

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2012



**HEAL**

*Promoting environmental policy  
that contributes to good health*

Promoting public health through a healthy  
environment in Europe and beyond



Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

# About HEAL

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union (EU). With the support of more than 65 member organisations, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Our broad alliance represents health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NGOs, scientists and public health research institutes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations, as well as national and local groups.

## Annual Review 2012

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## Photo front cover

HEAL focuses its work at EU level in Brussels. The front cover shows the colours of HEAL's policy issues incorporated into the Atomium, an iconic image of the city. © Flickr Creative Commons

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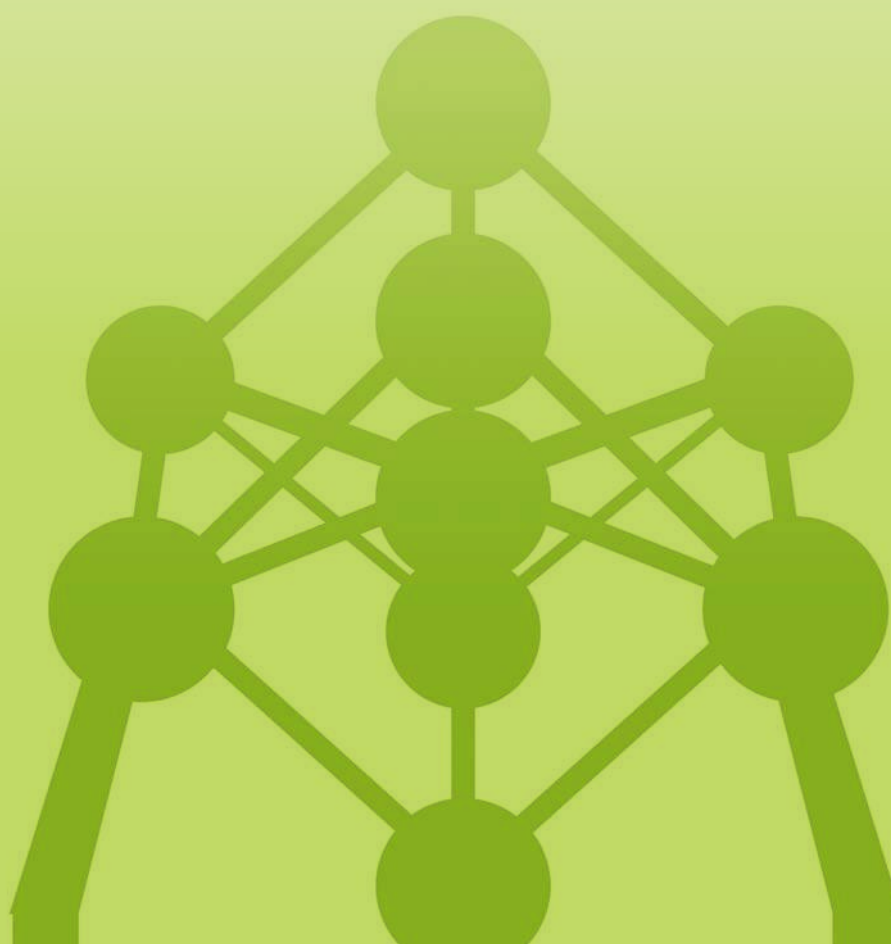
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# Content

Policy highlights	
• <i>Environment and health</i>	4
• <i>Climate and energy</i>	6
• <i>Chemicals</i>	8
• <i>Pesticides</i>	11
• <i>Air quality</i>	12
Mapping HEAL membership	14
Partnerships	16
Communications	18
Finances	20
HEAL secretariat	21
Executive Committee	22



# Environment and health



Given the strategic discussions on setting EU environment and health priorities until 2020, HEAL worked to ensure environmental health prevention and measures were firmly embedded in the 7th Environment Action Programme (7EAP).

We also helped bring the health impacts of noise levels to EU discussions, and started the first-ever health and environment film prize at the 30th International Film Festival in Paris.

## 7EAP - health becomes a priority

Timeline

### • April 2012

HEAL initiates joint open letter from a health coalition to EU environmental ministers.

### • May 2012

HEAL's toolkit for the Commission's 7EAP public consultation achieves record input from public interest groups including the Standing Committee of European Doctors, asthma, allergy and cancer groups, as well as consumers and trade unions.

### • June 2012

HEAL congratulates environment ministers for their Council conclusions which include health priorities.

The June 2012 Environment Council conclusions include a call to the Commission for the following priorities to be included in the 7EAP

- Reduce exposure to EDCs, especially for children

- Assess how combination effects of hazardous chemicals may be harming us
- Reduce peoples' exposure to chemicals in daily products
- Reduce noise
- Improve air quality
- Monitor the pollutants in our body.

### • December 2012

HEAL reacts to Commission's 7EAP proposal – environmental health could do better.

### • January – March 2013

HEAL and members meet with MEPs and Member States' representatives to provide expertise for European Parliament and Council responses to 7EAP.

## Health and environment film prize launched

As part of its 10th year anniversary celebration, HEAL initiated the health and environment prize at the 30th International Environmental Film Festival (FIFE) in Paris, which reached out to over 14,000 viewers through the films and information provided by HEAL's grassroots French members, including a dedicated brochure (below).



The jury for the health and environment film prize included a film maker, two leading international health and environment scientists, the leaders of two major European networks and representatives of two leading French non-governmental organisations addressing health and environmental issues.



Winning US film maker Ed Brown (above) receiving the award for his documentary film "Unacceptable levels", which addresses the theme of chemicals that are invading our environment and puts practical questions to the audience about these substances and where they are found.



Judges from left to right: Yannick Vicaire, Réseau Environnement Santé (RES); Nadine Lauverjat, Générations Futures; Sylvie Gilman, Independent documentary film director; Sascha Gabizon, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF); Sylvia Medina, French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS); Monika Kosinska, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA); and, Robert Barouki, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM). Judges participated in their personal capacity.

