pollution. They also quantify magnitude and significance of the contribution to health of this environmental factor. These fact sheets were supplemented by “city rankings” on air pollution and a video to increase press and social media appeal.

To turn the tide, our strategy focussed on engaging members of the European Parliament environment committee and working with both health (including the European Respiratory Society and AIM, the biggest not-for-profit health insurers) and environmental partners to convince all key EU policy makers, especially the member state environment ministers.

The approach worked. Following First Vice-President Timmermans’ troubling announcement in December, Green 10 members including HEAL spoke to environment ministers. They subsequently strongly criticised the intentions of the Commission and urged the continued negotiation of all elements of the air package. The majority of groups in the European Parliament also supported such an approach.

In January, HEAL was able to welcome confirmation that negotiations on the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC) would continue.

## **25,000 informed citizens respond to EDC consultation**

The delay in establishing criteria for the definition of endocrine disrupting chemicals represents a lost opportunity for public health. Even more worrying is that the impact assessment responsible for holding up progress is oriented more towards costs to industry than benefits to human health.

HEAL’s strategy this year was therefore to demonstrate support within the public, affected groups, and certain Member States for putting health first and to quantify and publicise the magnitude of the public health problem resulting from exposure to EDCs.

HEAL harnessed the views of an informed public into the EU consultation process. This was achieved by making the consultation procedure clear, easy to do and relatively quick to complete. Individuals were invited to visit an online consultation platform that made it simple to complete the European Commission’s very technical questionnaire. Promoted to our networks, especially via social media, the response was overwhelming with [25,000 submissions](#) received in a period of just over six weeks.

HEAL continued to promote the constant flow of new research findings on the health impacts of EDC exposure extending coverage to new audiences via a re-launched Chemicals Health Monitor website and newsletter (in English and German).

Special attention was given to sharing the favourable positions on EDCs of France (which launched a national strategy and initiated a debate in the Environment Council in June) and Sweden (which decided to take the Commission to court for its failure to keep to the deadline on EDCs).

HEAL worked particularly closely with certain cancer groups this year, including the Association of the European Cancer Leagues (jointly organised a meeting of MEPs against Cancer in the European Parliament). The Executive Director took part in a major conference with HEAL member Action for Breast Cancer Foundation at the Presidential palace on World Cancer Day and co-organised a seminar with Breast Cancer Action Germany and WECF in Munich.

The highlight of the year's activities in chemicals work was the launch of the first ever assessment of chronic disease related to EDC exposure. [Health costs in the EU – How much is related to EDCs?](#) estimates exposure to food and everyday electronic, cosmetic and plastic products containing endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) at up to €31 billion per year in the EU. The findings were promoted extensively in EU and WHO meetings, by our members at partners at national level and in European policy and national media, including Le Monde in France and Der Standard in Austria. It also received a strong social media presence with retweets by some key policy figures.

### **German, Polish and Serbian medical professionals call for healthy energy policy**

In many European countries, doctors and health groups have a strong tradition of involvement in health and environmental issues, including air quality, clean energy and climate change. One of HEAL's key activities this year was to share the health message on better health and cleaner air by opting out of coal and other fossil fuels with less engaged, but important, medical professional groups.

A proud achievement was the co-hosting of a [workshop with the German Medical Association](#) and the Society for Hygiene and Environmental Medicine in Berlin to discuss opportunities and risks for health in the German energy transition. The findings of the seminar were published in an article in the German Medical Journal and a brochure for doctors in Germany on "Energy & health" is being finalised.

In Poland, where reliance on coal power is having serious effects on air quality, HEAL began by developing a brochure with several medical professional organisations, which was then shared in a webinar with a wider group. On Spirometry Day in September, HEAL organised a press conference with the Polish Federation of Allergy, Asthma and COPD to highlight how coal burning (both from domestic as well as from power plants) contributes to air pollution in Poland, with significant health impacts.

The two greatest achievements, however, were a conference with medical professionals in December, which became a front page story in a leading national newspaper, and the announcement that the permit for the future Czczott power plant was overturned, in part due to the evidence provided by medical professionals facilitated by HEAL.

Work in Balkans began with a survey of about 50 health and medical groups on their activities and interest in air quality and health. Then, in October, HEAL co-hosted a [workshop on air quality & health](#) in Belgrade with the Serbian Public Health Institute and the Professional Association of Physicians. The debate centred on air quality and coal power plants and fed into the development of a [factsheet on air quality & health](#) for Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria. The media launch of this document received significant press coverage in several Balkan countries.

# Climate (mitigation) and energy – Coal and shale gas

## Activities

Energy generation from fossil fuels – coal, oil, gas – are a double threat to everyone’s health in Europe and beyond: first, because in the process of their combustion, tons of hazardous air pollutants and heavy metals are being released, and second because their burning fuels climate change, which brings further health threats.

HEAL’s medium and long term strategy for dealing with this threat is threefold: 1. Engaging and encouraging health and medical professionals at EU level and in target countries to voice their concerns in energy discussions and health implications; 2. Providing the expertise on the health economic costs (external health costs) for public consultations and environmental groups, for a more informed policy debate; 3. Engaging in the science-policy interface by facilitating and making available research on climate, energy and health for policy-makers at EU and national level.

In 2014 HEAL has made major progress on implementing this strategy and the goals defined above, particularly relating to coal-fired power generation in Europe.

## Highlighting the external health costs of coal in Europe

This strand of the work was carried out by Julia Huscher, Senior Policy Adviser, and Vlatka Matkovic Puljic, Project Officer for Southeastern Europe (SEE&CEE) countries.

## Advocacy work with the EU institutions, national authorities on IED, coal power generation

Under the work programme 2013-14, HEAL had already followed the possible exemptions in the EU’s Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) when it comes to stricter emission limits for coal power plants, and in February 2014 had voiced its concerns on the granting of derogations by the EU Commission for Poland, Bulgaria and other countries. In April, HEAL submitted a [formal letter](#) to the EU Commission, together with the European Environmental Bureau, requesting an internal review of the Polish Transitional National Plan (TNP). The health argument plays a central role in this request, as in the vicinity of 63 out of the 73 plants, at least one pollutant exceeds the concentration limits of the EU’s ambient air quality directive. The information on this letter and particularly demands on Poland’s biggest polluter, the Belchatow coal plant, were disseminated to Brussels decision-makers and journalists with a [press release](#) on 14 April, in English and Polish. HEAL’s Julia Huscher also discussed demands on Poland with a member of the cabinet of EU Climate Commissioner Hedegaard on 24 April, and in a meeting with Guido de Wilt from DG ENV on 7 October.

A [second request for internal review](#) was sent to the EU Commission on 14 May, regarding the TNP for Bulgaria, and again the health argument played a central role.

HEAL also contributed to a [joint position paper on CO2 standards for power plants](#), which was launched on 25 June. We think that such a standard is needed to prevent the lock-in of the worst polluting industries, particularly coal, and provide investment incentives for cleaner energy.

Last but not least, HEAL provided the health evidence for a report on the thirty most polluting power plants in the European Union, entitled [Europe’s Dirty 30](#). The assessment was launched jointly by Climate Action Network Europe, WWF, EEB, HEAL and Climate Alliance Germany and argues that CO2 emissions from coal power plants in the EU are undermining climate efforts. If the EU is serious about meeting its climate targets and protecting the health of its citizens it must act on coal addition. The report features HEAL’s infographic on the health impacts of air pollution from coal power generation as well as the external health cost quantification. When the “Dirty 30” report was launched on 22 July with a [joint press release](#) featuring a quote from HEAL’s Julia Huscher, it generated national debates

on coal and health through extensive media coverage in the UK, Germany, Belgium, France and many other countries.

### **Addressing EU investment into coal power generation**

Several lending institutions such as the World Bank or the European Investment Bank started to critically review their financing policy when it comes to coal. In April, HEAL submitted a [response](#) to a consultation on the environmental and social policy of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, highlighting that the future projects need to include health in cost-benefit analysis, that new coal-fired power plants should be excluded from lending, that retrofitting of coal plants should be at the highest standards and other points. This advocacy work contributed to a change in the EBRD's policy when it comes to lending (see results section).

Divestment from coal-fired power generation has gained increasing prominence in the last months, with academic institutions, pension funds and others announcing an ending for coal lending. HEAL does not have the resources to fully engage in these debates. However, we share information on divestment in our health networks and also team up with other non-governmental organisations for advocacy work at key policy junctures.

On 29 January 2015, HEAL [signed](#) on to a joint letter to express concerns about a recent EU Commission proposal on export credits for coal. With the COP in Paris coming up, the EU Commission should show credibility and consistency on climate mitigation and end EU public export credits for all coal fired power plants as a first step in a time-bound process to end public support for all fossil fuels.

### **Coal & Health in Southeastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro)**

The region is of particular concern for health protection from air pollution because of the planned investment into new coal power plants and the already poor air quality, which would be aggravated by new coal. As of mid-April 2014, HEAL was able to ramp up its engagement, particularly in Serbia, with the support of a dedicated project officer on Energy&Health, Vlatka Matkovic Puljic.

As a first step, Vlatka carried out two scoping exercises: first, an overview of planned coal projects in Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, and second, exploring the willingness of health and medical groups in these target countries to engage in air quality, coal and health issues. HEAL received responses from more than 50 organisations in these countries, many with a great interest of collaboration.

Next, Ms. Matkovic Puljic participated in the environment and health conference in Romania from 11-13 Sept, organised by the Balkan Environmental Association (BENA), and gave a presentation on the health costs of coal power generation. Vlatka also met with representatives of the Romanian Pulmology Association, who then became a HEAL member in October 2014.

On 31 October, HEAL co-hosted a [workshop on air quality&health](#) in Belgrade, Serbia, together with the national Public Health Institute and the Professional Association of Physicians. The debate very much centered on coal power plants, and participants discussed the outline of a statement on air&energy (*Subcontracted for moderation of panel discussion – see Form F5*). Vlatka gave a presentation on health costs from coal power generation in Serbia and in the EU from HEAL's health costs assessment. As a follow up to this conference, a [statement](#) of Serbian health and medical experts was prepared, which has been endorsed by 3 leading public health institutions in the country, and more than a dozen health experts (the launch will take place in June 2015 under HEAL's 2015 work plan).

The exchanges also fed into the development of [factsheets on air quality&health](#), which were launched for Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria on 15 December, in English, Bulgarian and Serbian (*Subcontracted for design of infographics; and translation into Serbian, Bulgarian – see form F5*). The

[information release](#) launched to promote the factsheets highlighted the many health benefits that would be reaped from cleaner air in the Balkans. The factsheets received significant media coverage in the Balkan countries, and so facilitated national debates on energy&health.

HEAL also provided a help desk on health economic assessments and communication with health arguments for local and regional environmental, energy groups working on coal power generation: for Macedonia, we provided [expertise for a calculation](#) of health impacts and costs in Sept 2014 for the NGO Eko-Svest; and for groups in Serbia on how to carry out human biomonitoring in the vicinity of coal plants. Both Julia and Vlatka also provided health expertise with presentations and chairing at a European environmental and climate NGO meeting in August in Germany.

Last but not least, we also started to follow the deliberations of the Energy Community Treaty, as one of the most significant policy frameworks on energy&health in these countries. On 6 March 2015, nearing the current work programme, HEAL sent [comments](#) to a public consultation on the reform and future of the Energy Community, calling for the inclusion of key EU air quality legislation into the Treaty. We also encouraged our members and partners to participate in the consultation. These demands followed a hearing in the European Parliament that HEAL had participated in in March 2015.

### **Turkey: Initiate public debates on health effects of coal-fired power generation in Turkey and provide health evidence on coal power generation**

HEAL's activities on energy and health in Turkey are ineligible under the LIFE+ operational grant, as they relate to a country outside of the EU.

The first phase of this new engagement consisted in a scoping mission to understand the possibilities and risks for medium and long term engagement in the country.

Activities carried out include:

- Mapping of health and medical actors in Turkey, bilateral meetings and participation in key conferences of health groups in Turkey
- Translation of HEAL general leaflet into Turkish
- Research, development and publication of a factsheet on Air quality and health, which was launched in February 2015, together with 5 leading medical associations in Turkey, including the Turkish Medical Association
- Research and writing for the Unpaid Health Bill in Turkey – the launch of this publication falls under HEAL's work programme 2015

### **Results**

The research carried out but also the meetings with health and medical professionals underlined that energy and health questions are of key concern in the country, particularly because a huge investment into new coal-fired power plants is foreseen. Activities confirmed that there is a high willingness of health and medical professionals to engage on energy deliberations, higher than in some EU countries that HEAL has been engaged in.

In addition, HEAL was able to initiate public debates on coal through important media coverage on the publication of the factsheet. The factsheet also received very positive coverage and support from HEAL members, EU/global organisations and networks including GCHA, Healthy Planet, Healthy Energy Initiative etc. Greenpeace in Turkey mentioned the briefing (they are followed by 39,000 people). There were 14 mentions of the briefing on launch day including from Greenpeace Turkey, GCHA, Turkish endorsing orgs, HEAL members including EFA, and 16 new followers on launch day, 24 retweets and 9 favoured tweets.

## **Poland: Engaging the health and medical sector on air pollution from coal plants**

Poland is a country that still heavily relies on coal power generation, and the only EU country that defies the slowdown in coal investment in the past year. It is also the country with one of the worst air quality in the EU-28, with six of the ten most polluted cities in Europe.

This strand of activities was carried out by Polish consultants Weronika Piestrynska and Lukasz Adamkiewicz (*Subcontracted for consultancy – see Form F5*), in collaboration with HEAL's Julia Huscher, Senior Policy Adviser, and Anne Stauffer, Deputy Director.

### **Working with the health and medical sector**

All throughout the year, Lukasz Adamkiewicz and Weronika Piestrynska presented the health economic evidence on coal, air pollution in Poland and the EU air laws in key meetings of health and medical organisations in Poland. They also held bilateral exchanges with leading health representatives, and provided regular input in exchanges with Polish environmental and climate groups. The health meetings included the major annual meetings of Polish medical associations, such as the Jan 2015 meeting of the Polish Respiratory Society (*Subcontracted for design, print of roll-up banner about HEAL; print of HEAL leaflet in Polish – see Form F5*).

The positive feedback and fruitful initial collaboration was further deepened through the highlight of the year 2014, which was the conference on [Air pollution, Energy and Health: what does the science say, which policy answers are needed](#). The event brought together 70 leading health experts, representatives of medical institutions and policy-makers to discuss the latest science on air pollution in Poland, and ways to improve air quality, including through better implementation of EU air quality law. Keynote speeches were given from Michal Krzyzanowski, formerly WHO Center for Health and Environment, Bonn; Dorota Jarosinska, WHO Bonn and others. Participants also heard from Lukasz Adamkiewicz on how coal power plants contribute to air pollution (*Subcontracted for conference photographer, student logistical support, print of conference folders, newsletter announcement, moderator for panel discussion – see Form F5*). The conference was closed with the launch of a [statement](#) on air quality and health in Poland, which features demands to policy-makers at national and local level, and was distributed widely to national media. HEAL received very positive feedback on the conference including from WHO and the health ministers adviser.

There were also several journalists who participated in the conference. As one outcome, HEAL was invited to present its views for an article of the Polish news agency, which resulted in a dozen articles in Polish media, including at the front page of a leading Polish newspaper.

The success of the conference was also made possible through using new tools for reaching out to health and medical groups. Back in June, HEAL organised a [webinar](#) on air quality, energy and health that brought 20 participants from key health groups to discuss ways of engaging in Polish energy and environmental laws. Participants listened to and commented on the presentations by Dr Michal Krzyzanowski from King's College London and former Head of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn; Piotr Dąbrowiecki, the President of the Polish Federation of Asthma, Allergy and COPD and Łukasz Adamkiewicz, HEAL's Advisor on Coal and Health. Lukasz presented the new brochure on domestic coal combustion and health to the webinar audience.

