

Introduction

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning I would like to welcome all participants of the 6th International HCH and Pesticides Forum in the Plant Protection Institute in Poznań. Thank you for your arrival and interest in such an important subject concerning hazardous substances as well as their impact on the natural environment.

Hazardous waste management is a very important problem in Poland. For the Government of Poland, it has become one of the priorities on the ecological agenda.

The importance of hazardous waste management has resulted in a growing number of institutions participating in the process of solving that problem, which is difficult technically and financially. Therefore, the recognition of an urgent need to hold discussions and develop close co-operation among the government bodies and NGO's (Non-Governmental Organisations) while ensuring active support of the European Union.

Plant Protection Inspectorate is ready for joining efforts to develop a strategy on how to dispose and prevent the accumulation of hazardous substances. Increasing public awareness and need to protect the natural environment thanks to pro-environmental education is a very important task to be actively pursued. The Plant Protection Inspection raises this very important issue at training sessions on the application of plant protection substances.

We recognise the need of developing permanent and close co-operation with the Environment Protection Inspection because we know that the establishment of legal-economic measures is one thing, while practical enforcement is another. The practice calls for the development of adequate technical and organisational framework, which would ensure effective enforcement of binding law provisions in line with the EU requirements.

To conclude, let me wish fruitful discussions to all participants. I am hopeful that comprehensive discussions will lead to the elaboration of workable concepts for the years to come.