## Croatia's EU accession – capacity building

In July 2013, Croatia became the 28th member of the European Union (EU). Throughout 2012, HEAL worked with Croatian NGO, Zelena akcija, a member of Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE), to build up a rich exchange to highlight the benefits of EU membership for people's health.

This project drew on HEAL's networks and resources developed at a capacity building workshop for the Croatian health and medical community in 2006, and particularly involved HEAL members: the Croatian Nurses Association and PIN for Health.

## Prevention of chronic disease highlighted in EU public consultation

In April 2012 HEAL and many public health and medical groups responded to the EU Commission (DG SANCO) public consultation on the future of EU and national measures to tackle chronic diseases.



Loukas Georgiou, representing the Cyprus EU Presidency, informs on EU health ministers work on chronic diseases, including prevention measures that address protection at early stages of life. (HEAL Annual General Assembly 2012).

## Do EU noise laws go far enough?

As discussions on new EU vehicle noise standards were heating up in the European Parliament, HEAL made significant contributions to the discussions both directly to policy makers through personal contact and during a meeting organised in the European Parliament, as part of its partnership with Transport and Environment (T&E). This partnership also developed a briefing, a joint statement on traffic noise signed by 16 NGOs, and a video (above) to raise policy makers' and public awareness on the issue.



For International Noise Awareness Day, HEAL jointly promoted a video with T&E and EEB on what citizens think about noise. The video is available on YouTube.

## EFSA should reform

On the 10th anniversary of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), HEAL joined a platform of civil society groups led by Corporate Europe Observatory to present EFSA with ideas for reforming the agency. These included preventing conflicts of interest, improving its transparency and accountability, and ensuring wider scientific participation in its work.



Brussels journalist asks an EFSA official whether the time for reform is ripe.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

The European example: What have we learned about Health and the Environment?, San Francisco Medical Journal, June 2012

Disappointment over EP vote on noise limits, Europolitics , 7 February 2013

Film showing effects of chemicals on human health wins award, Chemical Watch, 27 February 2013

***"This excellent report shows that the application of the precautionary principle can be an engine for innovation in Europe,"***

said Lisette van Vliet, Senior Policy Officer at HEAL. Translation from French article, 'Europe needs to pay greater heed to warnings according to a report from the European Environmental Agency (EEA)', La Gazette Santé-Social, 25 January 2013.

# Climate and energy



Mobilising health groups to share evidence that phasing out fossil fuels can prevent climate change impacts and promote health.

In 2012, HEAL's climate and energy work expanded to include advocacy and research on the health impacts of coal power generation and shale gas exploitation. We continued to build the evidence and support from the health constituency at country level, with targeted work in Germany, Poland and Romania.

## EU Presidency puts health on the climate agenda

HEAL took advantage of the Danish EU Presidency conference on climate and health to meet with Danish health minister Astrid Krag and to present materials at a stand to highlight the health benefits of climate action (shown below).



## Evidence of health benefits mobilises for higher EU climate targets

HEAL reports and briefings on the health benefits of reducing greenhouse emissions have continued to raise policy and public awareness of the potential health savings and prevention from higher EU climate targets.



A briefing on the Commission's 2012 assessment on moving beyond 20% EU climate goal highlights why this analysis underestimates health benefits.



Danish health minister Astrid Krag gave examples why tackling climate change will benefit our health.

## Promoting health champions to World Health Organization

During the WHO Europe conference on climate change and health entitled "Lessons learnt in the European Region", HEAL shared compelling resources and testimonies from climate and health champions across Europe and beyond. HEAL is a member of the WHO European Working Group on climate change and its impact on health (HIC).

## Building the global climate and health movement

### Co-initiator of Doha Declaration and Wellbeing

At the international level, HEAL was instrumental in promoting a climate and health statement at the UN Doha climate talks working as a partner in the Global Climate and Health Alliance. The Doha declaration on Climate, Health and Well-being was signed by 80 organisations and 1,200 individuals.

It sets out what needs to be done and how the health community can help solve what WHO has called the

greatest public health threat of the 21st century. HEAL member groups played a key role in gaining signatories.

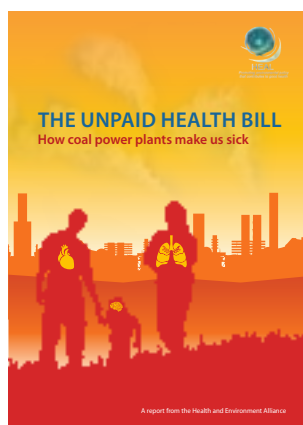
The Doha declaration highlights how reductions in emissions can deliver many benefits to health worldwide:

*"Reducing fossil fuel consumption simultaneously improves air quality and improves public health. Shifting to cleaner, safer, low carbon energy systems will save millions of lives each year."*

The Doha declaration will be used as an advocacy and organising tool within health and medical organisations at national, regional and global level to encourage more urgent and ambitious action on climate change.



## Initiating a debate on coal and health in Europe



As part of its coal and health education and advocacy campaign to phase out coal power generation by 2050 in Europe, HEAL launched a landmark report in March 2013.

The report was developed by health, medical and economic experts from within the HEAL network, and the results released in six languages.

HEAL's report is the first ever to quantify the health impacts caused by coal power generation in Europe. This health bill reaches up to €42.8 billion in the EU every year.

The report also features testimonies from leading health advocates, medical experts and policy makers

on why they are concerned about coal.

*"The external costs to health from coal power generation are bigger than for any other energy source. The costs of reducing greenhouse gases are partially paid back because of lower health costs."*



Professor Paul Wilkinson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

The report has been quoted by national politicians and articles about the report have appeared in the UK, France, Italy, Croatia, Germany, Romania, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, USA, Cyprus, Greece, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Cambodia, China, India, and South Korea.

The info-graphic (top right) appeared in an article about the HEAL report published in the Huffington Post entitled "Coal Kills, Time to kill Coal".