### **Media and Communications activities**

With a dedicated media adviser, Weronika Piestrynska, HEAL was able to significantly ramp up communications activities on air quality, energy and health in Poland, which has led to more than 100 articles in media coverage until 15 March 2014.

As a first step to increase Communications, [social media tools](#) in Polish were launched on the occasion of World Asthma Day in May, to reach health and medical groups, politicians, journalists on air

pollution, energy and health.. November then saw the launch of a dedicated [website](#) on HEAL's activities on air quality & energy in Polish (*Subcontracted for design, development of website – see Form F5*). The website now brings together information on HEAL's work, recent studies and information on activities by the health and medical community as well as other groups.

Together with 8 leading health and medical institutions HEAL launched a [brochure on domestic coal combustion](#) at the end of June (*Subcontracted for endorsement, design and print of brochure – see Form F5*). The brochure brings together important, but often ignored numbers on the domestic coal combustion issue including the latest science on health effects of coal burning and case studies. It follows from a special workshop organised in February 2014, which brought together organisations for an initial exchange. It has been developed with and endorsed by numerous Polish health, environment and medical institutions: Military Medical Institute, Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute, National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene, Polish Society of Environmental Medicine, Polish Society of Allergology, Polish Federation of Associations of Asthma, Allergy and COPD, Faculty of Environmental Engineering, Warsaw University of Technology and the Conference of Rectors of the Academic Medical Universities.

The information on the brochure was disseminated with a dedicated [press release](#) in Polish.

At the end of the year, we also brought together [a leaflet](#) for asthma, heart disease and other patients, to inform them how air pollution may be implicated in their disease and what kind of policy answers are needed (*Subcontracted for design, print – see Form F5*). These materials were disseminated to representatives of local governments during dozens of trainings on the low emission and low carbon economy national programme “New mission low emission” (Nowa misja niska emisja).

For world spirometry day on 4 September, HEAL in Poland teamed up with the Polish Federation of Allergy, Asthma and COPD for a press conference, joint [press release](#) and various information activities. In its contribution HEAL highlighted how coal burning (both from domestic as well as from power plants) contributes to air pollution in Poland, with significant health impacts. In preparation of the day, information material from HEAL on coal power was disseminated to hundreds of doctors in Poland, and also [a special poster](#) was launched (*Subcontracted for design, print – see Form F5*). The event received widespread coverage in Polish media. Prior to World Spirometry Day, HEAL was a co-organiser in an event with citizens in the Zakopane region on 15-16 May, to highlight the threat of coal power generation on air quality and health in the region, an important component of our communication with citizens. For the occasion, a joint press release was issued.

All throughout the year, HEAL sought and used all possible media opportunities to increase public debates on air quality, energy and health. HEAL's Media Adviser carried out a scoping of Polish journalists and sent regular, monthly updates to the dozens of contacts now available. This work more than paid off, with significant media coverage at national and regional level, including HEAL being cited on the front page of Gazeta Wyborcza, one of the biggest dailies in Poland (206.000 copies) on 27 Nov; and a mention in the Polish Forbes in December. In January 2015, Lukasz Adamkiewicz was also on TV, for an interview in Poland's biggest TV news channel, TVN24.

HEAL also wrote 3 articles for Polish science journals and websites. In April 2014, we were able to initiate a public debate on health effects of coal through an article at a local community website.

### **Providing health expertise for consultations on permitting of coal plants**

No public consultation was foreseen at the start of HEAL's work programme 2014; but these provided for important opportunities to share the health economic evidence for future coal plants in several Polish regions. HEAL provided submissions for three environmental permitting processes for new coal plants in summer 2014: the 1 GW Czczcott power plant, the 500 MW Leczna coal plant, and the 1.6 GW North Power plant. Lukasz Adamkiewicz, HEAL's adviser also participated in a hearing as part of the process on issuing a building permit for the North power plant on 30 October.

Regarding Czczott, HEAL's health evidence substantially contributed to the overturning of the environmental decision by a local appeals court in October. The lawsuit was brought forward by an environmental NGO who is a partner of HEAL, who used HEAL's health evidence. Since March 2015 it has been confirmed that the Polish investor has put the project on hold, and it is very unlikely that the plant will ever be built.

### **Policy advocacy activities**

HEAL also significantly increased its involvement in policy development and EU implementation processes in the year:

On 1 October, we sent a [letter](#) to the new Polish Prime minister Ewa Kopacz, urging her to make air quality a priority in her political activities, and issued a press release. We also sent two letters with Krakow Smog Alert, who are a key NGO player in Poland: one in [November](#) to the Polish Prime minister asking her to adopt standards for coal quality, and a letter to the [Polish environment minister, calling](#) him to oppose the withdrawal of the EU's clean air package (on 11 December). On 6 November, Lukasz Adamkiewicz also gave a presentation in the [Polish parliament](#) on coal&health. As a result of this engagement HEAL has now become a recognised "player" in Polish air and environmental politics, which is evidenced by the fact that we had a regular exchange with the Polish Environment Minister Marcin Korolec on twitter.

Our advocacy work was further honed through policy work on the Polish air quality programme, which was [launched on 9 March](#). HEAL's Lukasz Adamkiewicz participated in a special session by the Polish environment minister and also exchanged with other Polish NGOs about HEAL's comments to the programme. A [press release](#) together with ClientEarth was sent out to the dozens of Polish media contacts that we have acquired by now. More than 25 articles in leading Polish newspapers and on information websites were published as a result. Following the launch, HEAL spoke about our concerns about the programme at Radio Station One.

HEAL also followed the deliberations on a new public health bill for Poland, and pushed for the inclusion of air quality measures that would benefit health. On 14 Jan, we sent a letter on the need to include environmental concerns in the new programme to the Polish plenipotary.

### **Germany: Speeding up the phase-out of coal for air quality and the climate**

One strand of activities under the 2014 work programme focused on building and strengthening ties with medical associations in Germany, to encourage them to speak out on health concerns of coal power generation. These activities were carried out by Julia Huscher and Anne Stauffer.

On 8 October, HEAL was pleased to co-host a [workshop with the German Medical Association](#) and the Society for Hygiene and Environmental Medicine in Berlin. GMA is the largest and most powerful association for doctors in Germany. The meeting brought together about 50 representatives from German state authorities, health experts and representatives of the German environmental protection agency to discuss opportunities and risks for health in the German energy transition. Panels focused on fracking, coal power generation, wind turbines and power grids. Participants also heard from MEP Peter Liese about the upcoming climate and energy priorities in the EU. The message of German seminar on energy transition and health was taken specifically to medical professionals via an [article](#) in German Medical Journal, which reaches all doctors of the GMA. As a follow up, a training module in the form of a handbook for all German doctors on energy&health was being prepared (*Subcontracted for writing the text of the training module – see Form F5*).

On 8 September, HEAL had already organised and hosted a workshop on the mental aspects of coal re-settlement, an issue which has not yet received a lot of scientific or political attention. Ten experts came together in Berlin to discuss current science as well as future research needs. The event will be followed up with a call to better understand this issue.

HEAL's Julia Huscher also participated in meetings with citizens initiatives in the regions of Rhineland, Lusatia to build capacity on EU environmental, climate policies and how this relates to coal-fired power plants, as well as conferences of medical organisations such as the May conference of the German public health authorities or the 27 June conference of the German Society of Hygiene, Environmental Medicine and Prevention (*Subcontracted for reprinting of report Unpaid Health Bill and HEAL leaflet in German – see Form F5*). Julia was also a panellist at debates with citizens regarding plans for new coal plants in Stade and Pulheim, Germany, to provide health evidence on coal-fired power generation. For these exchanges, she drew on a submission HEAL sent to a public consultation on a new coal plant in Pulheim, Nordrhein-Westfalen. In September 2014, Julia also gave a presentation on coal, mercury and health at a meeting of a regional doctors association in Nordrhein-Westfalen.

In addition to activities foreseen, HEAL was involved in the drafting and launch of a [study](#) on the health effects of the three remaining Austrian coal power plants, together with its member ISDE Austria and environmental organisation GLOBAL2000. It is estimated they cause 194 mio. EUR each year. The [results](#) were launched at a press conference and with a press release in Vienna on 30 April. As a result of this study, the Austrian utility Verbund announced the imminent closure of a coal-fired power plant in Dürnrrohr, Austria.

### **Addressing the health and environmental threats of fracturing for shale gas**

Fracking poses many health and environmental risks including use of hazardous chemicals, air pollution, noise and high water use. Lisette van Vliet, Senior Policy Officer, led this strand of HEAL's energy work, which includes moderating HEAL shale gas in Europe listserv, the first ever listserv on this issue which was initiated in 2011.

With very limited funding, HEAL carried out the following advocacy work: on 4 June, we organised a [workshop](#) with Dr. Sandra Steingraber, environmental health scientist and acclaimed author. Dr. Steingraber also spoke at the New Environmentalism Summit during Green Week. She advocated for a moratorium on fracking in Europe. Specific aspects of the harm to health from fracking (as well as other negative impacts) were highlighted in a letter to the new European Parliament members signed by more than 60 groups, on the occasion of global frackdown day. It outlined opportunities for MEP to support the new Commission President Juncker's positive stance, who has said he is not in favour of fracking. On the eve of global frackdown day, HEAL also signed on to a [letter to UN Secretary](#) General Ban Ki Moon, stating that fracking has no role in the sustainable Energy for All Initiative (10 October).

### **Results**

#### ***Immediate results:***

The activities carried out in 2014 led to reaching the goals 1, 2, and 3 as set for the year. Regarding goal 4 on fracking, the overall EU political appetite was against tangible regulation, so there was no opportunity to insert health impact assessment into any policy debate.

#### **These are the immediate results in more detail:**

Our activities in 2014 lead to a significant increase of involvement of health and medical professionals in Poland, Germany, Serbia in national energy deliberations, which is one of the highlights of HEAL's success in 2014 overall. Statements on energy&health signed by leading health and medical representatives are now available for Poland and Serbia, and a toolkit for doctors in Germany on energy transition will help to further spread the policy message in the country. There are now more than a dozen health and medical associations involved in energy&health, EU climate and energy debates in Poland, Germany and Serbia.

In their engagement on energy policies, doctors can draw on a range of tailored educational materials that HEAL brought together, including a brochure on domestic heating in Poland and a patient's

brochure, or factsheets on air quality, energy&health for Serbia or Bulgaria. This health evidence and our expertise has also been used by environmental and climate groups.

HEAL has also succeeded in sparking national and EU debates on energy & health, particularly on the health economic costs from coal power generation. This is evidenced through the huge media coverage in Poland, Serbia, Germany, and in important Brussels and national media.

These successes hold particularly true for Poland, where HEAL is now a recognised player in national air quality debates. Our activities led to increasing the pressure on the Polish government for a proper implementation of EU air quality legislation, and actually moving beyond to increase efforts to curb air pollution. The fact that the government is now under considerable pressure can be seen in the launch of the national air programme in March 2015, where HEAL was one of only two NGOs invited to the launch with the environment minister. This pressure complements the EU Commission's infringement case that was opened against Poland for failure to comply with EU air quality legislation. This whole part of advocacy activities was not foreseen at the time the work programme was submitted.

In addition, HEAL's health expertise was instrumental in overturning an environmental permit for a future coal plant, thus leading to a delay in the construction. At the time of writing this report it becomes more and more unlikely that this plant will ever be build. Our study released in Austria convinced the utility to announce the closure of an existing coal-fired power plant. This strand of contributing health expertise was not foreseen at the time the work programme was submitted.

Our requests for internal review also put pressure on the EU Commission to scrutinise the national air quality situation in Poland and Bulgaria and to reconsider derogations in the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive, so a more critical discussion.

Last but not least, HEAL's involvement also led to a rethinking of the coal lending policy of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. EBRD's new environmental policy requires environmental and social impact assessment for new coal plants.

For fracking, we continued to communicate the evidence on health threats in EU and national policy circles at a time when further regulation of the technique was discouraged, and supported advocacy action brought by Friends of the Earth Europe and Food and Water Watch, with at least 30 electronic alerts on the shale gas listserve and 3 articles on the HEAL website.

***Medium and long term impact:***

In the medium and long run, the involvement of health and medical groups in the various target countries should lead to greater public and policy support for first, the rigorous implementation and adherence to EU air quality legislation and renewed efforts to improve air quality, and second, to the inclusion of a health check in national energy decisions, which will move the target countries and the EU as a whole closer to a phase out of coal power generation, as the most unhealthy energy form, and as one of the greatest contributors to climate change.

These activities therefore will contribute to achieving the 7 EAP's goal of improving outdoor air quality in the EU by 2020.

As air pollution knows no borders, our engagement in Serbia will also help to achieve cleaner air in the EU-28, and in addition, help the country to comply with EU legislation in the future accession process, by already pushing for decreased air emissions now.

**Indicators (and original projection in work programme in brackets):**

**These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 20 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with health groups (projected: 20)
- 16 Events with active participation (projected: 4)

- 7 Events organised: Citizens meeting in Zakopane, Poland; Fracking discussion with Dr. Sandra Steingraber; Webinar on domestic coal pollution and health Poland; Workshop on coal resettlement, Berlin; Press conference on Spirometry Day Poland; Event on Energy transition and health, Germany; Conference on Air quality and Health Serbia; Conference on air quality, energy and health Poland
- 5 Replies to stakeholder consultations (projected: 0)
- 11 Press releases and 227 articles in media coverage (projected 5 PR and 10 articles in media coverage)
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 8 letters and 12 policy briefings sent, 4 information tools published (projected 12)
- 28 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 3 Articles written for journals, other newsletters
- 43 Email alerts sent to listserve

HEAL excelled in speaking engagements at events, replying to stakeholder consultations, press work and media coverage.

# Air Quality (Outdoor and indoor)

## Activities

Despite some improvements for cleaner air, air pollution in the EU continues to be a major threat to the environment and people's health. In 2010 alone, more than 400,000 people died prematurely because of polluted air, with health costs of up to 940 billion EUR. The EU's clean air package with policy proposals on National Emissions Ceilings and medium-scale combustion plants are a major opportunity to bring the EU closer to the goal of having clean air for health.

With the new EU Commission and the announcement of a possible withdrawal of the EU's clean air package more time than originally foreseen was spent on advocacy activities on outdoor air quality. Planned complementary activities on indoor air quality, and a briefing on domestic heating were therefore dropped. The activities on the 2030 climate and energy package and climate&health are covered in Area 7.

### Advocacy on the EU's clean air package – National Emissions Ceilings Directive

Following the launch of the EU's air quality package in December 2013, the European Parliament and Member States started to prepare their position on the proposals for new laws. In the Parliament, Anne Stauffer carried out advocacy work to ask for an additional study to assess synergies and benefits with the EU's climate policy. Meetings with MEP McAvan and Liese led them to support additional air quality studies in the coordinators meeting, against the position of the rapporteur Julie Girling. The EP therefore carried out an additional impact assessment, which was presented in November 2014.

Meanwhile, environment ministers held a first exchange of view on the EU's clean air package on 12 June. HEAL was very concerned about the criticism and resistance of particularly ministers from Eastern European member states and [communicated](#) these concerns widely. Anne Stauffer also presented demands on the air package in a hearing of the European Economic and Social Committee on 17 March 2014.

After the summer break, work in the European Parliament on the EU's clean air package was scheduled to take place. For these deliberations, HEAL, EEB, T&E, ClientEarth and others produced [12 factsheets](#) with layperson information on air quality. HEAL took the lead on the [air&health](#) factsheet. The factsheets were launched on 2 September, together with a [video](#) on the air pollution situation in Brussels.

