

Introduction

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Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

After 5 years and after the excellent and interesting meeting in Bilbao, it is my great honour and pleasure on the behalf of the Organising Committee and the staff of the Plant Protection Institute to welcome you in Poznań at the 6th International HCH and Pesticide Forum.

Our conference is organised under the auspices of the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Main Inspectorate of Plant Protection Inspection and the Marshall Office of Wielkopolska Province and it is my great pleasure to welcome at our conference:

Teresa Stachowicz - Main Inspector of the Plant Protection Inspection
and

Stefan Mikołajczak - President of Marshall Office of Wielkopolska Province.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is amazing how the initiative of the group of experts working on HCH and other unwanted pesticides problems undertaken about 10 years ago established the world-wide cooperation and initiated organising meetings every 2-3 years.

Since the beginning, Poland participated very actively in this conference. During the first HCH Forum the problem of unwanted pesticides in Poland has been presented several times and now during this Forum we would like to give you more information about our activities within the last 3 years.

Unfortunately not all our goals have been achieved and we are not fully satisfied with our accomplishments. However, we are always optimistic and would like to inform you about several projects, which are very important for our country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5 years ago we invited to Poznań our partners from Eastern Europe to participate in 4th HCH Forum. The guests from Belarus and Lithuania gave their first presentation about unwanted pesticides. Also some participants from Eastern Europe were present at the 5th Forum in 1998. It was our goal as the organiser of 6th International HCH and Pesticides Forum to invite a full representation from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. According to information from Stanislaw Stobiecki, 2000 Emails were sent not only informing about our meeting but also inviting for participation. Now we have among us our colleagues from more than 10 countries from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia but this is still not what we hoped for. There are still several countries that are not represented despite the offer to cover all expenses, including travel costs. So, excuse us but we tried hard to do our best, there was nothing else we could do.

On the other hand, for the first time the whole of Europe is represented and we believe that the situation concerning obsolete pesticides in Europe will be very well presented. It is very important that we also have here the representatives of the most important international organisations like FAO, WHO, UNEP, Global Crop Protection Federation, UNIDO and many others, as well as our colleagues from USA, Canada, South Africa and Brazil.

I believe that I can call this meeting the worldwide conference.

It is also significant that our meeting drew the attention of representatives of research units, administration, Environmental Agencies and Associations from different countries and the experts from companies involved in disposal of unwanted pesticides.

It gives us all the opportunity not only to discuss the problem but also to share experience and find solutions for future activities and cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our meeting takes place in the Plant Protection Institute and I would like to encourage you, if you are interested in some of Institute activities, to visit its departments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Expressing my satisfaction on your coming and participation in 6th International HCH and Pesticides Forum I wish you fruitful debates and new solutions to the problem, still very difficult and not solved yet. I also would like to wish you a nice stay in our town Poznań, our Wielkopolska Province and in the Plant Protection Institute Congress Centre.

Thank you very much.