## Shale gas: a dangerous experiment

As the European Parliament prepared a report on hydrofracturing, or fracking, of shale for natural gas, HEAL collaborated with others in an NGO policy statement

calling on EU member states to suspend existing fracking projects and ban new ones. HEAL also provides a platform for exchange for grassroots and national groups, for science and policy development sharing.



Shale drilling pad in Bulgaria.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Coal-fired power plants making Europeans sick: report, AFP, March 2013

Coal-fired plants cause huge health bill in Europe, Deutsche Welle, March 2013

Health groups call for phase out of coal-fired plants, British Medical Journal, March 2013



***"Everybody is exposed to coal pollution as it is part of the pollution cocktail that we breathe. Pollutants released from the smoke stacks can travel over distances of several hundred kilometres"***

Julia Huscher, Coal and Health Officer, HEAL was featured in the Tcktcktk, March 2013.

# Chemicals



Bringing a constant flow of new evidence to policy makers, health experts and groups, and the public on harm to health from everyday chemical exposures.

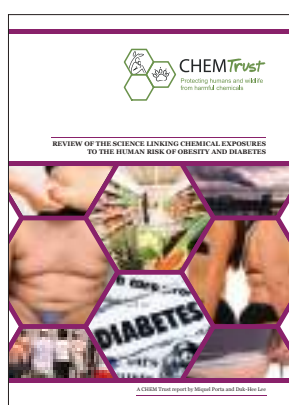
During the year, HEAL organised a breakfast meeting with an expert scientist on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in the European Parliament, and promoted a research review on obesity and diabetes in Brussels and in European and international media. HEAL also authored articles in two leading international medical journals on early exposure to chemicals and endocrine disruption as well as coordinating a joint European "EDC-Free" campaign.

## Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) linked to obesity and diabetes

HEAL disseminated and promoted new science on links between chemicals and the risk for obesity and diabetes, which was the subject of a report released by UK organisation CHEM Trust in March 2012 entitled,

*"Review of the Science linking chemical exposures to the human risk of obesity and diabetes".*

HEAL's contribution was to co-produce a concise and reader-friendly brochure with Chem Trust and to led the media work with Brussels-based journalists with the help of a tailored press release.



As of June 2012 the report has featured over 175 times in newspapers, journals, radio and TV stations in 14 European and 21 non-European countries.

## The brochure: Chemicals in our food and consumer products: a missing link in the epidemics of obesity and diabetes?

Published jointly with CHEM Trust, HEAL coordinated the translation and Europe-wide media launch. The leaflet is available in English, French, Spanish, Hungarian and German, and translations are planned for Dutch, Czech and Swedish.

The leaflet describes the new research that indicates contaminants play a role in obesity and diabetes. It also gives direction on policy.



## EDC-Free campaign call and website

As campaign secretariat for the EDC-Free platform of NGOs and other public interest groups, HEAL led the development of a joint NGO campaign call and

demands for EU and national policy makers. The call was translated into French and Spanish, and used by many health, environmental, consumer groups to show concern during the parliamentary discussions.



EDC-Free campaign website

## Risks of early life exposure put into focus

HEAL coordinated joint NGO media work and outreach to scientific networks to promote the PPTOX III conference on early life exposures, and its outcomes, including the scientific consensus statement, *Developmental origins of non-communicable disease: Implications for research and public health*. Thus far, 86 leading scientists from around the world have signed this statement on the

vulnerability of developing children to environmental chemical exposure.



Philippe Grandjean, Harvard School of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark is one of the authors of the statement.

## EDCs and reproductive health

European Parliament breakfast briefing “Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and EU public health protection”



Professor Shanna H. Swan, a renowned scientist specialising in reproductive medicine, warned MEPs about the health effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) known as phthalates which can end up in food via pesticides or plastics. In an interview with *EurActiv* after the event, she call on regulators to better protect consumers against those “hidden chemicals”.

was leading US scientist and expert on phthalates Professor Shanna Swan. The event was co-organised by HEAL and Réseau Environnement Santé and hosted by Danish MEP Christel Schaldemose.



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(De RIBAU COURT photography)



HEAL's Executive Committee member Andre Cicoella, emphasised recent bans on EDCs in France to MEP Christel Schaldemose (shown above).

HEAL's Senior Policy Adviser on Chemicals, Lisette van Vliet laid out the potential opportunities for EU policy action on EDCs for better public health protection.

## EDC criteria briefing



For the policy discussions on defining EDC criteria, HEAL together with CHEM Trust issued a briefing for policy makers and regulatory authorities in March 2012 entitled “Regulating chemicals with endocrine disrupting properties”. The briefing explains the upcoming decisions on EDC criteria and puts forward HEAL's demands. Also available in Spanish and French.

## European Parliament initiates report on EDCs and public health

HEAL worked with its members and partners to highlight the science, and bring the health perspectives from across Europe and different health constituencies on how EDCs may be contributing to ill health as the European Parliament prepared its report. It led the NGO coordination, and worked with Members of the European Parliament from across political parties.

The Parliament's report: *“Calls on the Commission to revise its EU Strategy on endocrine disruptors so that it delivers effective protection of human health by placing greater emphasis on the precautionary principle ... to work towards reducing human exposure to endocrine disruptors where necessary.”*



MEP Asa Westlund, Rapporteur for EP report on EDCs



retweeted by MEP Asa Westlund

## HEAL secretariat published articles in prestigious journals:

- Early-life prevention of non-communicable diseases, **The Lancet**, 5 January 2013

- Revising the EU strategy on endocrine disruptors: nearing a decisive moment, **Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health**, 9 November 2012

## Chronic disease and EDCs workshop

HEAL organised a workshop in September 2012 to showcase new science, tools and build capacity on the policy opportunities for EDCs in the EU.



Carol Kwiatkowski from the Endocrine Disrupting Exchange (TEDX) shows participants the critical windows of development website as a science based tool for exploring environmental origins and disease patterns.



