

# Closure of the Forum

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## Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear guests and friends

For the last 3 days we have experienced how fast the time can pass by when it is filled with interesting lectures, discussions and meetings and unfortunately the time is coming to close our conference and to say good bye. For those interested in statistic data I have some numbers. We have had 110 participants at 6<sup>th</sup> International HCH and Pesticides Forum, from 31 countries; 47 lectures and 11 posters have been presented. Our forum was divided into 10 sections.

In my opening speech I told you about our ambitions to invite our colleagues from the Central and Eastern Europe and I believe you will agree with me that maybe not all countries were represented but we got a good and satisfying number of guests from those regions. That part of Europe and Asia was represented by 12 participants, and for many of them it was the first-time opportunity to talk about their experience with obsolete pesticides in their countries. Now that we have better knowledge about the situation in Europe, we can plan our future activities. Their presentations stress the importance of remediation of unwanted pesticides across Central and Eastern Europe and that we should try to solve that problem together. On the other hand the political and economic changes in this part of Europe and introduction of free market caused a dramatic reduction in the usage of plant protection products. The prices for plant protection products increased rapidly and the economy of plant protection changed. As a result of that for example in Poland the usage of plant protection products is presently about 0.6-kg of an active ingredient per ha. Additionally, there is a high level of research in agriculture in many countries of Central and Eastern Europe and implementation of new production and plant protection technologies. We recommend good agriculture and good plant protection practice and IPM. As a result of these activities there has been no increase in the quantity of obsolete pesticides for last 10 years. Therefore, remediation and disposal of unwanted pesticides became most important.

We believe that our conference will bring about cooperation and coordination of all activities. It will be a very important moment and if it happens we will have the pleasure to say that our conference was a contribution towards meeting everybody's expectations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, let me thank you for the participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> International HCH and Pesticides Forum, for preparing and presenting the lectures and posters and for the active input into discussions.

I would like to express very warm thanks to the chairmen of our sessions and to Wim Rulkens, Ivan Holoubek, Bram de Borst and John Vijgen for preparing the final conclusions of our conference.

Let me thank on behalf of all of us to our hosts John Vijgen, Stanislaw Stobiecki and Wojciech Sliwinski and also the employees of the Department of Research Planning at the PPI the people who you so often saw at our reception desk.

I would like to express my thanks to the staff of our Congress Center.

Special thanks also goes to our sponsors. Thanks to their support it was possible to invite our colleagues and organise our meeting on such a high level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for you attention and I wish you all a safe trip home and please remember you will always be very welcome in Poznań, Poland and the Plant Protection Institute.