With the worrying information on the possible review/withdrawal of the EU's air package in mind (the announcement of the new Commissioners mandate in September 2014), HEAL continued to provide input for the NEC in October, highlight particularly how flexibility mechanisms would undermine the draft law's workability ([press release](#) from 7 October), and then publishing a [joint position](#) with NGOs EEB, T&E and ClientEarth on 31 October.

We also worked with our member Association of Mutual Benefit Societies on raising awareness on air quality, by publishing a [joint press release](#) on AIM's and the Belgian mutual benefit societies Bruges Declaration on air. This was the first time that mutual benefits societies became active in EU policy processes for cleaner air. The information on AIM's involvement was also shared in Poland, in France, Germany, and Spain with press releases. On HEAL's suggestion, AIM sent the information also to President Juncker and other high-level Commission officials.

In November, what had been rumours on a possible withdrawal first emerged as information in articles. Once this news was out in the public, HEAL together with EFA and ERS reacted quickly, mobilising key members and health partners for a [joint letter](#) on 18 Nov. to President Juncker and First Vice-President Timmermans, asking them to drop any plans for withdrawal. We also signed on to

a [letter](#) initiated by EEB on the same subject. The health letter was cited in ENDS Daily, and EU Environment Commissioner Vella also favoured one of our tweets on the air package on 12 Nov.

In December, the threat became real with the presentation of the Commission's draft work programme by First Vice-President Timmermans on 16 December to the EP plenary in Strasbourg. Timmermans left health groups dismayed over the lack of clarity with different statements in his speech and in writing if he intended to withdraw the NEC or not. Prior to the decision, HEAL had mobilised members and partners of its wide air network to contact the Commission to prevent the withdrawal of the air package. HEAL reacted with a [press release](#), and also a joint response by Green10. In the evening of 16 Dec, HEAL's Anne Stauffer urged ministers gathered for the Green10 reception to come out publicly in support of the air package and the NEC the next day, and also urged Polish environment minister Grabowski for public support on NEC via social media. As a result of our advocacy activities, the Environment Council adopted a statement with underlined their intention to continue working on all elements of the EU's air package.

In January, HEAL, our members and partners welcomed the confirmation that negotiations on the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC) will continue. Shortly before the EP vote on the draft 2015 Commission work programme, the Commission confirmed to EP rapporteur Julie Girling that the draft law would not be withdrawn. Prior to the EP vote, HEAL, EEB, T&E, AirClim, ClientEarth, EPHA and others had sent [letters](#) to MEPs urging them to adopt a joint resolution confirming the NEC negotiations, and HEAL had also contacted Polish MEPs to ask for their support.

With the negotiations confirmed, HEAL was pleased to co-organise a [breakfast briefing](#) with EEB, T&E for MEPs on 28 January. Speakers included Roberto Bertolini from the WHO EU representation, Tom Verheye from DG Environment. Anne Stauffer urged MEPs to adopt more ambitious emission reduction measures in the new NEC.

### **Science to policy transfer on new air quality research**

Educating health groups, patients and doctors on air quality is one of the cornerstones of HEAL's work. On World Asthma Day on 5 May, we therefore relaunched the [Know Your air for Health website](#), with member EFA. The website now features the latest science from WHO, and a special section on taking action for interested citizens. It is available in [EN](#), [DE](#), [IT](#), [ES](#), [PL](#). The [information release](#) on the new website is available in [EN](#), [DE](#), [IT](#).

In May, HEAL participated for the first time in the meeting of the Joint Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution within the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Anne Stauffer shared with participants, demands on the EU's clean air policy package, and also relayed information on the meeting to members.

We also continued to highlight new evidence on health harm from air pollution, for example with a [blog](#) in Euractiv on children's health effects.

HEAL and member EFA were panellists at the final conference of the EU's [ATOPICA project on pollen](#), climate change and air quality on 5-6 March in Brussels. Both Roberta Savli from EFA and Anne Stauffer from HEAL spoke about the policy opportunities and necessary policy changes needed at EU level. Roberta called for an EU strategy on chronic diseases, and Anne underlined the importance of EU air quality and climate change ambition.

HEAL's work on science to policy transfer and advocacy for cleaner air was also honoured through the awarding of a Clean air award for advocacy on air quality for Genon K. Jensen. The Clean Air in Cities Awards recognise those people who have made a valuable personal contribution to improving air quality in cities including London. Individually and collectively, these people have ensured that air pollution is regaining the attention it deserves. More information in HEAL's newsflash <http://www.env-health.org/news/latest-news/article/genon-k-jensen-receives-award-for>

## **Results**

### ***Immediate results:***

The most important immediate result is that due to our advocacy work the National Emissions Ceilings Directive was not withdrawn, as was the original intention of First Vice President Frans Timmermans. This means that negotiations are continuing in the European Parliament and in Council, and HEAL continues to bring the much needed health voice into these deliberations. This means that we moved into the direction of reaching the 2014 objective on a strengthening the NEC, but have we not reached the objective because the process was delayed by the threat of withdrawal (the same holds true for the immediate results initially defined in the work programme).

A second immediate outcome of activities is the strengthened ties with other health partners that are not members of HEAL, such as the European COPD Coalition or the UK's Royal College of Physicians.

All these partners teamed up for joint letters led by HEAL to prevent the withdrawal of NEC. This increased engagement also meant that health arguments were central in deliberations on EU measures to tackle outdoor air quality.

Last but not least, because of the LIFE+ grant HEAL could increase its numbers of policy briefings and evidence available for EU and national policy-makers on why air quality measures are needed for health.

### ***Medium and long term impact:***

The negotiations on NEC can be expected to be concluded at the end of 2016, beginning of 2017, and the law will enter into force soon after. This means that in the medium and long term we will see reduction of air pollutants, leading to improved air quality and less health impacts in Europe and increased health savings and boosted worker productivity. The adoption and enter into force of NEC will also contribute to the EU's better regulation agenda, by facilitating the implementation of the EU's ambient air quality directive.

These developments will contribute to the 7 EAP's goal of improving outdoor air quality by 2020, with an updated EU policy.

### **Indicators (projections for the work programme in brackets):**

#### **These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 10 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with health groups (projected: 10)
- 3 Events with active participation (projected: 3)
- 1 Event organised: EP breakfast briefing on the NEC (projected:2)
- 9 Press releases and 3 articles in media coverage (projected 3)
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 5 letters and 13 policy briefings sent, 2 information tools published (projected: 8)
- 31 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 2 Articles written for journals, other newsletters
- 45 Email alerts sent to listserve

HEAL excelled in press releases and written submissions to the EU institutions.

# Chemicals Safety and REACH (Chemicals Health Monitor)

## Activities

### REACH implementation

The EU REACH regulation is a milestone for chemicals policy but its implementation has been fraught with delays and requires regular monitoring and input from HEAL and other NGOs to ensure that the goal of the high level of health protection from hazardous chemicals is upheld. This strand of activities was carried out by Lisette van Vliet, Senior Policy Officer.

HEAL was the first officially recognised health stakeholder in various ECHA official groups and continues to provide technical and policy expertise. Fora include the ECHA Management Board (*via a joint representative – subcontracted for consultancy – see Form F5*), REACH Competent Authorities (CARACAL), the Member State Committee and the EDC Expert Group (where we are represented by a scientific expert: *Subcontracted to consultant – see Form F5*).

HEAL participated in two public consultations on nominations of chemicals to the REACH most harmful list (proposed Substances of Very High Concern) in April and October 2014.

HEAL participated in the June 2014 36th Member State Committee, particularly to observe the substance evaluation of the chemical Triclosan, an endocrine disruptor long on the NGOs' SIN List (List identifying REACH SVHCs and endocrine disruptors), and support nominations of other chemicals to the most harmful list, including one endocrine disruptor, 4 Nonylphenol etoxylates.

HEAL participated in the September 2014 37th Member State Committee meeting, where Lisette van Vliet shared with participants HEAL's assessment on the health costs of endocrine disrupting chemicals (see below in Area 4 for details on the report).

HEAL participated in the December 2014 39th Member State Committee meeting to support the proposals for adoption of four phthalates as endocrine disruptors to the REACH most harmful list.

The EDC expert group met in May and November 2014, and February 2015. In the February meeting, participants discussed the phthalate DCHP. This chemical had been classified as toxic to reproduction by ECHA's risk assessment committee in December 2014. Member State Sweden asked the group to provide advice on its ED properties, to see if it would be suitable for the REACH most harmful list of chemicals. The HEAL expert also provided written comments to Sweden on DCHP.

In the November 2014 Competent Authorities meeting, Lisette van Vliet made some pointed interventions about the ongoing problems of REACH registration dossiers covering the very controversial technique of hydraulic fracturing of shale for natural gas.

Of particular concern in the reporting period was the request for the re-authorisation of the phthalate DEHP. ECHA's Risk Assessment and Socio-Economic Committees had examined the applications from several European companies.

On 25 November, we issued a [joint position paper](#) and [letter](#) to Commission Vice-President Katainen, demanding the rejection of the authorisation of DEHP in PVC plastic, as safer alternatives are available and as such a decision would counteract efforts for innovation in the European chemicals industry.

HEAL also supported REACH and the European Chemicals Agency on another matter: just before the summer break, the European Chemicals Agency ECHA had published a snappy video on the right to know (about harmful chemicals in consumer products). They were heavily criticised by different industry groups. On 17 July HEAL, EEB and other NGOs sent a [letter](#) in support of the video to ECHA. As a result of our related communications work, the video and website have seen a 60% increase in views and more people are now aware that this video exists. HEAL also received an answer from Geert Dancet, ECHA's Director, thanking us for our support in the promotion of the video.

### **Chemicals Health Monitor Germany – Communicating on benefits of EU legislation**

The project aims to provide the German public, medical associations and doctors, environmental and health groups tailored information on EU policy news and the latest science. Important steps on better communicating science and policy developments in German and English were made during the year 2014-15. The project was led by Nadia El Bennich.

26 March saw the relaunch of the Chemicals Health Monitor's website and monthly newsletter service. The website was launched with an [information release](#) and is now available in [English](#) and [German](#); it provides information on how diseases such as breast and prostate cancer, Parkinson's or health effects such as infertility may be linked to chemical exposure, and which steps the EU and national governments are taking to protect citizens. The most important scientific consensus statements are also available. Given the increasing importance of social media, a twitter service in German and English was also launched, and tweets are being followed by over 300 key chemicals people.

The newsletter service was launched the same day. Until mid-March 2015, HEAL sent out seven editions of the Chemicals Health Monitor Bulletin, in German and English (8 editions), a free online newsletter, which provides information on new science on chemicals and diseases, policy developments and spotlights on the specific work of scientists, such as Dr. Sandra Steingraber. We also published the summary of the findings on the possible health costs of endocrine disruptors prominently on the website and disseminated this briefing to journalists in June 2015.

Until March 2015, the Chemicals Health Monitor Bulletin had over 230 subscribers for the German version, and over 340 subscribers for the English edition. This dedicated website and newsletter service now available means that more citizens and health groups in Germany have the opportunity to learn about science and policy on chemicals.

The new website and newsletter were widely promoted to journalist and health group contacts in Germany and as a result, the number of subscribers to the newsletter doubled in one month. The new information tools were also promoted with a dedicated poster in [English](#) and [German](#), a [bookmark](#), and a postcard together with Breast Cancer Action Germany.

As a result of our outreach in spring of 2014, HEAL was invited to contribute regular articles on chemicals&EU policy developments for the German magazine "Umwelt&Gesundheit" (Environment&Health), published by the German allergy alliance. There are over 500 subscribers to the magazine, including policy-makers, regulatory authorities, and health-affected groups. In [October 2014](#), we presented the findings on possible health costs of endocrine disruptors, and in [March 2015](#) we featured information on the EU public consultation on EDCs.

Two workshops for German health and health-affected groups were also organised:

On 4 July, HEAL organised its [1<sup>st</sup> webinar](#) with keynote speaker was Dr. Andreas Kortenkamp who presented the latest science on how EDCs affect the body; HEAL's Anne Stauffer presented the estimate on health costs from EDCs. The more than 20 participants of the webinar came from various

health and patient groups, the Environmental Agency and also from industry, and they gave positive feedback to this new tool used.

On 5 March 2015, HEAL brought together representatives and the interested public in a [workshop](#) organised in collaboration with HEAL member Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and Breast Cancer Action Germany in Munich. The event focused on the health impacts of Endocrine Disruptors and how particularly cancer groups can contribute to a reduction of exposure. Nadia el-Bennich presented the estimated costs for EDC-related health impacts, which for Germany are estimated to be around 5 billion EUR annually.

The CHM project coordinator, Nadia El Bennich, also participated in six events with scientists, and stakeholders in Germany and other countries to learn about new science, and disseminate the information in the monthly newsletter. Ms. Bennich also met with representatives of the Federal Environmental Agency to discuss new science and REACH in June 2015.

## **Results**

### ***Immediate results:***

The protection against hazardous chemicals remained a cornerstone of our work in 2014.

As part of our continuing work on REACH Implementation, we supported the addition of four more substances to REACH's most harmful list, and these were officially listed in June 2014. One of the substances was not an EDC but a substance of 'equivalent concern', and therefore valuable to promote the importance of that net. As always, continuing attendance in the Member State Committee alongside other REACH fora enables us to make sure issues are correctly relayed between them and to consolidate our advocacy efforts amongst the various Member State representatives in these groups whose different government departments may not sufficiently communicate and cohere their positions.

In our work in the different ECHA fora to implement REACH we continued to push for the inclusion of further chemicals in the REACH priority list, even though it became clear that we actually had to work to not weakening REACH, with the proposed re-authorisation of DEHP. In 2014, ECHA MSC added ten substances to the candidate list, which falls short of reaching the REACH 2020 Roadmap of having all hazardous substances on the REACH candidate list. HEAL gave (general) input to the public consultations for 14 chemicals (some did not later get adopted).

This means that while new chemicals were added onto the most harmful list, the goal of speeding up was not reached, for reasons beyond our control. For the time being we succeeded in holding on to now weaken REACH. With the position paper and through advocacy meetings, the EU Commission is now under serious pressure to not allow the continued use of DEHP.

Another outcome of our work, in collaboration with other NGOs, is that the REACH Review of EDCs delivered a partial victory. Although the Commission did not change the REACH legal text, the final document text showed 'safe limits' would be very difficult to obtain. Hence the battle moves to the first EDC chemicals in the REACH authorisation processes, in particular those officially recognised as Endocrine Disruptors (e.g. Nonylphenol, and Nonylphenol etoxylates), where precedents will be set.

Regarding Germany, HEAL's new information tools have helped to educate health and health-affected groups in Germany, as well as interested citizens. The positive feedback to the July webinar showed that there is clearly an interest among German groups to continue to work on chemicals&diseases. HEAL has also established a successful collaboration with Breast Cancer Action Network Germany in the past year. This is clearly an achievement of 2014, even though no work programme goal was defined (project goals are available, however).

### ***Medium and long term impact:***

In the medium and long term, the engagement in ECHA fora as well as the increased Communication activities will lead to greater agreement of the need to restrict or phase out hazardous chemicals, and ultimately contribute to less contamination in the population. This in turn will help to achieve the goal of a toxics-free future by 2020.