Prof. Robert Baroucki, INSERM, gives an overview of the science on prenatal exposure and EDCs. He was co-chair of the 2012 PPTOX conference which adopted a scientific consensus statement on nutritional and developmental origins of disease.

The workshop aimed to highlight both the science and the tools that demonstrate the opportunities and important role that representatives of different disease groups can play in parliamentary discussions on EDCs. Although



Cathy Rigolle from the Flemish Cancer League speaks about the response to their recent report on how chemicals are implicated in the rise of cancer, and which policy measures her association was recommending.

recent regulations on pesticides and biocides foresee removing EDCs from the EU market, implementation of protective law is far too slow. New science on the dangers of both EDC mixtures and

exposure in early life were needed in the discussions on the European Parliament report due in autumn 2012.



French not-for-profit health insurance organisations raise awareness on EDCs and health through a traveling poster exhibition and workshops with HEAL member, Réseau Environnement Sante (RES). Jean Louis Darques, General Secretary, Mutualité Française Ile de France is shown here with Genon Jensen, Executive Director, HEAL at Bye-Bye BPA campaign celebration, February 2013.

## First EU Biomonitoring results

Results of the analysis of 4,000 urine and hair samples from mothers and children in 17 countries showed they were all exposed to harmful chemicals.

*"The truth is that none of these chemicals belong in our bodies. Endocrine disrupting chemicals are*

*all linked to serious health problems ranging from premature puberty in girls and birth defects in baby boys' genitals to increased risk of hormone related cancers, such as breast and prostate."*

Lisette van Vliet, HEAL

The samples were taken as part of the first-ever biomonitoring survey by COPHES and

DEMOCOPHES, two EU-funded research projects.

## Taking the message to international audiences

HEAL helped put EDCs on the agenda of international chemicals management by highlighting latest science and developments at the EU level on EDCs at the

UNEP meeting on Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Nairobi in September 2012. Delegates agreed to include new measures related to the United Nation's voluntary chemicals management programme, SAICM.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

EU plan for chemical mixtures 'lacks urgency', ENDS Europe, 31 May 2012

NGOs criticise lack of new legislation in EU mixtures plan, Chemicals Watch, 31 May 2012

Chemical effects on the brain and behaviour, Chemical Watch, 18 May 2012.

*'Despite some policy advances in regulating EDCs, serious delays still exist between the publication of new science, the recognition of these hazards in law, and reduction in public exposure.'*

Lisette van Vliet and Genon Jensen, HEAL wrote a commentary in 'Revising the EU Strategy on endocrine disruptors, Nearing a decisive moment', Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, November 2012.

# Pesticides



The risks associated with exposure to pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties became a key feature of efforts in 2012.

HEAL helped extend this message to policy makers in France, including several French senators, where an official investigation into pesticides and health was underway. We also gave special attention to reaching patients' groups affected by pesticide exposure and to the public in general during Pesticide Action Week, which took the theme of endocrine disrupting pesticides. An analysis of everyday foodstuffs by member organisation Générations Futures showed three-quarters of samples tested contained traces of hazardous pesticides. This investigation gained wide media coverage.

## Raising awareness of endocrine disrupting pesticides

The 8th edition of Pesticide Action Week, 20 – 30 March 2013, gave a special focus to endocrine disrupting pesticides, aiming to showcase the growing alternatives to pesticides. To launch the week in Brussels, HEAL together with member Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN-E) organised a journalist breakfast briefing on EDC pesticides and chemicals on 19 March.

A few days later, HEAL and PAN-E launched a video clip calling for a ban on endocrine disrupting pesticides and urging organisations to join the EDC Free campaign. Watch it at [www.edc-free-europe.org](http://www.edc-free-europe.org)

## French senate meeting brings voices from affected groups

Lisette van Vliet, HEAL's Senior Policy Officer addressed a congress on pesticides and health at the Palais du Luxembourg, Paris (Senate building) organised by Générations Futures on 23 March 2012, and co-organised by HEAL. The aim of the conference was to bring the voice of health-affected groups to the debate. Her message on the health risks associated with exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals was well-received by a large number of policy and health experts and patient representatives.

HEAL took the same message



to health-affected groups in Germany through an article in the German monthly, DNR newsletter (Nature Protection Alliance).

## Multiplying the impact of members' efforts

To demonstrate the urgency of preventive action on endocrine disrupting chemicals, Générations Futures analysed certain breakfast cereals, pasta, and processed bread and found that 75% of the samples contained traces of pesticides, all of which contain one or several organophosphate or pyrethroid substances. The results were released in March in France and HEAL issued an English press release to share the findings with EU institutions, our network and the wider European public.



Three-quarters of starchy food products analysed in France were found to contain traces of pesticides



Screenshot from the video showing Lisette van Vliet (HEAL) and Hans Muilerman (PAN Europe) explaining why endocrine disrupting pesticides and other EDCs in Europe should be taken off the market.



# Air quality

The spotlight turned on highlighting latest evidence on the harm to health from breathing in polluted air in the lead up to EU Year of Air 2013.

HEAL promoted the work of an electric car from the Netherlands which came to Brussels to measure air pollutants in different areas in Brussels, gave policy guidance to an EU research project on children's indoor air, developed joint NGO policy demands, and even won an award for our efforts.

## Electric car becomes latest advocacy tool in EU Year of Air

HEAL organised the policy workshop *"EU Year of Air – how can we reduce air pollution to improve health?"* on 13 September, as part of the AGM 2012.



Birgit Beger, Secretary General of the Standing Committee of European Doctors, representing national medical organisations in 27 European countries, emphasised the importance her members gave to health prevention, including the need for clean air.



Roberta Salvi of the European Federation of Allergy & Airways Diseases Patients' Association (EFA) described how the lives of people with lung problems were affected by poor air quality.



Professor Bert Brunekreef, one of the leading researchers in the field, gave an overview of the health effects of air pollution and an introduction to the electric, air monitoring car he had brought with him to Brussels.

