

# OPENING OF THE FORUM







## Mr. Carlos Gamarra

### Managing Director Climate Change and Environmental Education (Government of Aragon, Spain)

“Thanks to a significant effort by the Government of Aragon, the region has positioned itself as an international benchmark in the management, research and decontamination of lindane. Aragon has led and promoted the first network of affected regions and has participated in the location of contaminated sites throughout Europe.”

[Video of the full speech in English](#)



## Mrs. Isabel García Muñoz

### MEP (Member of the European Parliament), Aragon

I am Isabel García Muñoz member of the European Parliament, and it is a pleasure for me to be present even if remotely in the opening session of the 14th International HCH and Pesticides Forum. Thanks to the organization of having invited me. Let me start by greeting the President of the Aragon region Mr. Javier Laman and the General Manager of Climate Change and Environmental Education Mr. Carlos Gamarra, as well as the rest of the authorities and participants in this event.

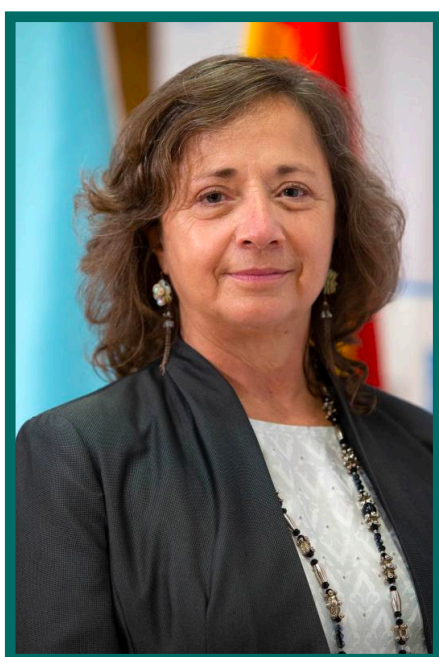
Lindane and HCH-production waste is a very serious food safety and environmental and health problem. That is why the EU started to ban it in 2020 thanks to the European project Lindane in the EU, co-led by SARGA the closing session, of which I had the honor to sponsor in Brussels in 2021, we know that between 1945 and 2000 up to 600,000 tons of Lindane were produced in the world, which presents more than

4,8 Million tons of HCH-waste that are still largely present in the world. As an MEP from Aragon, I'd like to emphasize the Europeanist commitment by the government of Aragon to find the solution for the Lindane problem. Its commitment has been materialized in its leadership in European level projects. The Lindanet project funded by the Interreg program, has enabled the creation of an experience exchange network among public entities from different regions of Europe. Secondly, the pilot project to evaluate and tackle the presence of Lindane in the EU, endorsed by the European Parliament in two consecutive calls, has rendered it possible to have a solutions map, as well as good practices and remedies for the decontamination of soils affected by Lindane. And finally, two projects funded by the LIFE, and its continuation, the LIFE-SURFING programs, which implement a viable decontamination practice. The EU is very much aware of this problem and that is why it has implemented various political and legislative initiatives in which the European Parliament is very much involved as a co-legislator: the Biodiversity Strategy, which intends to reduce 50% of the most harmful pesticides, the Zero-contamination Action Plan, gathering a battery of actions towards the decontamination of our soil, our water and our air, or the new legislative proposal on the restoration of nature, which involves the goal of restoring areas of the Natura 2000 Network as well as 25,000 km of rivers by 2030. This can mean an opportunity for Lindane contaminated rivers. My group of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament has requested the Commission, to present a legislative proposal on the protection of sustainable soil use, which is to see the lights in June, and we expect it to contain a soil decontamination goal too. In terms of funding for decontamination purposes, I'd like to mention that we



have the LIFE Environmental program. We also have the R&D Horizon Europe program, where a mission focused on soils has been launched. With this initiative R&D plus different projects will be funded in such areas as sustainable agriculture, biodiversity or zero pollution with the goal of protecting soils in Europe. It is worth mentioning that the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism of the next Generation new program is another funding possibility, yet to explore. By way of conclusion, I like to underline the fact that the Lindane problem needs coordinated solutions at all levels since it involves different sectors like environmental agricultural health or science sectors. This is why such initiatives as this forum offer a great opportunity to exchange knowledge and good practices and to establish ties and to coordinate actions. I wish all participants very fruitful sessions crowned by the Bailin site visit to better know the Lindane problem on site and to be informed about the progresses carried out by our region and I hope that the necessary institutional cooperation will continue existing, to fully eliminate the problem. Best wishes from Brussels.

[Video of the speech in English](#)



**Mrs. Sagrario Pérez Castellanos**  
***Director General of Environmental Quality,  
Sustainability and Climate Change at Xunta de  
Galicia***

Good morning from Galicia. First of all, we like to congratulate the government of Aragon for its enormous commitment to the problem of Lindane, a commitment that comes from the past, which I am sure will be extended into the future to the same level or even more intensely. Secondly because of the possibility to meet again to share our problems, exchange views and propose new solutions to a problem such as Lindane that is common to all of us though this forum that begins today and will run for the next three days and thirdly for giving the opportunity to address all of you on this first day.