#### **Indicators:**

#### **These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 20 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with health groups (projected: 17)
- 4 Events with active participation
- 2 Events organised: Webinar on chemicals and diseases/EDC costs; Munich workshop on chemicals&diseases (projected 2)
- 3 Replies to stakeholder consultations (projected 3)
- 3 Press releases and 0 articles in media coverage (projected 3)
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 4 letters and 2 policy briefings sent, 8 information tools published (projection: 2)
- 18 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 52 articles written for the Chemicals Health Monitor website, 8 editions of the Chemicals Health Monitor Bulletin published (projection 4)
- Articles written for journals, other newsletters
- 86 Email alerts sent to chemicals listserve, 12 to human biomonitoring listserve

HEAL excelled in written submissions to EU institutions and information tools, as well as the number of editions of the Chemicals Health Monitor

## **Chemicals: Endocrine Disruptors**

### **Activities**

#### **Advocating for comprehensive ED criteria**

HEAL provided both science and policy expertise and represent the public interest in the debates and development of EU policies on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals during the period. With increased pressure on the EDCs file and pressure from top level EU officials against the criteria, we increased our advocacy outreach to top EU policy makers; engaged with scientists to relay new research to stimulate educated debate and decision-making; raised awareness of the need to better regulate EDCs, and obtained continued media coverage of the issue. This strand of activities was carried out by Lisette van Vliet, Senior Policy Officer.

Once the impact assessment decision had been taken in July 2013, most of the elaboration of the scope and focus of the Impact Assessment was shifted to internal Commission processes. The 'Roadmap' document needed to launch the Impact Assessment, which details the timing and format, was also subject to internal wrangling and hence delays. It was only published in June 2014. This delayed publication of the 'Roadmap' required us to continue high level pressure on the Commission to ensure its publication, and advocate on matters related to its content. During this phase, HEAL actively provided inputs to DG Environment on various issues regarding impact assessment; facilitated national debates on EDCs; prepared the ground for health and health affected group participation in the public consultation.

We also voiced our demand for a comprehensive assessment of the benefits of EDC reduction, and the need for the EU EDC strategy with EU Commissioner Potocnik and EU Secretary General Catherine Day at several occasions. In these interventions we highlighted the support on acting on EDCs from member states as well as the Parliament, as evidenced in the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme.

We contributed to the Commission's drafting of questions for the public consultation; and relayed our expertise and findings on ascertaining the health costs linked to endocrine-disrupting chemicals to the Commission, Member States and research scientists who are undertaking similar work.

After September 2014 we focused our activities on the public consultation on criteria and risk management options for ED chemicals. When the consultation was launched, HEAL, like many other NGOs, was very concerned about the very technical nature of the consultation which we thought would scare citizens off on making their voice heard on this key piece of health protection legislation. We worked with over 50 partners of the EDC free Europe coalition to launch [a campaign platform](#) which made it easy for citizens to have their say in the very technical consultation. The platform was available in 7 languages, and press releases and social media strategy were also launched with campaign partners ([www.no2hormonedisruptingchemicals.org](http://www.no2hormonedisruptingchemicals.org)).

HEAL members and partners that promoted the website on their organisational websites, in newsletters and on social media include: the French Reseau Environnement Sante, Belgian Inter-Environnement Wallonie, Germany's BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany), Breast Cancer UK and Action for Breast Cancer Malta, France's Generation Futures, Women in Europe for a Common Future, France's Generation Cobayes, Pesticide Action Network Europe, the Dutch organisation WEMOS, the Danish Ecological Council, the Spanish Ecologistas en accion, UK's CHEM Trust and Swedish Chem Sec.

Chemical Watch wrote about the launch of the EDC-Free Europe online platform and ENDS Europe Daily announced the launch. Damian Carrington, Head of Environment, The Guardian tweeted on Environment Guardian reaching 290,000 followers. Europolitics also tweeted us (over 4,000 followers). Many HEAL members and partners also featured the online platform in their newsletters, websites or social media, including TEDX, EUPHA, IFSMA, Inter-Environnement Wallonie, Alliance for Cancer Prevention, Philippe Grandjean etc.

The response showed that the investment into this platform clearly paid off: by the end of the deadline, on 16 January, 25,000 submissions via NGO network to the public consultation had been received, which accounted for 93% of the total responses. In addition, HEAL also provided an [official submission](#) to the consultation, and provided expertise in at least 10 other member, country and scientific institute's submissions, stressing particularly the high health costs associated with exposure to EDCs.

In addition, many submissions available on the EU website, highlight HEAL's chronic disease report, including the Swedish KEMI agency.

HEAL also brought demands and suggestions on bringing more robust health economic costs for the upcoming impact assessment to EU Commissioner Andriukaitis in a meeting in December 2014, which was positively received. The Commissioner also supported the need for greater consultation and transparency in the process.

In addition, we continued to promote the work of other NGOs on EDCs, such as fellow NGO ChemSec on the SIN list on EDCs, with a [press release](#) in Oct 2014. The media coverage on the expanded list featured HEAL's health message thanks to our press release. We also highlighted the work of member Generations Futures on sampling for EDCs in children's hair in a [press release](#) on 29 April. Last but not least, we also highlighted new science on health effects of EDCs, e.g. on DEHP.

In January 2015, HEAL had the opportunity to provide an [Op-Ed to Euractiv](#), one of the most widely read Brussels news portals, which also has national language editions in many countries. The Framing of EDCs as “one of the biggest public health threats of this century” (opinion article on Euractiv EU policy website) was well-received with EU Environment Commissioner, two MEPs, Chemical Watch and Europolitics favouring the link to it. It was tweeted 216 times, shared on Facebook 36 times, and HEAL’s tweet about the article to individuals was favoured by DG Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella, MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen, Chemical Watch (Carmen Paun), Euractiv (Henriette Jacobsen). Stephane Foucard (Le Monde) retweeted to his 3,500 followers.

### ***Working at national level, and with Council:***

Several member states including Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and France have more protective EDC national regulations and are pushing for better regulation at EU level (e.g. an exchange in the June 2014 Council) and HEAL prominently shares these advances in its newsflashes and advocacy work. HEAL works with national authorities, members and partners to support building up pressure on the EU Commission from the national level up.

We therefore widely disseminated information on the French national strategy on EDCs which was launched by environment minister Segolene Royal in May and publicised her letter and visit to the Health Commissioner in December 2014. HEAL members RES, Generation Futures, WECF played a key role in the development of this outline for national and EU action. France also initiated a debate in the Environment Council on 12 June. In the Netherlands, Lisette van Vliet spoke at a [roundtable](#) at the Dutch Parliament organised by Dutch NGO Wemos Health for All and HEAL Member WECF on 11 June, and gave an interview to a Dutch online newspaper. Lisette also gave a presentation on EU EDCs policy at a hearing in the French senate on 5 November.

### ***Working with the European Parliament:***

A particular juncture for EU EDCs policy was the hearing of the designated Commissioners for Environment and Health in September/October 2015. HEAL worked behind the scenes with MEPs Rivasi, Ries and others to suggest questions to put to the future Commissioners. As a result, several MEPs questioned candidates Karmenu Vella and Vytenis Andriukaitis approach, and the Commissioners designate got the clear message that EDCs are a key issue for the European Parliament and the public. HEAL commented on the Commissioner hearings in a dedicated [blog](#).

Following the announcement of Sweden to take the EU Commission to court for failure to keeping a deadline on EDC criteria in spring 2014, HEAL’s Lisette van Vliet worked with ENVI MEPs (MEPs Gerbrandy, Liese, Giesecke) to provide HEAL’s position and rationale on why the EP should join the court case to protect citizen’s health in autumn. This advocacy work helped to secure the decision of the ENVI coordinators for the EP to join Sweden, and they referred the decision to the EP’s Legal Committee. In the spring of 2015, both the European Parliament as well as the Council had decided to join the Swedish case, a decision that HEAL shared in its network of over 5000 newsletter subscribers.

### **Providing for the health economic cost of EDC exposure**

As part of the activities on comprehensive ED criteria, HEAL worked to advance the evidence base on the possible economic costs of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals. This strand of activities was carried out by Lisette van Vliet, Senior Policy Officer, and supported by Genon Jensen, HEAL Executive Director and HEAL communications consultant.

On 18 June, the report [Health costs in the EU – How much is related to EDCs?](#) was launched (*Subcontracted for design, print – see Form F5*). In the report, HEAL estimates that exposure to food and everyday electronic, cosmetic and plastic products containing endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) may be costing up to €31 billion per year in the EU. The spiralling rates of hormone-related disease may be due to exposure to hormone-mimicking synthetic chemicals found in food, drink and

everyday products. As a counter to the view that strong environmental legislation only creates negative economic costs, our report lays out potential savings from healthcare costs and productivity losses from a portion of chronic diseases that may be resulting from Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals.

The new study says if a small portion of hormone-related cancers, diabetes & obesity, and infertility could be avoided by reducing exposure to hormone disrupting chemicals, then billions in costs from these diseases and conditions could be saved. A change in European chemicals policy could massively reduce costs associated with cases of hormone-related diseases and conditions.

The technical part of the report was written by Dr. Alistair Hunt, University of Bath and Dr. Julia Ferguson, Cranfield School of Management (*Subcontracted for consultancy – see Form F5*). HEAL also received technical input from scientific partners including TedX

The report was launched with a [press release](#) in EN, DE, FR, and the policy statement of the report was also translated into German and Spanish, with the support of member Vivosano. The report was covered extensively in the media, almost entirely positively. Serious reviews of the publication appeared in Le Monde, France and Der Standard (by APA), Austria. The report also reached key stakeholders via European Parliament blog, Chemical Watch, and ENDS Europe.

HEAL members were also very active in translating the press release, promoting it on their websites and getting it into social media. This includes the French Reseau Environnement Sante, Germany's WECF, European Public Health Alliance, Breast Cancer UK. Key partners promoted the report, including EEB, EUPHA, Chem Sec, the Spanish trade federation ISTAS, and Austrian environmental NGO Global 2000, German environmental alliance DNR. Chemical NGO CIEL used the launch to put out their own press release adding the trade dimension. DES Daughter created a second surge on twitter five days after the launch having tweeted numerous facts from the report. The EU's consumer alliance BEUC sent information on the report in their internal members' newsletter, and Health Care Without Harm made the report their top story in their Europe newsletter. Pete Myers, a renowned US scientist, informed the UK House of Lords about HEAL's new health evidence in a meeting in July.

Confirmation that the report had been seen in the media by key target policy makers was provided via retweets by Commissioner Potocnik, Jo Hennon (EC envi spokesperson) and MEP Asa Westlund.

Hits to the HEAL website came primarily from US, followed by Belgium, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Sweden, Spain, Netherlands and Austria (probably prompted by quality media coverage nationally or via translated press releases and interest in EDCs in these countries). The industry blog (BPA coalition) was negative about the report and HEAL had some exchanges with them on twitter.

Over the summer, we also continued outreach on the EDCs report. In a meeting organised by WHO Bonn, Lisette van Vliet presented HEAL estimate of health costs from EDCs at the on 7/8 July, and we shared information on the report in a German webinar on 4 July with keynote speaker Dr. Andreas Kortenkamp (see Area 3). Lisette was also an official stakeholder in a meeting convened by DG ENV on EDCs and REACH on 10 July.

The report provides both the health costs for all EU-28 countries as well as national cost figures. Towards the end of the work programme, we moved to rolling out the information on costs in key chemicals countries.

**In Spain**, HEAL worked with its member Alborada Foundation to organise a [roundtable](#) on the health impacts and costs of EDCs in February 2015. The Spanish version of HEAL's landmark EDC cost report was launched at the event. More than 100 people including researchers, decision-makers, NGOs, patients and workers associations participated in the event. Nadia el-Bennich, CHM project coordinator, revealed for the first time the possible cost from EDC exposure for the eight health problems covered in HEAL's EDC report. This bill from EDC exposure could be almost 3 billion EUR per year for Spain alone.

**In Germany**, results on national costs were launched at the 5 March meeting in Munich, which brought together HEAL members including WECF and partners.

In addition, we disseminated the findings of two other scientific assessments on possible health costs widely within our network and with decision-makers:

First, the Nordic Council – a body representing Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden estimated in a report “The Cost of Inaction: Socioeconomic analysis of costs linked to effects of endocrine disrupting substances on male reproductive health” in November 2014 that up to 40% of the health costs associated with several male reproductive problems could be due to exposure to EDCs, with health costs of up to 1, 2 billion EUR. HEAL issued a [press release](#) when the findings were released on 17 November.

Second, in March 2015, the Endocrine Society published their findings on how much EDC exposure may cost health and productivity in the EU. They estimated that the likely costs in the EU of EDC exposure totals 157 billion EUR a year, on 5 March 2015. The [findings](#), including with a quote from HEAL’s Executive Director Genon Jensen, were shared with our key contacts in the EU-Parliament, EU Commission and among member states, and also in a special meeting with the EU Environment Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, and we participated in the live webcast in Brussels.

### **Working with farmers and cancer groups for better EU laws on EDCs**

HEAL’s activities to engage new groups in advocacy work on EU chemicals laws saw major progress in 2014, with the involvement of French farmers of the Phyto Victimes network, and the European Cancer Leagues and national cancer groups.

### **Farmers at the front line of EDC exposure**

HEAL conducted advocacy on EDCs with health affected farmers by bringing the French group ‘Phyto Victimes’ to Brussels in March 2014. The screening of ‘Death is in the Meadow’ brought 80 stakeholders (MEPs, Commission officials, Brussels stakeholders) to the European Parliament, to see a moving and revealing documentary of the battle of this group of farmers, agricultural workers and their families to break the silence on the link between pesticide-farming and the chronic illnesses and deaths in their community. The documentary and live personal testimonies from the farmers brought the emotional aspect of harm from EDCs to the fore and showed the hidden ‘front line’. The event and the [press briefing](#) in French and English helped to get an article into the Parliament Magazine, which is widely read by decision-makers in Brussels. One important outcome was the strong boost it gave to the morale and determination of DG Environment officials who have been facing concerted pressure to halt their refusal to introduce a defective criterion into the EDC identification scheme.

HEAL and the Phyto Victimes group also had a meeting with DG SANCO (responsible for pesticides, and EDC criteria for pesticides), the first meeting these EU officials have had with health-affected farmers. They clearly stated the impossibility for farmers to follow all safe handling procedures whilst performing farming tasks under real life conditions, and ensure zero family or local resident exposure, hence the unacceptability of continued use of toxic EDC pesticides. DG SANCO officials were taken aback at this ‘truth telling’ about the gaps between the pesticide manufacturers’ use instructions, the unaccountability of distributors/sellers for accurate contents and use information, and the realities of field work, and about the experiences of lethal and crippling diseases. The Phyto-Victimes group were buoyed by being able to deliver their message to EU parliamentarians and to Commission officials, and found the discussions more productive than with local French officials.

## Preventing cancer must include reducing exposure to EDCs

In early December, HEAL organized a small informal luncheon with the Brussels based public health and cancer leagues. Speaking were a prominent Dutch toxicologist Dr Majorie B.M. van Duursen, working on Endocrine Disruption to highlight the links with chronic diseases, and Dr van Vliet from HEAL to present HEAL's report and the opportunity to respond to the EU consultation on EDCs. In answer to the question: "What do we know?" Dr Duursen said: "On breast cancer, for example, numerous studies have shown that exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals, such as BPA, PBDE and pesticides, can adversely affect the normal development of the mammary gland, potentially making it more susceptible to cancers."

The outcome was remarkable as a result of this tailored briefing and long years of information exchange, ECL decided to ask its members to respond to the EDC consultation using HEAL's model, and to organise a high level event in the European Parliament using its role as secretariat to the MEPs Against Cancer group. Hosted by MEP Christel Schaldemose, the 7 January 2015 meeting heard interventions by Alojz Peterle and Pavel Poc, and HEAL sent out [a press release](#) with quotes from MEP Schaldemose.

"Curbing exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals should become a central part of cancer prevention strategy in Europe," Wendy Tse Yared, Director of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) told the meeting. "It represents an exciting opportunity for prevention because reducing exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in our everyday environment may stop cancers before they start. We need to use every possible opportunity to prevent cancer so environmental prevention is important."