Professor Bert Brunekreef is a member of the European Respiratory Society (ERS), and he took the opportunity to present their "10 Principles for clean air" to the meeting.

It provides recommendations on policy from the 11,000 respiratory experts that are ERS members.



HEAL Executive Director Génon K. Jensen speaks to members and partners.

## Photo diary of the measuring



The measuring vehicle



Inside the vehicle



Kees Meliefste and Bert Brunekreef explain how the measuring works.

How does air pollution measuring work? The Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences (IRAS), University of Utrecht, has developed a vehicle which can measure pollution levels in real time.

## Guiding policy in EU wide study on kids' air at school

HEAL provided the EU funded research project SINPHONIE with expertise for the policy context and recommendations to decision-makers as a member of its advisory board.

Researchers in the SINPHONIE project conducted the first-ever European wide monitoring of indoor air quality in schools and health effects on children. Forty scientists worked in 118 schools in 24 countries, involving around 350 classrooms and 8,000 students.

An earlier French analysis showed that three out of 10 children are exposed to poor indoor air in schools, which leads to an increase in asthma and rhinitis. Children who suffer from allergies are the most at risk from poor indoor air.



## HEALer Anne Stauffer receives a Clean Air London 2013 Award for her tireless work on air quality



HEAL Deputy Director Anne Stauffer

## Scientists warn on health effects of air pollution

The Global Burden of Disease assessment by 450 experts published this year shows that air pollution is one of the top-ten global risk factors.

The Europe office of World Health Organization, one of the authors of the assessment, issued a wake-up call to take air pollution problems

more seriously. The review of scientific evidence showed effects at lower concentration levels and associations between air pollution and new conditions such as diabetes, adverse birth effects and harm to the cognitive development of children.

HEAL shared widely the WHO results, which provide evidence-based science that EU policies are inadequate.

## Three priorities set in a common vision

HEAL was joined by over 60 environmental, health and citizens' non-profit organisations, led by HEAL, in a call for three priority actions, which would put the EU on track towards achieving healthy air quality in 2013, EU Year of Air.

## Recommendations

- Ambitious reduction commitments in the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC) for a range of pollutants, including PM2.5, methane, black carbon and mercury.
- Measures to cut emissions from all major sources, for example shipping and agriculture.

- Enforcement and strengthening of ambient air quality limits. Currently, EU limits are above the recommendations by the World Health Organization.

The joint position statement formed part of a response to an EU public consultation on the future of air quality, to which many of HEAL's members from all over Europe contributed.

*"Concrete opportunities for preventing ill-health are always good news for health insurance organisations. We intend to support all advocacy efforts in favour of reducing exposure to polluted air, including from coal-powered electricity stations in Europe."*



Dr Philippe Swennen, Project Manager, Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)

## MEDIA COVERAGE

***'We know and see that air pollution continues to be a massive problem for the health of individuals and for our economies, and we think that the MEPs need to strengthen the guidelines and should reject attempts to weaken them,'***

Anne Stauffer told a European Parliament hearing on air quality, 27 September 2012, Euractiv, Lawmakers urged to back tough clean air package.

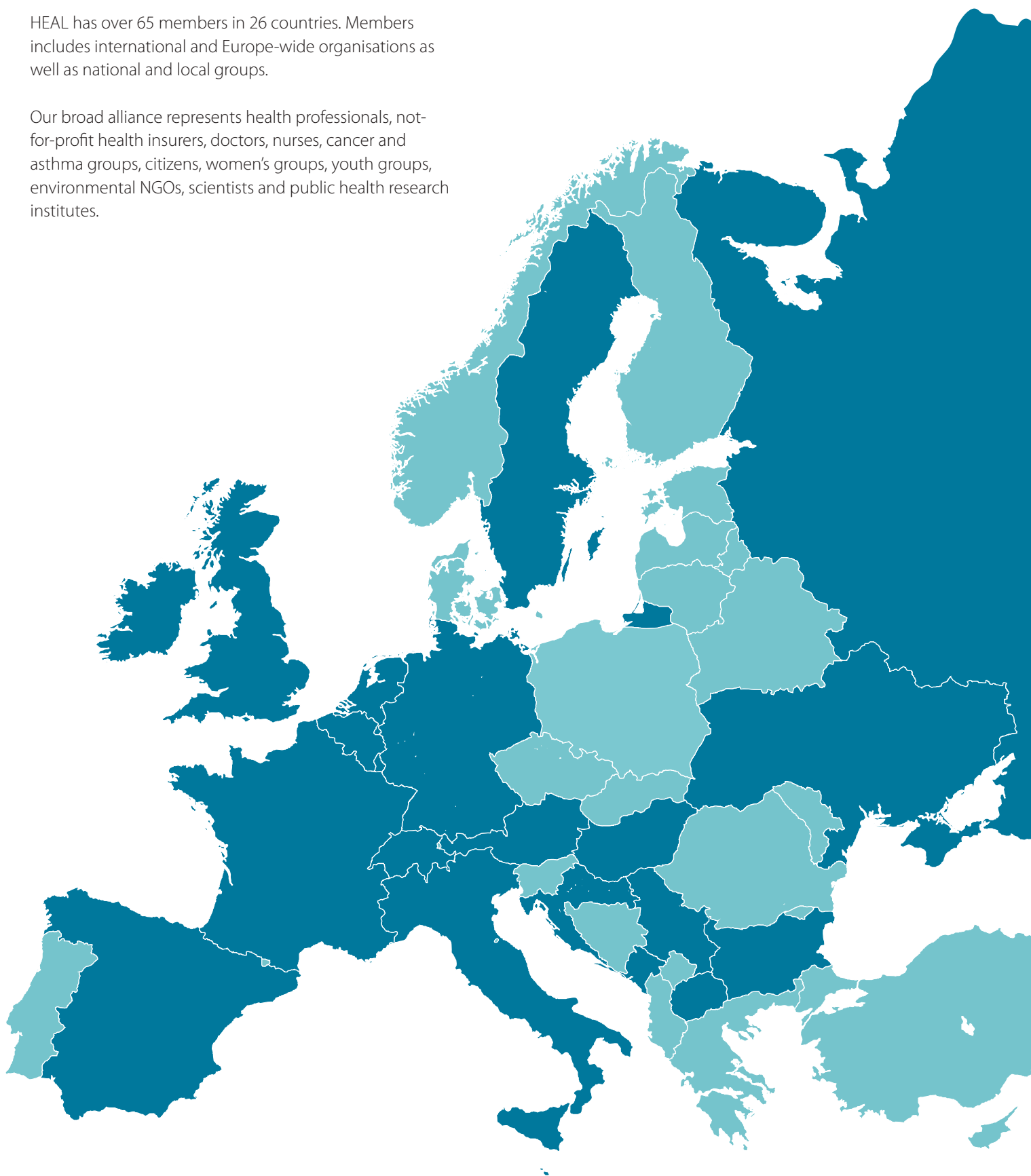
***'There is now no doubt that air pollution, and especially fine particulate matter (PM2.5), has many serious consequences for health and leads to avoidable premature deaths,'***

The Lancet, Air pollution: Europe's avoidable health risk, March 2013

# Mapping HEAL membership

HEAL has over 65 members in 26 countries. Members includes international and Europe-wide organisations as well as national and local groups.

Our broad alliance represents health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NGOs, scientists and public health research institutes.



HEAL has members in the countries shown in the darker blue on the map. HEAL also has members in the following countries: Armenia, Israel, Krygyz Republic and Uzbekistan, which are not shown on the map.

# List of HEAL members



- Action for Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF) (Malta)
- AKUT (Luxembourg)
- Appel de la jeunesse, Collectif (A2J) (France)
- Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) (Armenia)
- Association for Environmental Health (Hungary)
- Association for Research on Treatment against Cancer (ARTAC) (France)
- Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM) (Belgium)
- Associazione Culturale Pediatri (ACP) (Italy)
- Breast Cancer UK (United Kingdom)
- C2DS - Comité pour le Développement Durable en Santé (France)
- Caisse Auxiliaire d'Assurance Maladie - Invalidité (CAAMI) / Hulpkas voor Ziekte- en Invaliditeitsverzekering (HZIV) (Belgium)
- Caisse des soins de santé de la SNCB Holding (CSS) (Belgium)
- Cancer Prevention and Education Society (United Kingdom)
- Center for Reproductive Health and Environment "Perzent" (Uzbekistan)
- Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (United Kingdom)
- Centre Local de Promotion de la Santé du Brabant Wallon (CLPS bw) (Belgium)
- CEPRO-MED Health Development Promotional and Educational Center (Serbia)
- Chartered Institute for Environmental Health (United Kingdom)
- Clean Air Action Group (Levegő Munkacsoport Országos Környezetvédő Szövetség) (Hungary)
- Coalition of Associations in Healthcare (CAH) (Croatia)
- Croatian Nurses Association (Croatia)
- Department of Earth Sciences and Clinical Microbiology (Sweden)
- Eco-Accord on Environmental Problems Solution (Russia)
- Eco-sense (Macedonia)
- EcoTox Environment & Health (Armenia)
- Environment and Health Fund (EHF) (Israel)
- European Academy of Environmental Medicine (EUROPAEM) (Germany)
- European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA) (UK)
- European Federation of Allergy & Airways Diseases Patients' Association (EFA) (Belgium)
- European Lung Foundation (ELF) (United Kingdom)
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) (Belgium)
- European Respiratory Society (ERS) (Belgium)
- Fundacion Vivo Sano (Spain)
- Générations Futures (France)
- German Network Children's Health and Environment (Network CHE) (Germany)
- Green Doctors - ISDE (Ukraine)
- Greens for Montenegro (Montenegro)
- Hainaut Vigilance Sanitaire (Belgium)
- Health and Environmental Care Technical Organization (HECTOR) (Belgium)
- Initiativ Liewensufank, IBFAN Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
- Inter-Environment Wallonie (Belgium)
- International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHEs) (Netherlands)
- International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) (Switzerland)
- Irish Doctors' Environmental Association (IDEA) (Ireland)
- ISDE Austria - Ärztinnen und Ärzte für eine Gesunde Umwelt (ÄGU) (Austria)
- Landsbond van Liberale Mutualiteiten (LLM) (Belgium)
- Landsbond der Christelijke Mutualiteiten (Belgium)
- Leefmilieu (Netherlands)
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom)
- Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE) (Macedonia)
- My right to know foundation (Bulgaria)
- Nationaal Verbond van Socialistische Mutualiteiten (NVSM) (Belgium)
- Natural England (United Kingdom)
- North of England EU Health Partnership (Belgium)
- One Health Sweden (Sweden)
- Own Crossroad Foundation / Válaszúton Alapítvány (Hungary)
- Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN) (United Kingdom)
- PIN Partnership-Information-Networking for Health (Croatia)
- Public Fund Maternity and Childhood Protection (Krygyz Republic)
- Réseau Environnement Santé (RES) (France)
- Stichting Ecobaby (Netherlands)
- Union Nationale des Mutualités Libres (MLOZ) (Belgium)
- Union Nationale des Mutualités Neutrées (UNMN) (Belgium)
- Union of Ecologists' Eco Protection' (Macedonia)
- Women for Green Way for Generations (WGWG) (Armenia)
- Women in Europe for a Common Future (Netherlands)
- Women's Environmental Network (United Kingdom)