The European Cancer League's Belgium member, the Flemish cancer league, also started a campaign to get more individuals responding to the EU consultation, and coordinated a joint press release with other NGOs in Belgium, and appeared on several radio and television stations. One result is a TV journalist is now doing a longer documentary on EDCs which will be completed in 2015.

HEAL sent out a press release with quotes from MEP Schaldemose. As a result of this engagement, an [article](#) was published in the European Parliament magazine, which is read widely among the over 700 MEPs and also representatives of the EU Institutions.

To mark World Cancer Day 2015, HEAL and its member Action for Breast Cancer Foundation in Malta organised two events where HEAL's Executive Director Genon K. Jensen was the keynote speaker which attracted over 250 participants, and gained wide TV and print media coverage, including the front page of the Malta Times and a video interview, and early morning breakfast talk. In her keynote speech Genon focused on how environmental action on air pollution or harmful chemicals can be used as a lever for primary prevention of cancer, and highlighted work being done by cancer groups around the world. The conference was under the patronage of Malta's President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, who wants to bring action against harmful pesticides (pesticide-free parks and gardens) to Brussels later this year.

To commemorate World Cancer Day HEAL compiled a [background briefing](#) on environmental prevention of cancer, and sent out a [press release](#) to our Brussels based and key environment and health journalists. Genon also facilitated a video message from the EU Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella, who is Maltese, which is now publically available for citizens across Europe to see, and continues to be widely promoted by our members working on cancer prevention.

In addition, we also carried out an educational activity with citizens, by organising a debate as part of the [Paris environmental film festival in February 2015](#). For the 3rd year running, HEAL co-hosted a programme of health and environment documentaries and debates at FIFE in Paris on 9 Feb. The sessions on that day had the aim of promoting understanding of the links between health chemicals exposure.

Two films were featured: Endoc(t)trination and Zone Blanche. Following the screening of the first film, HEAL's Lisette van Vliet took part in a debate with the film maker Stephane Horel about endocrine disruptors and the state of play on regulating them at EU level.

### **Strengthening collaborative NGO capacity on EDCs across Europe**

HEAL has helped develop and actively contributes to the European Environment and Health Initiative (EEHI). Its mission is to support civil society organisations to raise public awareness and give input for a science-based precautionary approach to managing endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in the EU to enhancing health and environment protection. HEAL's Executive Director Genon K. Jensen serves as the NGO EEHI coordination role which aims to increase strategic and logistical coordination and advocacy on EDCs in Europe with HEAL members and NGO partners in the EEHI and beyond. Lucy Mathieson, HEAL's Communication Officer provides social media and communication support for the EDC Free secretariat and regularly provides social media plans, sample tweets, news posts and coordinated campaign and communicators exchanges.

All throughout the year, HEAL hosted and moderated the EDC NGO listserve dedicated to sharing information on EU policy developments, activities at national level, new science and good practice with over 50 active EDC advocacy and campaign groups. HEAL also organises monthly virtual EDC NGO meetings to discuss updates, strategy and build capacity. Genon Jensen also provided alerts to advise groups on advocacy opportunities such as Council exchanges on EDCs, new science or the public consultation.

HEAL convened the EDC NGO campaign and strategy meeting on 20 November, which brought some 30 participants to HEAL's offices in Brussels, and prepared an overview of EDC activities, campaign ideas for citizens mobilisation platform (*Subcontracted for consultant for facilitating meeting – see Form F5*). The meeting focused on advocacy work on the public consultation on EDCs and a joint platform to gather responses. Participants issued a [public call](#) to Commission President Juncker to urgently reduce exposure to EDCs, which was featured in EU media.

### **Communicating for change: EDC free Europe**

HEAL runs the Secretariat for the EDC free Europe coalition, bringing together dozens of health, environmental and consumer groups from all over Europe in their call to reduce exposure from endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The coalition has a dedicated website which is updated on a regular basis and includes over 100 articles with news, science and policy advances from EDC Free campaign partners (now at just under 70 organisations).

The most important activity in 2014 was the creation of a dedicated website for the EU public consultation, together with EDC free partners (see above). In addition, HEAL Communications Officer Lucy Mathieson regularly posted new information on the website, and carried out social media activities including twitter and facebook posts on the EDC free social media channels (*Subcontracted for translation of campaign arrows into Lithuanian – see Form F5*).

### **Results:**

#### ***Immediate results:***

In 2014, the high level political environment continued to be hostile towards the adoption of EDC criteria and the launch of an EDC strategy. These factors beyond our control are the reason that HEAL has not reached the goals set out at the beginning of the work programme. However, we have made significant progress in mobilisation and engagement which has led to increased political pressure to make the goals defined advance, including publication of the EDC Roadmap (which had been delayed for some time) in June, launch of the EDC public consultation (also delayed) in October, and the public support for public health action on EDCs from the new Health Commissioner, now in charge of the

EDC file as evidenced in the 1 October: ENDS Europe article, “New Health Commissioner backs EDC criteria”.

At national level, the Senior Policy Advisor gave expert input to a hearing by a French Parliamentarian for a National Parliament report on EDCs – which culminated in a strong and ultimately successful call for a French national strategy on EDCs.

**Detailed immediate results include:**

Because of our outreach and encouragement, new health-affected groups, particularly farmers and cancer associations – started to engage in EU policy advocacy work on endocrine disruptors, at key policy junctures such as the public consultation process.

The development of easy to use website tool was the sole reason that very technical public consultation received over 25,000 responses from citizens from all over Europe, and accounted for 93% of the total individual responses received by the Commission. In addition, the EDC Free coalition now has over 10,000 individual campaign supporters in 7 languages to continue to inform and mobilise in the next years.

In addition, our work funded by the LIFE+ grant, significantly advanced the evidence on the possible health cost (healthcare costs and productivity losses) of endocrine disrupting exposure. DG SANTE, ENV and others are aware of this evidence and they are aware of our demand to include this evidence in the impact assessment. This will hopefully lead to a greater focus on health economic cost with a more comprehensive assessing of benefits of phase out of EDCs and already delivered more transparency and consultation on the impact assessment with the 3 EDC roundtables (stakeholders, member states and MEPs) to which HEAL participated (under the 2015 work programme). The impact assessment process will continue throughout 2015.

In addition, we succeeded in establishing EDCs as a key issue for the new EP ENVI committee, and also provided the scientific evidence and political and public support for the new EU Commission to act on EDCs. As a result we have seen Commissioner Andriukaitis establish various meetings to exchange information and consult on policy options, for the upcoming impact assessment.

HEAL also played a key role in securing support by member states for EU action on EDCs and comprehensive criteria, as can be seen in the 9 member states initiative for an exchange in Council, and the decision to join Sweden in the court case against the Commission.

Regarding the strategy on the non-toxic environment, the work is still ongoing, and as the new EU Commission is cautious to limit the inclusion of policy proposals in the Commission work programme, the strategy has not yet been mentioned.

***Medium and long term impact:***

In the medium and long term our activities in 2014 contribute to improve the regulation of EDCs in the EU, which will bring about a reduction of exposure and decrease health costs. The first ever health economic costs as well as the mobilisation success for the public consultation, have set the groundwork for a comprehensive impact assessment, which should lead to good criteria, as the basis for EDC phase outs. However political opposition against comprehensive criteria is still strong, so we will have to continue to make the case on how EDCs affect our health, and the health prevention opportunities from better regulation of EDCs.

**Indicators (projections of the work programme in brackets):**

**These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 13 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with researchers (projected: 5)
- 7 Events with active participation (no quantitative indicator given)
- 4 Events organised: Film screening La Mort est dans le pre; EEHI meeting; Lunch briefing on EDCs; MEPs against cancer meeting; film screening and debate Paris film festival (projected: 2)
- 1 Reply to stakeholder consultations
- 20 Press releases and 42 articles in media coverage (projected: 3 PRs)
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 1 letters and 8 policy briefings sent, 1 information tools published (projected: 1)
- 27 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 4 Articles written for journals, other newsletters
- 85 Email alerts sent to chemicals listserve, 15 electronic alerts to environment&health listserve

HEAL excelled in the organisation of events as a way to increase awareness, in press releases and written submissions.

# Environment, trade and EU economic policy

## Activities

Economic developments and decisions have an important impact on the health and quality of lives of people in Europe and globally; but the right economic policy can also be a win-win for health. Health economic analysis has gained more prominence in HEAL's work in the last years. In 2014, we made progress in our assessment of the health risks of the future TTIP agreement and continued to provide the health evidence for joint TTIP activities, with very limited personnel resources available. The future EU-US Transatlantic Trade Agreement (TTIP) was high priority for the public and Brussels policy-makers alike.

We kicked off activities in March 2014 with the publication of [a briefing](#) on how the EU-US Trade talks could harm our health by affecting chemicals regulation, published together with partner CHEM Trust. This briefing was disseminated to EU policy-makers and among our network, including with articles in HEAL's monthly newsletter. We continued to use the briefing and highlight it throughout the year.

In May, HEAL joined with dozens of European civil society organisations for a call to put "[people, environment and democracy before profit and corporate rights](#)". Signatories represent a wide range of public interests including environmental protection, public health, agriculture, consumer rights, animal welfare, social and labour standards, development etc. The position expresses concerns on the lack of transparency and democratic procedures, the ISDS, the creation of anti-democratic governance structures and puts forward 8 demands. HEAL was also one of over 170 signatories from groups on both sides of the Atlantic expressing their concerns that the TTIP would weaken health, consumer and environmental protections on 12 May. The [letter](#) was addressed to Ambassador Michael Froman and EU Commissioner for Trade, Karel de Gucht. These demands and developments on both sides of the Atlantic were further discussed in a meeting with Jim Jones from the US EPA on 20 June, in preparation of the next round of talks in July. On 10 July, a [letter](#) was launched signed by over 100 organisations including HEAL calling on the EU and US to exclude chemicals from TTIP. Lisette van Vliet also gave a presentation on health concerns on TTIP at a DG ENV stakeholder meeting on 3 July.

The plans for an investor state dispute settlement caused great concern in HEAL and many other organisations throughout the year. For a public consultation on ISDS, we invited our members and network to provide input, and participated ourselves. Our engagement contributed to the many answers that were received on this consultation.

Following intensive exchanges and consultation, Green10 published a [position on environmental and social principles](#) of TTIP in October 2014. The position states that TTIP must not contain any ISDS nor Regulatory Cooperation Council; that the Commission has to provide a comprehensive analysis of cost-benefits; that the Commission needs to carry out a comprehensive environmental impact assessment; that a pause in negotiations would make sense in order to carry out these assessments, and finally that there needs to be total transparency.

Alongside this, we have worked to oppose any aspects of the TTIP (EU-US free trade agreement) that could undermine existing chemicals legislation or the development of future policies to effectively address EDCs, collaborating with a wide variety of organisations.

As part of this work, we contributed to, produced and disseminated a variety of joint NGO materials about TTIP and the risks it brings to good chemicals legislation including:

- a HEAL-CHEM Trust briefing on TTIP and Chemicals specific to Europe (March 2014)
- a joint statement by a wide alliance of European civil society organisations (May 2014);
- a 2-page briefing for the public with questions for European Parliament candidates;
- Letters to negotiators on transparency and regulatory cooperation (March 2014, May 2014)

For the last months of the work programme, our attention shifted to the European Parliament, in preparation of an upcoming EP resolution on TTIP:

In February 2015 HEAL signed on to a [joint letter](#) from over 160 civil society groups from 23 countries to denounce ideas on regulatory cooperation as an attempt to put the interest of big business before the protection of citizens, workers and the environment. This letter was also shared with decision-makers in the European Parliament as they were preparing their resolution on this issue.

Given the threat to health from TTIP and the MEPs key role on the issue, another [letter](#) by 375 civil society organisations followed on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The letter spells out the key demands that were first brought together with partners in the US in May 2014. These include transparency, a democratic process, no regulatory cooperation council, promotion of humane and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and no deregulation of standards which safeguard and serve the public interest. At least 10 HEAL member organisations used this letter to do extensive outreach in UK, France, Spain, Germany.

### **WHO Environmental Health Economics Network (EHEN)**

HEAL is an advisory board member of EHEN, aiming to share information on health economic assessments of environmental pollution, discuss priorities for future research and improve the science-policy interface. Anne Stauffer participated in EHEN meetings in [May](#) and [November](#). In May, Anne urged members of the network to look into assessing health costs from chemical exposure and presented the outline of HEAL's upcoming EDC report (see Area 4). In November, she gave inputs on the policy developments at EU level with the new EU Commission and the threat to withdrawing the air package.

The work in this network provided HEAL with background to look more into health economic processes at EU level. We therefore participated in a public consultation on the future of impact assessment, which closed on 31 Oct. Monitoring developments on impact assessment continues to be part of our work, particularly as part of the better regulation initiative of the new Commission.

## **Results**

### ***Immediate results:***

Through the continued highlighting of the health economic or external costs of Europe's economic way of life, HEAL provided the rationale for policy-makers to support measures for decarbonising the economy and putting Europe on a more sustainable path. This holds particularly true for exposing health economic costs of two of Europe's key industries – the coal and chemicals industry, which both depend heavily on fossil fuels. This part of our work was complemented through speaking out on divesting from coal power generation.

In addition, the call to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies was the top priority for HEAL's and Green10's manifesto to the European Parliament.

2014 therefore saw important progress on achieving HEAL's 1<sup>st</sup> goal in this area, which is a medium and long-term goal. The immediate goal of providing resource materials for the new EU Commissions on the benefits of EU legislation was achieved, particularly through unforeseen activities in Area 6.

Regarding TTIP, negotiations still continued in 2014, so objective 2 could not be fulfilled yet.

With limited resources, HEAL was able to provide important health input for the TTIP deliberations, and contributed to firmly secure health considerations as an issue in the negotiations.

We compiled our expertise into a briefing which served as the blueprint for activities for the year, and communicated about it to Brussels policy-makers and among the NGOs. This means that the new

Commissioners and the Parliament had evidence-based information available on the threat to health from TTIP.

As such we helped to build the growing non-governmental movement from both sides of the Atlantic for a watchful brief on what TTIP would mean for health and the environment, particularly in the chemicals realm. This engagement helped to prepare the ground for the vote in the EP's ENVI committee on 14 April 2015, which called for the exclusion of chemicals from TTIP.

The impact on the TTIP negotiations is difficult to ascertain given limited text accessibility and processes for public interest group involvement. Nevertheless, the increasing media coverage and public interest is provoking the European Commission into greater attempts to deny the threat to chemicals legislation and 'calm the controversy' with various public relations measures, and hence indirectly signals our work is bearing fruit.

With our involvement in the WHO EHEN network we also had access to up to date health economic information, which we relayed with EU policy-makers.

***Medium and long-term impact:***

The goals that HEAL has defined for this Area are medium and long-term targets, and were not for the year 2014. Through implementing activities in 2014, HEAL helped to ensure that the arguments and evidence on why the future TTIP should exclude chemicals are spelled out and available for policy-makers, particularly for MEPs, as they are moving into adopting a resolution and then later looking into giving their approval or rejecting TTIP.

**Indicators (projections of the work programme in brackets):**

**These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 4 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with health groups (projection: 0)
- 2 Events with active participation (projection: 0)
- 1 Event organised: Meeting of HEAL and other NGOs with Jim Jones, US EPA (projection: 1)
- 3 Replies to stakeholder consultations (projection: 0)
- 0 Press releases and 2 articles in media coverage
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 4 letters and 4 policy briefings sent (projection: 5)
- 10 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 1 Articles written for journals, other newsletters
- 10 Email alerts sent to listserve

HEAL excelled in meeting with EU officials, participating in events with active participation and written submissions to the EU institutions.