*HEAL member organisations, September 2012*

# Partnerships and engagement

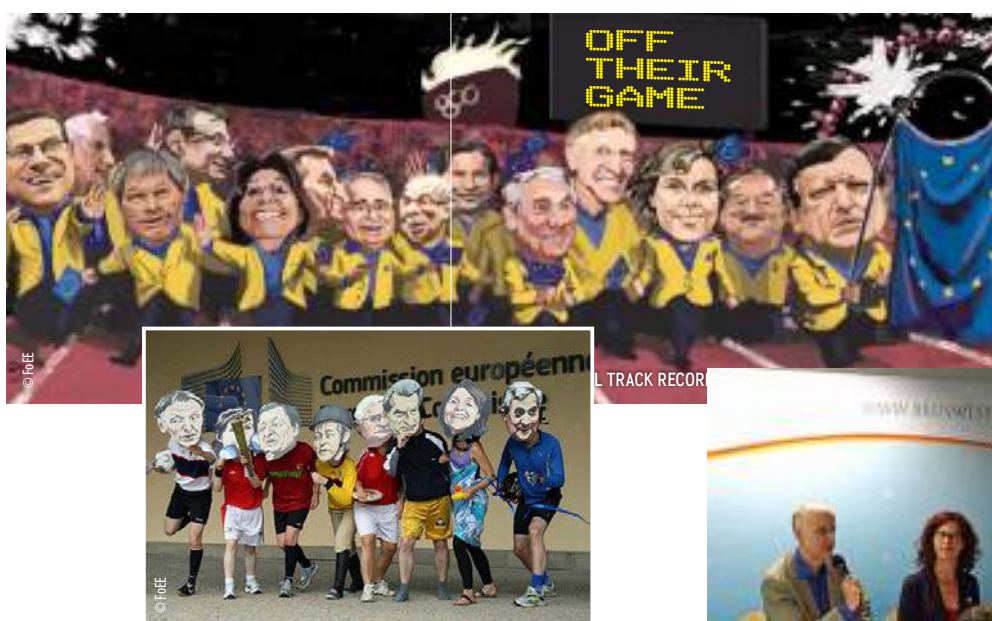


HEAL values working with other organisations to gather expertise and produce sound evidence, and to multiply the impact of our efforts.



HEAL is a member of the Green 10, a group of the ten largest European environmental organisations and networks. During the second half of 2012, HEAL held the rotating Green 10 chair, and coordinated our joint efforts in providing expertise to the EU institutions and policy makers.

## Green10 assesses Commission's "track record"



The Green 10 mid-term assessment of the European Commission was released in July 2012 with a joint report and information postcard, entitled: **Environmental Track Record for the 2010-2012 European Commission - Off Their Game**. As usual, the review reflected on the Commission's performance on environment and health protection halfway through their term in office. Inspired by the Olympic theme (due to start in London on 25 July), the report assessed progress in nine EU policy fields with impacts on the environment and reviews the track record of 13 European Commissioners and Commission President José Manuel Barroso. The conclusion was that the Commission was falling behind in efforts to create sustainable long-term prosperity in Europe.

The report was launched at a press conference on 3 July, where HEAL Executive Director Genon Jensen presented the environmental health assessment. The informational postcard



HEAL Executive Director Genon K. Jensen speaks at the Green 10 Press conference to launch the report



Génon K. Jensen passing over the torch to Commissioner Dalli puppet

helped to bring the messages from the report across to politicians and interested public. Journalists flocked to hear about the findings, and articles appeared in over 20 European and national media.

## Green 10 joint publications, press releases and letters in 2012

- Green Stimulus Measures needed to Exit Crisis, warn leading environmental groups
- Green groups: no medals in sight for Barroso II
- EU deliberations on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)
- Concern about renewal of Mandate of High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on the Reduction of Administrative Burden
- Open letter to Polish Prime Minister
- Key issues to increase the chances of the next MFF delivering on Europe 2020 priorities

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

- WHO European Environment and Health Task Force (EEHTF)
- WHO European Working Group on climate change and health (HIC)
- EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Member State Committee, Management Board and Advisory Group
- EU EDCs Expert Advisory Group; Ad Hoc Group on EDCs
- EU Stakeholder Group on review of air policy
- EU Indoor air quality expert group
- Green 10
- Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA)
- Civil Society Contact Group
- International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

## Engagement

### EU presidencies

Building up relations with the EU presidency representatives is one of the cornerstones of HEAL's activities. The aim of strengthening relations is to provide expertise and share information on EU policy developments. During the current period, we held regular exchanges and meetings with the Danish, Cypriot and Irish EU Presidencies. We also proactively shared information and met with national NGOs in these countries, and as such have increased our connections and expertise for future, more inclusive, policy making.

## Research projects

Through HEAL's involvement in EU funded research projects APHEKOM, ESCAPE, SINPHONIE, ERA-ENVHEALTH, and COPHES, we carry out two way communication from the science to the policy makers, and from the policy level to the scientists in order to ensure a better uptake of scientific evidence in policy making.

## Collaboration

### International health and environment bodies

HEAL has an ongoing association and activities with:

- Collaborative on Health and Environment (CHE)



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

# Communications

Getting HEAL's messages across



HEAL's website continues to remain a source of information on policy developments and science on health and the environment, as an easily accessible one-stop shop. It also continues to promote HEAL projects and campaign websites. 2012 saw an increase in the number of visitors to the site.



373 TWEETS

517 NEW FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

In 2012 – 2013, HEAL continued to refine and significantly increase its social media presence and activities. One particular highlight was the exceptional amount of social media coverage achieved by the launch HEAL's coal report. On launch day news of the report reached over 14,000 people on Facebook with over 4,000 hits on one post.

## National newspaper coverage

HEAL's report on coal's unpaid health bill also produced strong media coverage in national and international press as well as in European policy press. Articles appeared in The Huffington Post; Le Monde, France; Die Welt, Germany; La Stampa and Repubblica, Italy; and Volkskrant in the Netherlands.