# Strengthening environment and health protection in times of EU institutional change

## Activities

Activities in this area were carried out by Genon K. Jensen and Anne Stauffer.

The new EU Commission – with political priorities that side-lined environmental and health concerns, changes in mandates and decision-making structures, as well as the candidates for Commissioners – kept HEAL more busy with advocacy activities than foreseen. But the flurry of activities as part of Green10 on giving environmental protection greater prominence meant that HEAL could deepen its engagement with new and returning MEPs (as the European Parliament is the institution to approve Commissioner's choices and the work programme).

Prior to the May 2014 elections HEAL had widely shared among members and in our network the Green10 election manifesto, which includes specific points on protecting people's health from air pollution and hazardous chemicals. As a first ever, we also encouraged members to meet their newly elected MEPs for HEAL's Annual General Assembly at the beginning of October 2014.

The HEAL Secretariat helped set up meetings with MEPs for members during their time in Brussels for the AGA – this is included setting up a meeting with a Maltese MEP for Breast Cancer Action Malta, two meetings with MEPs for new HEAL member Fundacion Alborada and a meeting with an Irish MEP for Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA)

## New European Commission

In June and July, HEAL followed very closely the debates among Heads of States and Governments whether or not Mr. Juncker should lead the next EU Commission, following the victory of the Conservative parties in May's elections to the European Parliament. For the first time, the political groups had designated "Spitzenkandidaten" - top candidates – who were designated to be the next Commission President.

Following talks with all political groups, the European Parliament elected Jean-Claude Juncker as Commission President on 15 July 2015 (EU Heads of States had already given him the approval on 27 June). In his speech to the plenary in Strasbourg, Mr. Juncker outlined his political guidelines and ten priorities for the EU under his mandate. These guidelines already include very little mention of environmental or health protection.

On 10 September, Mr. Juncker announced not only his new team, but also a new, hierarchical structure to the way of working of the new Commission, as well as mandates for each Commissioner designate.

HEAL and fellow Green10 organisations were quite alarmed that the structure, the mission letters and the choice of Commissioners all revealed a serious downgrading of environment and a roll back of commitments to sustainable development.

HEAL was particularly dismayed at the move of the lead on EDC criteria from DG ENV to DG SANCO, as well as the request to the Environment Commissioner to review the state of negotiations on the air package, which we saw as a threat to stop the negotiations and weaken the proposal (which was confirmed to be true by the Dec announcement of the intention to withdraw NEC).

In an [open letter](#) to Juncker on 11 September, HEAL and Green10 state their 7 concerns regarding the new Commission. The letter is available in EN, and ES. It received widespread media coverage in The

Guardian, Die Zeit, AFP and all the other main EU national newswires, European Voice, and ENDS Europe.

This letter was followed up with a [position paper](#) by Green10 on 15 September, which includes the following 4 demands:

1. Establish a Vice-President for Sustainability
2. Upgrade the Vice-President for Energy Union to a Vice-President for Climate Action and Energy Union
3. Ensure the Environment Portfolio is reinstated
4. Resolve potential conflicts of interest for the nominees

The appeal is available in EN, ES, FR, DE; and the press release in English.

HEAL also joined members European Public Health Alliance and other health group partners in an [open call](#) to President-elect Juncker on the move of pharmaceuticals and medical devices from DG SANCO to DG ENTERPRISE on 16 September.

Our work was further honed with an [open letter](#) to First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, making the case on why environmental legislation is not a barrier for economic development, on 29 Sept.

All throughout this important period, the HEAL Secretariat kept members abreast of developments through consultations on HEAL's Environment&Health listserve. In addition, we also build up their capacity to understand the EU institutional change and participate in advocacy work. During HEAL's Annual General Assembly on 6 October, a two hour session was held, in which members were presented with the key people, structure, developments and future joint activities were discussed. HEAL's Communication Officer Lucy Mathieson also devised several strategies for social media for members to use, sample tweets etc. As a result, HEAL's Spanish member Alborada Foundation translated several key documents into Spanish and shared them widely in Spain.

### **Working with the European Parliament**

Following the announcement of the Commissioners designate HEAL worked specifically with the European Parliament, as the institution who has to endorse the future Commission.

On 15 Sept, a [brief](#) was sent to all members of the European Parliament, asking MEPs to block the Juncker Commission in its current structure and put forward a list of formal request. Green10 considered that unless environmental concerns received greater prominence (by agreeing to four demands as outlined in several briefings), MEPs should not accept the new Commission. Anne Stauffer also spoke to longstanding HEAL supporting MEPs to tell them about the concerns with the Juncker Commission.

The Green10 demands were reiterated at a reception with MEPs on 24 Sept. This reception also helped to meet some new MEPs and diversify the contacts in HEAL's health-friendly MEP database.

As a result of our work in the open and behind the scenes, a group of 46 leading environmental MEPs issued a letter to Mr. Juncker with their concerns on the environment on 17 Sept. There was also a letter by ENVI coordinators to EP President Schulz, prior to the Commissioner-designate hearings on 26 Sept, prompted inter alia by the Green10 meeting with him the week before.

The hearings of Commissioners took place from 29 September to 4 October, with Environment Commissioner Vella as one of the first candidates. Prior to the hearings, HEAL had submitted questions to MEPs for candidates on air quality and chemicals; and also alerted members and shared social media strategy, to increase viewing of the hearing and communicating about it. HEAL followed closely his hearing, as well as the hearing of Commissioner designate for Health, Vytenis Andriukaitis. Several of our issues were picked up by MEPs towards the Commissions for Health and for

Environment including on EDCs, air pollution and the 7th EAP. On 30 September, we issued [a blog](#) about their approach and responses to EDCs.

A leading European policy news service, Euractiv let HEAL know that it had quoted us in its overview of the #ephearings2014 of Vytenis Andriukaitis, the incoming health Commissioner.

In addition, following the hearings on the designated Commissioners, HEAL and Green10 issued a [press release](#) urging MEPs to reject Juncker's environmentally unsustainable Commission on 7 Oct. While we welcomed the addition of "sustainable development" to First Vice-President Timmermans mandate, we considered this step not enough to convince us that there was no rollback of environmental and health legislation. Our views were presented in a [statement](#) issued on 10 Oct for MEPs, and an [open letter](#) to President Juncker on 16 Oct.

HEAL also lobbied behind the scenes with leading MEPs in order to achieve further progress on environmental demands, such as the inclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> EU environmental action programme. However, on 22 October, the majority of members of the European Parliament confirmed the new Commission, including the Spanish Commissioner Canete, for whom many conflicts of interests had been raised.

HEAL commented on the vote in two press releases: [one together](#) with Green 10, and [one together](#) with health organisations, welcoming that the responsibility for pharmaceuticals would stay within DG SANCO.

### **Commission priorities and work programme 2015**

As a follow up to our intense advocacy work on the new Commission we also realised we needed to have a position outlining the priority areas for the EU for the next 5 years. Therefore, on 3 November Green10 launched "[A New Impetus for Europe: Urgent Actions and Priorities for the new EU Commission](#)".

HEAL and Green10 were also active further preparing and then commenting on the Commission's proposal for the work programme 2015. At the end of November, Business Europe had published a "kill list" of (draft) regulations that should be scrapped. This list included the National Emissions Ceilings Directive as well as the Circular Economy Package. Green10 and 10 other civil society groups reacted with a [counter position](#) on 4 December. When the draft work programme was leaked, Green10 also sent [a letter](#) to First Vice-President Timmermans, expressing our deep concerns of the withdrawal of the air and waste proposals on 11 Dec.

On 16 December, First Vice-President Timmermans announced the intention to withdraw the circular economy package as well as a modification of the NEC Directive, but for latter he was deliberately unclear. Green10 reacted with a press statement, and more importantly we made our plea to the Italian, Austrian minister and members of the permanent representations that same evening, to come out strongly in favour for the proposed laws at the Environment Council the next day. As a result of our advocacy work, the Environment Ministers strongly criticised the intention of the Commission and urged the continuation on the waste package, as well as on all elements of the air package (which means they supported the NEC). HEAL had also issued a press release about the announcement on air quality on 16 December.

In January 2015, HEAL continued its advocacy work with an upcoming European Parliament resolution on the Commission work programme. Spanish member Fundacion Alborada contacted key Spanish MEPs from among the conservatives, member Portugese Society for Env. Health did the same, and also Austrian member ISDE Austria participated.

Shortly before the vote it became clear that no agreement on the different political positions towards the new EU Commission would be found, and therefore there would be no EP resolution. However, from votes on selected amendments we could see that five out of seven political groups, representing

60% of MEPs, showed that they were against the EU Commission's proposal for withdrawing key environmental legislation. Green10 commented this vote with a [press release](#).

In March, HEAL highlighted again why environmental protection should be a priority for the new EU Commission: Genon K. Jensen was a distinguished speaker at a panel assessing the state of Europe's environment in 2015 and key challenges, organised by the European Policy Center in Brussels on 4 March. The event saw the launch of the European Environment Agency's comprehensive analysis on the issue, covering the state of play in such areas as climate change, land use, biodiversity but also environmental threats to health.

In her [intervention](#), Genon highlighted that the report should be seen as an urgent public health alert for the EU and national policy makers, in particular EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and his team. Genon's message and speech highlighting the public health alert were captured in cartoon sketches from the event. HEAL also sent the main messages and suggestions for tweets to all members to encourage the uptake of SOER2015 at national level.

### **EU chief scientific adviser**

The question of what kind of scientific advice should be provided to the EU Commission gained considerable prominence over the summer, following a letter sent by several organisations, including HEAL, to President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker on 22 July. In this letter, NGOs express concern over the position of Chief Scientific Advisor, as currently held by Anne Glover. Signatories criticise that the role of the Adviser has been unaccountable, intransparent and controversial, and urge Mr. Juncker to not appoint a new Chief Science Adviser. There was significant media coverage in the UK, and a rebuttal by numerous science organisations from across the EU. The initial letter was followed up with a [second letter](#) on 19 Aug, signed by 28 organisations, including many HEAL members, underlining the principles of science advice in the EU. An exclusive article appeared as well in Euractiv the same day.

As a result of our advocacy work on greater transparency and accountability over the summer, new Commission President Juncker decided to scrap the post of Chief Science Adviser, currently held by Anne Glover. This decision was announced on 11 November.

In the meantime, HEAL and several of our members had prepared a more [detailed position on principles for transparency, excellence](#) and independence in scientific advice, which was published on 18 November. In response, Juncker's cabinet asked NGOs for a meeting to discuss details (the exchange took place in Jan 2015).

At the time of writing this report, however, the EU Commission has just announced that they were establishing a science council to provide expertise for policy decisions, and this will be a key priority to follow for HEAL.

### **Results**

#### ***Immediate results:***

Despite a new Commission that did not consider environmental or health protection prominently in its new structures, mandates and priorities and the overall political environment in Europe which promotes deregulation and growth, HEAL in collaboration with Green10, members and partners did make advances on greater sustainability and greater visibility.

First, because of HEAL's, members and partners advocacy work, we achieved in the Commission's plans for the work programme 2015, by keeping negotiations for the National Emissions Ceilings Directive going, and overturning the intention to withdraw the proposal.

Second, sustainability is now included in the mandate of First Vice President Frans Timmermans, and he will have to deal with these concerns eventually. Third, HEAL and Green10 received a lot of support in the European Parliament, and was able to build relations to the EP President Martin Schulz, which

prepared the ground for collaborative exchanges in the next five years. With meetings of HEAL members with MEPs we were also successful in strengthening relations to EU policy-makers for HEAL as an organisation but also our members. We were successful in mobilising health-friendly MEPs, particularly in the ENVI committee, but in the end a political deal at high-level prevented any real changes in the substances of Juncker's and Timmerman's proposals.

However, throughout this process, key MEPs came out in favour of air quality, chemicals safety measures and environmental action overall, which means one expected result from the activities was fulfilled.

In addition, because of immediate advocacy work with the EU's environment ministers, they also came out strongly in favour of NGO demands.

Fourth, we received significant media coverage on our demands, which also showed to President Juncker and Vice-President Timmermans that our concerns need to be taken seriously. A meeting with Juncker's cabinet in December clearly confirmed that we were able to "make some noise" and be heard.

All three objectives for the work programme 2014 were more than fulfilled.

### ***Medium and long term results:***

Achieving a greater prominence for environmental health issues with the new EU Commission, particularly President Juncker and Vice-President Timmermans, will require a medium to long-term engagement and a greater analysis of how issues fit into the current narrative and emphasis on better regulation and increased regulatory scrutiny of HEAL, members and Green10 partners. HEAL has now decided to establish a working group on economics, and has recently joined the Better Regulation watchdog, an alliance of over 50 civil society organisations with a broad background, to watch developments on these issues.

The new decision-making structures including the increased responsibilities for environment Commissioner Vella (with having to deal as well with maritime and fisheries issues) will make it more challenging to push for ambitious environmental policies at high-level, because the power of individual Commissioners has been restricted.

However, our advocacy activities have received support from within the European Parliament as well as with Environment Ministers, which is a good basis for achieving policy change in the next years.

### **Indicators (projections in work programme in brackets):**

#### **These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 14 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with health groups (projected: 12)
- 8 Meetings of HEAL members with decision-makers in Brussels (projected: 10)
- 2 Events organised: Green10 reception in the EP; HEAL session on new EU institutions at AGA (projected: 1)
- 7 Press releases and 27 articles in media coverage
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 9 letters and 6 policy briefings sent
- 8 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 1 Article written for journals, other newsletters
- 20 Email alerts sent to listserve

HEAL excelled in press releases, written submissions to the EU institutions and achieving media coverage.

# Addressing global environmental challenges for better health protection

## Activities

### World Health Organization Europe process on Environment and Health

HEAL is an official stakeholder in this process that brings together health and environment ministries from the 53 WHO Europe member countries, representing the health non-governmental sector. The priority of 2014-2015 was our contribution to the midterm review meeting of the Parma Commitments. Adopted in 2010, these commitments are the first-ever time bound goals to protect children's health from environmental threats, such as outdoor air pollution, hazardous chemicals or dirty water and inadequate sanitation facilities. HEAL has successfully used WHO commitments as a driver for stronger EU environmental policies in the past.

HEAL's Executive Director Genon K. Jensen was part of an editorial group to draft the official WHO [midterm review report](#), and she wrote a chapter on NGO engagement in the process and next steps. On 13-14 November, Deputy Director Anne Stauffer represented HEAL in a meeting of the Environment and Health Task Force in Bonn, Germany, to further prepare the midterm review meeting.

The meeting was scheduled to take place in Israel, initially in November, but was postponed several times, with a new date of end of April 2015 (outside of this reporting period).

### International Chemicals Processes (IPEN, SAICM, Minamata Convention)

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is an important global policy framework to foster the sound management of chemicals.

HEAL participated in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management's (SAICM's) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, December 15-18th as part of the IPEN network to share successes from the health sector and advocate for milestones to minimise health effects from chemical pollution.

The meeting, known as the Second Open Ended Working Group (OEWG2), prepared the agenda and priorities for the next International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), planned for 2015. In the run-up to the meeting, IPEN prepared a summary statement of its views on issues that are being discussed at the OEWG2 including, but not limited to, chemicals in products, lead in paint, electronic and electrical products, EDCs, and nanotechnology. Both HEALers, Lisette and Genon contributed to national lobbying on EDCs and helping to prepare IPEN's strategy and intervention on EDCs during the plenary.

A joint intervention on [Health Sector Strategy Discussion](#) by Genon Jensen, Executive Director of HEAL, and Health Care without Harm Europe. HEALs member Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), gave an [IPEN Intervention on EDCs](#).

HEAL gave another intervention on highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) highlighting the severe harm and effects they can bring to those most vulnerable such as children and women. Many HHP are also EDCs, as highlighted in the PAN and IPEN materials. In the intervention, HEAL supported the idea of the 'polluter pays', rather than the health systems or even worse the health of those communities and individuals using highly hazardous pesticides paying the unpaid health bill. HEAL strongly supports the need to develop a proposal for a Global Alliance to Phase-out HHPs. Saturday, HEALers, Lisette van Vliet and Genon Jensen, participated in the IPEN strategy and prep meeting.

Regarding the implementation of the landmark Minamata Convention on mercury, HEAL followed the developments at EU level through the participation in a stakeholder event in July and submission of comments to a public consultation in autumn 2014.

### **International Climate Work, preparing Paris COP21**

In the run up to the Paris Climate conference in December 2015, climate change was becoming an increasingly prominent issue both with EU policy-makers but also in European and international health and medical circles.

HEAL is a founder member of the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA), which brings together non-governmental health stakeholders to advocate for more ambitious climate mitigation policies in a future international treaty.

When the report of the Second IPCC working group on 'impacts, vulnerability and adaptation', was launched on 3 April, HEAL provided input for a joint [briefing, press releases](#) adapted to the different continents and disseminated as well a video on the main findings of the report. There was a successful amount of attention on social media thanks to HEAL's contribution.

More importantly, HEAL was also able to carry out advocacy work for greater climate ambition in international institutional fora:

At the end of August, HEAL's Executive Director Genon K. Jensen took part in the WHO Summit on climate change and health in Geneva. HEAL was one of the organisations issuing the [Civil Society call to Action](#). The statement underlines that climate change is a threat to health globally, and urges WHO to advocate for all governments to adopt an international climate agreement in 2015 which is fair and sufficiently ambitious to protect health. An email with the meeting's conclusions written by Genon was disseminated in health networks by WHO's Director Dr. Margaret Chan.

In September, Genon K. Jensen was personally invited to participate in the Ban-Ki Moon landmark Summit on Climate change, which brought together global leaders and civil society to create momentum on climate change action. Genon [participated in a thematic session](#) focused on the health benefits of climate action, and was also a panellist addressing air quality, climate and energy at a UN side event (22-23 September). Prior to the summit, thousands of public health advocates, doctors, nurses, NGOs and individuals participated in the People's climate march with more than 300,000 people. The blog by Genon published in Euractiv that followed the UN Climate Summit was shared 58 times on Facebook.

Prior to the summit, Genon was also a speaker in the 18 Sept. call organised by the Collaborative on Health and the Environment, on climate change and health, with Dr. Andy Haines of HEAL member London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

HEAL is also a member of the WHO Europe Health in Climate Change group (HIC). On 4 July, Anne Stauffer gave input to the HIC meeting in Bonn to prepare the August Climate conference as well as the WHO midterm Parma review report.

For COP20 in Lima, Peru, HEAL had a small delegation headed by Erica Parker. On 6 Dec, the Climate and Health Summit took place at the COP, with a focus on health impacts but equally the opportunity that climate change creates to build a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable world. As a co-organiser of the summit, HEAL provided a quote for the [media advisory](#) of the Global Climate and Health Alliance. The Alliance brings together Health Care without Harm, Climate and Health Council and representatives from Australia, India and other countries. A pre-Lima Tree Alert featured a quote on HEAL's position by Julia Huscher.

Moving further on the road to Paris, Genon K. Jensen and Anne Stauffer were participants in a meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Charles in London on 25 February 2015. The meeting, organised by the Prince of Wales Sustainability Unit, brought together health ministers, senior civil servants, health professionals and civil society organisations to discuss climate change, health and the forthcoming Paris climate conference.

In addition, HEAL provided in a meeting to exchange information on international climate and energy developments, organised by the Healthy Energy Initiative in Feb 2015. Vlatka Matkovic Puljic gave input on HEAL's work on climate and energy in Europe, and health cost assessment for coal.

### **Partnership with the US-based Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

The US based Collaborative on Health and the Environment's (CHE's) primary mission is to strengthen the science dialogue on environmental factors impacting human health and to facilitate collaborative, multifactorial, prevention-oriented efforts to address environmental health concerns. Founded in 2002, CHE is an international partnership of almost 5000 individuals and organizations in 79 countries and all 50 US states, including scientists, health professionals, health-affected groups, nongovernmental organizations and other concerned citizens, committed to improving human health across the lifespan.

CHE's primary activities include sharing emerging scientific research on various environmental factors that can contribute to disease and disability and HEAL is CHE's European partner. In this context HEAL provides regular updates on policy developments in Europe to the CHE newsletter each month, as well as on several disease specific listserves. The longstanding exchanges with CHE also enable HEAL to quickly pick up and relay information on new science and policy developments from the US to the EU context.

HEAL coordinates the following CHE working groups: Asthma, Climate Change and CHE HEAL, where we share EU chemicals policy and science development. The HEAL Executive Director is in the CHE core advisory group to ensure synergies and leveraging of environmental health science in Europe and North America.

In addition to writing articles for the CHE newsletter and posting on listserves, we also co-organised or participated in CHE events:

Beyond Endocrine disruption: EDC CHE Strategy call series: In 2014, we worked with Commonweal and TEDx to develop a series through our partnership with the Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE). These series feature top researchers and slide resources, and regularly are attended by 50-100 participants. Previous presentations in the series are available as MP3 recordings, and have so far been downloaded hundreds of times:

Last but not least, HEAL team members Genon K. Jensen, Anne Stauffer and Lisette van Vliet participated in several key scientific conferences to build capacity with scientists on EU advocacy work. This includes the October PPTOX conference on prenatal programming and chemicals in Boston, Environmental Stressors in Disease and Implications for Human Health, where HEAL participated to learn more on prenatal programming and toxicity, looking at the fetal and early postnatal development origins of health and disease.

### **Results**

#### ***Immediate results:***

For the WHO European process it meant that HEAL's health voice for more protective policies was heard loud and clear in the preparations for the midterm review meeting, evidenced by our invitation to speak at the panel highlighting progress achieved on the issue of EDCs, WHO's retweeting HEAL throughout the conference and showing a short video which contained an interview with HEAL's Executive Director talking about why protecting children's health from pollution is so important.

The results of the SAICM meeting were that EDCs continues to be a high political priority for the SAICM process, HHP pesticides were added as a new emerging issue, as well as pharmaceuticals & water (proposed by HEAL member International Society of Doctors for the Environment).

On the road to COP21 in Paris, with our activities individuals and organisations in the health sector have become more aware on why it's important to be engaged in the negotiations. Policy-makers have also learned about the health effects of climate change, and why it's necessary to get to an ambitious international agreement to protect health.

***Medium and long term results:***

The information gathered as part of the international work will help for a more science-based EU policy-making, not only for the implementation of the 7 EU Environmental Action Programme, but also in sector specific legislation such as REACH or National Emissions Ceilings Directive. Activities have also helped us further develop, consolidate and expand the long term commitment and vision from the health movement and health researchers for climate action.

**Indicators (projections of work programme in brackets):**

**These results were achieved with the following deliverables:**

- 6 Meetings with EU and National Institutions, with researchers (projected: 5)
- 7 Events with active participation (projected: 0)
- 5 Events organised: Beyond EDCs series (projected: 3)
- 1 Reply to stakeholder consultations (projected: 0)
- 3 Press releases and 1 article in media coverage (projected: 2)
- Written submissions to EU institutions: 1 letters and 3 policy briefings sent, information tools published (projected: 0)
- 25 Articles written for HEAL website and newsletter
- 69 Articles written for journals, other newsletters
- 136 Email alerts sent to listserve

HEAL excelled in events with active participation, press releases and written submissions to EU institutions.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Activities

2014 has been another impactful year for HEAL's communications activities, particularly in the realm of social media, led by HEAL's Communications Officer Lucy Mathieson. For its media work, HEAL is supported by a Communications Adviser, Diana Smith (*Subcontracted for media consultancy – see Form F5*).

Almost all aspects of HEAL's work are ultimately aimed at achieving strong visibility for effective communication. For quality written materials, the communication team works closely with policy officers to ensure evidence-based, well-written and attractively illustrated reports, fact sheets, articles, press releases and policy statements.

### Flagship of our policy communication – HEAL newsflash

*10 EDITIONS OF THE HEAL NEWSFLASH SENT IN 2014 – 2015*  
*6607 SUBSCRIBERS WITH 556 NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS*

HEAL's monthly newsflash is a key information resource for the environment and health community and decision-makers on policy developments and the latest science. It features highlights of HEAL's advocacy work namely on environmental health, chemicals, pesticides, climate and energy, air quality, mercury, trade and EU governance, with a total of 106 articles across these topics in the reporting period.

Member's news is also included in the newsflash (74 articles in total across all of HEAL's policy areas) where on a monthly basis, many member organisations proactively send articles to include. Timely petitions and take actions are also highlighted as well as new HEAL publications, media coverage and a listing of upcoming environmental health events. To showcase HEAL's successful Twitter activities, a selection of tweets from HEAL are also included in the newsflash.

From the 10 newsflashes sent in the reporting period, around 50,000 individuals have received them in total. This does not even touch on the multiple more times the newsflash is re-distributed globally via members, partners and organisations such as the Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE) in the US, via the EU Commission Sante Health newsletter, and EU research organisations and networks, as well as inclusion in members newsletters and on their websites.

In the days following the send out of the newsflash, HEAL expands the visibility of its content by disseminating relevant articles to its extensive listserves on environmental health, climate change, shale gas, chemicals, EDCs, pesticides, human biomonitoring, environmental cancer and children's health. HEAL's various Twitter and Facebook accounts are also used to significantly increase the reach of the newsflash articles by targeting specific content to key followers.

HEAL receives positive feedback on a regular basis from high level national civil servants and EU institutional staff on the content of the newsflash.

### HEAL Media Strategy and press work, including media monitoring

The core of HEAL's media strategy is the two or three press or information releases that are sent out each month. Each one describes a timely news announcement that is tightly written, includes a quote from HEAL containing our key message, and is fully referenced.

The press releases covered all policy areas and were used to launch publications, positions, activities and events. They included six joint press releases (with health and/or environmental organisations), three information releases aimed mainly at members and their networks.

Mailings are sent to extensive lists of Brussels and Europe-based policy, national and specialist journalists in newspapers, online news services, radio and television as well as to communicators and others in our members' and partners' organisations. Each press release is also promoted via Twitter and Facebook, where research is carried out in advance on which journalists and media outlets should be key targets.

When HEAL is launching a new report, the full force of the communications team's organisation is brought to bear to achieve maximum and targeted visibility. This includes defining the target audiences to be reached and gathering appropriate recent science and policy developments to help create the background context for the press release to make it as attractive as possible to the media. It also involves working with the policy team to ensure that key facts or illustrative material required for press work feature in the publication text.

Development of both the media strategy and the press release is a participatory process with the staff group involved. The communication teams provides a comprehensive dissemination strategy which gathers input from the policy officers. Decisions are taken on target audiences, messaging, contextual information and scientific references. Choices are made about which messengers should convey scientific, policy or organisational information or provide "human story" in quotes to feature in the press release. Often, the press release is also reviewed by an outside communication expert or reliable journalist - sometimes producing invaluable feedback.

When the information is important but complex, the press release may be made available to journalists in advance, under embargo, to give them adequate time to review the materials. A press conference may be organised, which makes both scientific and policy experts directly available for journalists' questions.

The media and communication strategy is developed with the target audiences in mind. The intention is to achieve media coverage in those newspapers, policy news websites or television that are most likely to be reached by the policy makers targeted. To reach further target audiences, such as networks specialising in air quality, mailings include lists of editors of newsletters, communicators in EU and UN institutions, and to key listserves, including our own. The press release is also posted on HEAL website, partner websites and Facebook and promoted via Twitter.

Where possible, journalists in key target policy, national and specialist media will be contacted prior to the launch of the main press release via a personal email and telephone call in which an initial announcement is made and a suggested angle is given to meet the needs of the journalists' target audience. This personal approach ensures that the journalist knows what to expect and offers an opportunity to indicate interest or have questions answered that may not be covered in the press release. It also ensures that up-to-date contacts are maintained.

HEAL also frequently involves members and partner organisations in the promotion and dissemination of the press release. This has the virtue of more personal outreach to journalists in different EU countries. It sometimes prompts the partner to translate the press release, which further extends its visibility in one or more countries. Other members often help reach specialist networks, such as on pesticides or coal.

HEAL frequently provides sample tweets in multiple languages (where appropriate) to members and partner organisations in order to further increase the visibility and outreach of HEAL's work to national media.

After the press release is launched, media monitoring begins. Gathering media coverage is achieved with the help of Google Alerts, by checking the publications those journalists who have expressed

interest, and by contacting communication partners for any articles in their countries or networks. All those citing HEAL are collated and a summary of achievements in relation to target audience is prepared.

Increasingly, journalists on target European news services do not have capacity to write a story themselves. They may however be able to commission opinion pieces or blogs. The attraction of contributions from HEAL is that it represents a major voice on health and environment thanks to its more than 70 members organisations and several hundred members' members spread across the countries of the EU. The organisation also has a strong track record in providing reliable and well-written texts that meet style requirements of different media outlets. From HEAL's research and discussions with journalists, they often like to receive links to press releases via Twitter so HEAL uses this approach to work effectively with key media contacts active on Twitter.

In between press launches, the monitoring of new science and policy developments continues, especially with a view to identifying future opportunities for media work. Other activities include responding to spontaneous requests from journalists and communicators for interviews and quotes, for example from The Parliament Magazine and Euractiv, and updating the media database which now contains over 1,000 journalist and communicator contacts.

### **HEAL Websites**

During the reporting period, the **main HEAL website** had 59.101 visits, with a 4.5% increase of visitors compared to 2013. 67.6% of these visits were from new visitors. The website which is updated on a weekly basis, acts as a hub for policy makers, individuals, members and interested organisations in HEAL's work. Sections are focused on policy news, press work, publications, letters, position papers, projects and a key 'in focus' area on the homepage highlights key articles. A Twitter feed is also found on the homepage to allow visitors to keep up with the latest news via this tool.

Under the 2014 work programme, HEAL was able to revamp two of its main project sites: 26 March saw the re-launch of the Chemicals Health Monitor's English website and the launch of the German version; and on 5 May 2014 HEAL presented the overhauled Know your air for Health website, which features information on air pollution and health in English, German, French, Spanish and since November 2014 also Polish.

Funding from the European Climate Foundation (ECF) also enabled HEAL to set up the first ever full Polish language website. It currently features information on air quality and energy, but in the medium term information on other aspects of environmental pollution will be added.

In addition, HEAL in its capacity as the EDC-Free Europe Secretariat, was able to secure dedicated funding for an online platform for citizens to respond to an EU consultation on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). At the beginning of December 2014, this platform, available in 7 languages, was launched, and over 20,000 individuals took action until the close of the consultation on 16 January 2015. In total the EU Commission received 27,087 responses – a total of 22,411 contributions were received via the official EU online survey, of which 25,000 (an impressive 93%) were submitted via external NGO websites including our online platform [www.no2hormonedisruptingchemicals.org](http://www.no2hormonedisruptingchemicals.org) The main EDC-Free Europe campaign website [www.edc-free-europe.org](http://www.edc-free-europe.org) saw an increase of 46.9% more visitors (from the last reporting period), mainly due to the success of the online platform and a clear HEAL/EDCFree strategy to direct people taking action on the platform to also check out the resources and news on the EDC-Free the main website.