## Policy briefings

- Briefing for MEPs on the Parliamentary environment committee's own initiative report: The protection of public health from endocrine disruptors
- Briefing for policy makers: The health benefits of greenhouse gas reduction policies
- Questions & Answers: Moving Beyond 20% - How reducing greenhouse gas emissions benefits people's health in the EU
- Ban Fracking and shale gas in Europe before it's too late
- Unconventional and unwanted: the case against shale gas
- Background Paper: Health impacts of lignite-fired power plants: The German-Polish region Lusatia
- Far-reaching health consequences of lignite power plants. The Brandenburg example (Weitreichende Gesundheitsfolgen von Braunkohlekraftwerken. Das Beispiel Brandenburg, in German only)

## Position papers

- Joint NGO position paper: NGO priorities for the review of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution
- Position Statement on shale gas, shale oil, coal bed methane and fracking
- Global Common Statement for a Toxics Free Future

## Calls to action

- Doha Declaration on climate, health and wellbeing: Health must be central to climate change
- Joint NGO submission on the EU EDC strategy as a response to the EDC AdHoc group
- Environment, Health, Women's, Workers NGOs and Trade Union Institute's written submission to EU Commission on the new community strategy for endocrine disruptors
- CHEM Trust and HEAL comments on the revised version of possible elements for the identification of endocrine disruptors

## Stakeholder consultations

HEAL contributed to the following consultations for policy changes at EU level:

- EU consultation on chronic disease policy
- Public consultation on the EU environment policy priorities for 2020: Towards a 7th EU Environment Action Programme
- Consultation on the preparation of the EU Adaptation Strategy
- Consultation on the Implementation Report of the Environmental Noise Directive (END) and on the EU Noise Policy
- Consultation process on the EIB energy lending policy review
- Ensuring sustainable development globally: EU follow up to Rio +20
- ECHA consultation on 54 potential SVHCs

## PUBLICATIONS

- The unpaid health bill: How coal power plants make us sick
- Chemicals in our food and consumer products – A missing link in the epidemics of obesity and diabetes? Leaflet in English, French, Spanish, Hungarian and German
- Briefing: Current and upcoming EU policy processes on EDCs and public health protection
- HEAL monthly newsflash
- HEAL Annual Review 2011
- Health and Environment film prize leaflet
- HEAL organisational leaflet in French
- Joint Report: Environmental Track Record for the 2010-2012 European Commission - Off Their Game
- Joint information postcard: Environmental Track Record for the 2010-2012 European Commission - Off Their Game



# Finances



HEAL's activities are funded through our membership fees and grants from the European Union, governments and international organisations, and by foundations.

HEAL is independent of any political party or commercial interest. We do not accept funding from sources with commercial interests.

HEAL's financial year ran from 15 March 2012 until 14 March 2013. The audit was carried out by an independent auditor's company.

INCOME	
EU grant	€ 342,109.00
Other grants (governments, foundations)	€ 272,295.31
Membership fees	€ 10,870.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>€ 625,274.31</b>

EXPENDITURES	
Personnel costs	€ 403,309.69
Activity costs including subcontractors	€ 113,218.83
Travel and subsistence costs	€ 40,473.96
Administration, IT and office costs	€ 57,401.83
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>€ 614,404.31</b>

<b>Provisions for social regulations</b>	<b>€ 10,870.00</b>
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As part of our commitment to transparency, HEAL is registered in the Transparency Register of the European Parliament and the European Commission (number: 00723343929-96).

# HEAL secretariat



Our committed and inspiring team are all working to create a better, healthier environment.



**Génon K. Jensen**  
Executive Director



**Anne Stauffer**  
Deputy Director



**Lisette van Vliet**  
Toxics Policy Adviser



**Julia Huscher**  
Climate and Air Quality Policy Officer



**Lucy Mathieson**  
Communications and Campaigns Officer



**Sara Azcona Zabala**  
Finance and Administrative Officer



**Diana G. Smith**  
Communications and Media Adviser

Our work was supported by:

**Martina Cropano**  
Air Quality and Health Policy Assistant

**Wim van Delft**  
Communications Assistant

We were sorry to say good-bye to:

**Christina Reinards**  
Communications and Campaigns Officer

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

We also extend our thanks to all our member organisations and partners. Many individuals and non-member organisations have also supported us.

HEAL gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the European Union for this publication. Sole responsibility for this publication lies with the authors and the funders are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

# Executive Committee



HEAL's work and mission is governed by its membership and advanced by the activities of our members and partners with the help of the Brussels-based secretariat. The organisation has two governing bodies – the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. The General Assembly is comprised of all member organisations and generally meets once a year in Brussels. HEAL's Executive Committee is made up of elected representatives of the membership. It is elected for a two-year mandate. The current members were elected in 2012.



*HEAL President*

**Peter van den Hazel**  
International Network  
for Children's Health,  
Environment and Safety (NL)



*HEAL Vice-President*

**Yannick Vicaire**  
Réseau Environnement  
Santé (FR)



*HEAL Treasurer*

**David Stone**  
Natural England (UK)



**Marie-Christine Dewolf**  
Hygiène Publique en  
Hainaut (BE)



**Roberta Savli**  
European Federation of  
Allergy & Airways Diseases  
Patients' Association (BE)



**Irina Rodriguez de la  
Flor**  
Fundacion Vivo Sano (ES)



**Monika Kosinska**  
European Public Health  
Alliance (BE)

# Our members

Participants at HEAL's General Assembly in October 2012



© François de Ribaucourt (De RIBAUCOURT photography)



**HEAL**  
*Promoting environmental policy  
that contributes to good health*



*Promoting environmental policy  
that contributes to good health*

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union (EU). With the support of more than 65 member organisations, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Our broad alliance represents health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NGOs, scientists and public health research institutes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations, as well as national and local groups.

**Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)**

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

**HEAL project websites:**

[www.env-health.org/resources/project-websites/](http://www.env-health.org/resources/project-websites/)

- Coal's unpaid health bill
- Health and environment film prize
- Chemicals Health Monitor
- Sick of Pesticides
- Healthier Environments for Children
- Know your Air for Health
- Choosing our Future (comic book on harm from chemicals)
- Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury
- Climate change good practice awards
- Damp and mould information for citizens