**Project websites:** <http://www.env-health.org/resources/projects/>

- Chemicals Health Monitor: <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/> and <http://www.chemikaliengesundheit.org/>
- Sick of Pesticides: <http://www.pesticidescancer.eu/>

- Prescription for a Healthy Planet: <http://www.env-health.org/policies/climate-change/prescription-for-a-healthy-planet>
- Healthier Environments for Children: <http://cehape.env-health.org/>
- Know your air for health: <http://www.knowyourairforhealth.eu/>
- Choosing our future: <http://www.env-health.org/policies/chemicals/choosing-our-future/>
- Stay Healthy, stop mercury: <http://www.env-health.org/resources/projects/stay-healthy-stop-mercury/>
- EDC Free Europe [www.edc-free-europe.org](http://www.edc-free-europe.org)
- HEAL Poland <http://healpolska.pl/>

## Social media development

### **TWITTER**

*INCREASE OF 508 TWEETS FROM LAST REPORTING PERIOD AND 924 NEW FOLLOWERS (HEAL TWITTER)*

*INCREASE OF 332 TWEETS FROM LAST REPORTING PERIOD AND 272 NEW FOLLOWERS (EDC-FREE TWITTER)*

*526 TWEETS IN REPORTING PERIOD AND 189 NEW FOLLOWERS (HEAL POLAND TWITTER)*

HEAL's overall objective for using Twitter is to influence, to inform and be informed, to mobilise and be mobilised. It works to raise HEAL's profile and spread our messages in multiple languages via several Twitter accounts (e.g. HEAL, HEAL Poland and project/campaign accounts CHM – EN, DE, and EDCFree), as well as providing followers with perspectives to reach influential and wider audiences.

For the second year in a row this area of communication has been particularly successful, and is used on a daily basis by HEAL for outreach to EU and national policy-makers, member organisations, journalists, partner organisations, the public, trendsetters and bloggers, and health professionals. HEAL's communications team also carries out research to identify key people to influence.

HEAL has a unique Twitter account as it is so diverse in the policy areas that it covers and in the types of tweets that it creates – including highlighting key facts and figures, announcing new publications and reports, press releases, letters, position papers and news articles, sharing info-graphics and photos from events and conferences, starting conversations, interacting with users and followers on twitters and thanking organisations and policy makers for their work. HEAL aims to tweet on average 8 times a day with additional efforts on key dates throughout the year. As current trends show a decrease in the popularity of websites as a first reference point for news and information, and an increase in the use of Twitter as an information hub, HEAL has taken this opportunity to step up its visibility and outreach via this communication channel.

In order to still make sure visitors go to HEAL's main website, the communications team strategically links to articles, press releases, publications, letters, position papers and other resources in its tweets. As a result, the top referrals to HEAL's website often come via Twitter. HEAL's research means we are in line with current trends by significantly stepping up outreach via Twitter.

The Communications team has increased the number of tweets by 508 from the last reporting period, with 271 new followers including new EU Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella, and re-elected MEP Michele Rivasi, and many journalists. As the popularity of Twitter continues to grow, particularly for EU policy makers, HEAL focuses efforts on sharing our messages with them and their followers. Consequently, we have positive feedback from policy makers from different EU Institutions, which shows that HEAL has significantly gained visibility with new key decision-makers, and has improved access to them.

MEP Sirpa Pietikainen (Finland), with 13.1K followers retweeted HEAL with:

[@spietikainen](https://twitter.com/spietikainen) Health NGO: 'Endocrine disruptors are one of the biggest public health threats of this century' <http://ift.tt/17Obuio>

EU Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, with nearly 5,000 followers, has retweeted HEAL on several occasions, for example:

[Health&Environment @HealthandEnv - Via @euobs '@V Andriukaitis intends to help member states face challenges of chronic diseases' bit.ly/1EwTVjt #health #trade #EU](#)

EU Environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella mentioned HEAL in a tweet following a Green10 meeting:

[@KarmenuVella Nov 24 and thanks to green10.org @GreenpeaceEU @ceebankwatch @HealthandEnv @Green Europe @CANEurope & @IYNForg pic.twitter.com/L9RaPS9nnb](#)

A successful aspect of HEAL's social media work over the past year are the well planned and targeted 'social media packs' provided particularly to HEAL members for the launch of a major new report, news story, new science with a clear and targeted approach. One example is the social media pack provided for the launch of the report 'Health costs in the EU – How much are related to EDCs?' in June 2014. The Communications team prepared over 30 sample tweets, many with info graphics from the report, that were shared with members and partner organisations to increase visibility of the new report – tweets were targeted at policy makers and journalists in particular.

Another example, is the effective use of Twitter for the EU consultations on EDCs (from December 2014 – January 2015). As a result of a planned social media strategy containing comprehensive tweets and Facebook posts, HEAL's second Twitter account on EDCs @EDCFree was viewed over 7,500 times during the period of the consultation (6 weeks). The account received 98 new followers, 89 retweets, not mentioning the tweets which mentioned @EDCFree, or the hashtags for the consultation including #EDCFree and #NO2EDCs #NO2HormoneDisruptingChemicals.

Not only are 'social media packs' put together for major launches and new stories but also for key dates of importance to HEAL, such as Global Frackdown Day, the Global Day of action against coal, World Asthma Day, World Cancer Day, Pesticides Action Week and the European week against Cancer. Sample tweets, (in several languages where appropriate) are sent to members to use and share. Positive feedback is often received.

HEAL has expanded the use of social media through activities available for users including popular Twitter storms, hashtags and tools such as Thunderclaps. For the EU EDC consultation, a special Thunderclap was launched aiming to gain support for answering the public consultation. This tool was a success and reached its target of 100 supporters, earning a reaching an audience of 240,926.

#### **FACEBOOK**

*551 NEW LIKES (HEAL PAGE)*

*36 NEW LIKES (HEAL COAL AND HEALTH)*

*18 NEW LIKES (SICK OF PESTICIDES)*

*91 NEW LIKES (EDC-FREE)*

*541 LIKES (HEAL POLAND)*

*19 LIKES (CHM EN) AND 11 LIKES (CHM DE)*

HEAL not only uses Twitter as a communications and outreach tool but also HEAL's main Facebook page gained over 550 likes compared to the last reporting period. Facebook is used in a different way to Twitter and aims to outreach on a personal level to its followers. Through research, HEAL's finds the most effective way to reach policy makers is through Twitter, whereas Facebook is used on a more personal basis. As a consequence, HEAL received several personalised messages and posts to its Facebook wall from its members, individuals and organisations – such as Action for Breast Cancer Foundation, new HEAL member Fundacion Alborada, and the European Medical Students' Association.

## **Results**

Media coverage: Overall, this year's 33 press releases produced more than 250 published or broadcast news media articles.

The number of articles in quality European national newspapers has increased significantly this year. For example, HEAL has featured several times in UK's *The Guardian*, which has an online global audience of 7.35 million readers (second only in Europe to the UK *Daily Mail*). HEAL was also quoted extensively in leading newspapers in Poland, including a front page article in *Gazeta Wyborcz*.

Opportunities for HEAL staff to take part in TV and radio news programmes and documentaries have also increased. During the past year, HEAL policy staff appeared in a debate of European Parliament television station and in programmes on both German and Polish TV. When Executive Director, Genon K. Jensen was in Malta for World Cancer Day, HEAL was featured twice, including in a front page article in the *Times of Malta*, the leading national newspaper. A video interview was available on *Times of Malta* website. In addition, Genon Jensen appeared on breakfast television in Malta.

### **Indicators (projection of work programme in brackets):**

- 53 Press releases (projected: 30)
- Increased number of visitors to HEAL main website by 4.5%
- 1 Annual review (projected: 1)
- 3028 Tweets on all of HEAL's accounts; 1346 Twitter posts on HEAL's main account alone (projected: 100)
- Increased followers on twitter from 1,200 to 4,569 (projected total number: 4,000)
- 393 posts on HEAL's different Facebook sites (projected: 20); increased number of likes by 696 (projected: 400)

# Network capacity building and Network enlargement/new members

## Activities

### Annual General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly of HEAL members is HEAL's highest decision-making body. The 2014 was particularly fruitful for the further development of HEAL as an organisation, with specific sessions on HEAL's strategic action plan for 2020 and a capacity building workshop on EU institutional change.

The AGA elected HEAL's new Executive Committee for the years 2015-17, for which a record number of 12 candidates stood for election. It is comprised of:

- Peter van den Hazel, International Network on Children's Health and Environment, President
- Marie-Christine Dewolf, Institute Publique Hainaut, Vice-President
- Roberta Savli, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Disease Patients Associations (EFA), Treasurer
- Indre Butiene, Klaipeda University, Member
- Lynn Ladbrook, Breast Cancer Action UK, Member
- Ruth Eccheverria, Alborada Foundation, Member
- Emma Woodford, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Member. Ms. Woodford was later replaced by Nina Renshaw, EPHA's Executive Director

Members also discharged the accounts for 2014, and approved the indicative budgets for 2015-17, as well as the work programme. The AGA also saw intensive exchanges on HEAL's strategic action plan for 2015-20 with a dedicated session, as well as on the new European Parliament and EU Commission. In addition, members received a copy of HEAL's Annual review and an update on achievements from Executive Director Genon K. Jensen.

The AGA also welcomed seven new members:

- Alliance for Cancer Prevention (UK), which campaigns for the acceptance of environmental and occupational risk factors for cancer.
- Alborada Foundation (Spain), which focuses on healthcare related to environmental diseases, health rights, and the protection of the environment.
- Community Hygiene Concern (UK), which aims to protect people, especially children, and pets from parasites, including head lice.
- Israel Union for Environmental Defense, which is a leading environmental advocacy organisation that has recently launched a "Chemicals of concern" project.
- Klaipeda University (Lithuania), which has a faculty of health science that is particularly strong on environmental health issues.
- Phyto victims (France), which was created to help professional farmers and individuals who are victims of pesticides. Its aims include informing people and professionals about the impacts of chemicals, and especially pesticides on their health.
- Romanian Society of Pulmonology, which aims to promote the development of health care in respiratory diseases and to contribute to the training of doctors and nurses and the provision of public education on the importance and prevention of respiratory diseases

Prior to the AGA, HEAL had specifically carried out outreach in Italy and Latvia, to recruit new member organisations from the EU presidencies. However, our efforts were not fruitful in either country – for Latvia this is connected to the fact that the NGO network in the country is very weak and that groups that fit HEAL's profile don't seem to exist.

## Building members' engagement and capacity on EU policy processes

2014 saw HEAL take members engagement on EU advocacy activities, science to policy communication to new heights. Working together with our members and increasing their capacity on EU policy processes on environment, health, climate and energy is a thread that runs through all of HEAL's areas of work as defined in the work programme. For this reason our members are important multipliers on HEAL's policy work and messages in their respective networks.

HEAL is an organisation that prides itself in the high numbers of members involved in the implementation of its work programme, and 2014 confirmed and amplified this priority.

Highlights of member collaboration include:

- **Climate and energy:** The collaboration with HEAL's member EFA's Polish branch for Spirometry Week saw hundreds of Polish doctors receive HEAL's information on how energy generation, particularly coal power, links to health; in Austria we teamed up with our member ISDE Austria to present the health economic evidence on coal power plants
- **Air quality:** Advocacy and communications work with members ERS, EFA, EPHA, Cancer Prevention and Education Society, IDEA, INCHES led to saving the EU's clean air package from withdrawal. We were particularly pleased that HEAL member AIM and the Belgian non-profit health insurers became involved in these EU policy deliberations.
- **Chemicals Safety and REACH:** Teaming up with member Women in Europe for a Common Future helped to educate German health groups on the science and policy on hazardous chemicals, and reach new partners such as Breast Cancer Action Germany
- **Chemicals: Endocrine Disruptors:** More than 10 HEAL members worked to promote the EDC consultation platform, which led to a record number of over 20,000 citizens participating in a very technical consultation. More than 10 HEAL members also participate in the monthly coordination calls set up for the EDC free Europe alliance, that HEAL hosts
- **Chemicals: Endocrine Disruptors:** Members RES, WECF, EPHA, Breast Cancer UK, Alborada Foundation, Phytovictims joined forces to share the health economic evidence on endocrine disruptor exposure and call on the EU for regulatory action
- **Environment, trade and EU economic policy:** Members Action for Breast Cancer Foundation Malta, ISDE Austria, EPHA, Generations Futures, Initiativ Liewensufank, IDEA, WECF sign on to joint letters expressing concerns on TTIP and disseminate information in their networks
- **EU institutional change:** More than 20 HEAL members participate in capacity building workshop; Alborada Foundation, Portuguese Society for Environmental Health, Alborada Foundation meet their national MEPs; members take part in social media and advocacy action to strengthen environmental protection with the new EU Commission
- **Addressing global challenges:** HEAL member London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine helps to disseminate information on the benefits to health of climate mitigation action

One key instrument to keep members abreast of policy developments and gather their expertise and input are HEAL's 11 virtual working groups and listserves. Some of the listserves are also open to HEAL's partners, to intensify collaboration. In 2014, we set up a new listserve to strengthen collaboration with Serbian health and medical professionals on air quality, energy and health. A listserve on air quality&health is also being launched in summer 2015.

## Teaming up with health and medical partners on environmental threats

Important stepping stones were also made with partners in the health, climate, environmental field that are not HEAL members. These collaborations help to amplify health messages and HEAL's impact as an organisation.

Some highlights include:

- Energy in Eastern Europe: Poland, Serbia: Statements by powerful medical organisations on the need to consider health in energy deliberations.
- Energy transition in Germany: kick-off of a collaboration with the German Medical Association, the largest doctors' representation in the country, to explore energy transition and health issues
- Air quality: the European COPD Coalition, the UK's Royal College of Physicians and others helped to save the air package
- Chemicals: Endocrine Disruptors: The European Cancer League took up the call for regulation of endocrine disruptors with Members of the European Parliament in January 2015.
- Climate Change and Energy: the strengthened ties with the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the Healthy Energy Initiative help to reach more policy-makers at a global scale

## **Results**

The 2014 LIFE+ grant has enabled HEAL to improve organisational development and significantly increase its members capacity and involvement on EU policy processes. This increased engagement and effectiveness in carrying out advocacy work is particularly important with a new EU Commission whose priorities negate environmental and health protection. Results of this increased engagement are evident immediately with the large participation in the EU consultation on endocrine disruptors and the decision to carry on negotiations of the air quality package following large public outcry.

In addition, HEAL progressed in its outreach and standing in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, as a region where civil society is still weak and NGO engagement challenging: in Poland and Serbia we now collaborate with more than a dozen health and medical groups and individual experts, and particularly in Poland HEAL's visibility has increased exponentially in the year. HEAL welcomed its first member in Romania as a result of our energy&health outreach in the country.

The 3 objectives defined for 2014 were therefore all reached.

In the medium term, the strengthened collaboration and intensified strategic exchange of 2014 will help to better implement the 7 EU environmental action programme at national level.

### **Indicators:**

- 27 events organised (projected: 19)
- 20 members participating in 3 public consultations (projected 12 members in 4 consultations)
- 393 Facebook posts (projected: 100)
- 7 new members (projected: 5)

**Génon Jensen,**  
**Executive Director**

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)  
E-mail: [genon@env-health.org](mailto:genon@env-health.org)  
Tel: +32 2 234 36 44

**Anne Stauffer**  
**Deputy Director**

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)  
Email: [anne@env-health.org](mailto:anne@env-health.org)  
Tel: +32 2 234 36 43

**Health and Environment Alliance  
(HEAL)**

28, Boulevard Charlemagne  
B-1000 Brussels – Belgium  
Tel.: +32 2 234 36 40

E-mail: [info@env-health.org](mailto:info@env-health.org)

Website: [www.env-health.org](http://www.env-health.org)

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



HEAL gratefully accepts the support of the European Union (EU) for the production of this publication. The responsibility for the content lies with the authors and the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU institutions and funders.