For Galicia participating in a project like the Lindanet project has certainly had a very positive effect, we can say we have a before and after the project. In Galicia we were used to facing the problem with our own resources, very limited resources I have to say, which have been used for more than two decades, we are at a point where we

still have much to do, it is therefore a very important to see that there are other regions in Europe other than Galicia citizens in Europe who are suffering the same problem and that encourages us to keep fighting to try to solve it. Politics often tends to look for short-term solutions, the short term of periods between elections, however Lindane is not a problem that can be solved in the short term. We don't even have the solution, it is not just a money problem, it is a problem of will, it is a problem of pulling all the efforts of those of us in the same situation to mobilize funds, but also mobilize solutions and wills thanks to the international partnership, we have been able to share common experiences over the years, we have seen that we are facing similar problems and we have also been able to verify that some of us have a particular idiosyncrasy that adds up one more variable to the complexity of the problem.

The point that I would like to make to you today is that we must continue. Right now, we have the opportunity because the European Union which we have all given ourselves, is thinking long-term. We are talking about Horizons that reach 2030 and 2050 and we are talking about problems that affect the entire ecosystem including soil. The healthy Soil Strategy is an opportunity for this problem to reach a more than acceptable level of resolution. We cannot talk about by 2050, if we are not solving the problems of contaminated soils those we call the issue of Orphan pollution. Already the term itself gives us an idea of the dimension of a problem. This it is necessary that the regions that face this problem in our territories, supported by our Member States of course, continue to work together, continue to seek solutions together and continue to build up a critical mass that can be heard in the European Institutions, in the Commission, in the Parliament and of course in our Member States. So, my message is, let's continue together, let's our



region stay together, because together we will make the necessary funds and necessary technologies to solve the problem become a reality.

Thank you very much and enjoy the conference.

[Video of the speech in English](#)



## **Mrs. Karolin Braunsberger Reinhold (CDU)**

### **MEP (Member of the European Parliament)**

Saxony Anhalt is characterized by a long and successful history of the chemical industry. The chemical triangle around the towns Buna, Leuna and above all Bitterfeld-Wolfen, where I grew up, is known far beyond the borders of Saxony Anhalt, but until today the legacy of chemical production still has an impact on us humans and our environment.

A prominent example is the HCH-contamination from the historical Lindane production. In the former chemical combine Bitterfeld, between 200 and 650 tonnes were produced annually from 1951-1982. This resulted in at least 70,000 tonnes of waste which was dumped in open cast mining pits and discharged into subsequent river systems. In the past decades, the extensive remediation of old sites and contaminated soils was carried out with great commitment and high costs. Here I would expressly thank the LAF (Landesanstalt für

Altlastenfreistellung), its managing director Jürgen Stadelmann and his team.

With the introduction with the EU Water Framework Directive, a change in the perspective of the assessment of water bodies has taken place. The studies show that the polluted floodplain areas contribute a considerable pollutant load and thus have an impact on the chemical and ecological status of water bodies. The HCH problem around the Mulde river between Bitterfeld and Dessau-Roßlau is an example of the impact these pollutants can have. And this influences not only the revitalization of the brownfields, but also the quality of the water bodies and adjacent farmland and floodplains. That is why the State of Saxony Anhalt has participated in the EU Projects Lindanet and HCH in EU. Within the framework of this cooperation, it has become clear that the Mulde is not an isolated case, but rather that floodplains are polluted in several regions in Europe and beyond.

The exchange with the international partners in Spain, Poland and Czech Republic and Italy has provided valuable food for thought and has generated initial projects and promoted international cooperation. These successes can only be the beginning. Lindanet and HCH in EU have created a momentum that must be used to initiate further European projects and implement measures in the regions. The regions will not be able to cope with these tasks alone and are therefore dependent on knowledge transfer and the resulting strategies. I hope that solutions will be found together. I will be gladly continue to be at your disposal as a contact person in the European Parliament. Many thanks to you and your work.

Yours,

Karolin Braunsberger Reinhold

[Video of speech in English](#)





**Mrs. Maria Victoria Esteruelas**  
**Aragonese Society of Agri-Environmental**  
**Management (SARGA) (Aragón, Spain)**

“It is our obligation, and it must be one of the objectives of the forum, to be able to raise awareness of the need to invest in this type of projects and publicize the benefits that derive from them. It will be the way to move in the right direction and where our level of progress as an advanced society will really be shown.”

[Video of the full speech in English](#)



**Mr. Pavel Silbert**  
**Mayor of Jaworzno, Poland**

Good morning and welcome, everyone.

Dear Friends,

Due to a very important meeting of the City Council, unfortunately I cannot be with You in person. During my speech, in the background there will be a presentation on chemical waste landfill in Jaworzno. I will also tell you a bit about us and what has happened recently.

Jaworzno is one of several cities in Poland affected by the difficult legacy of the production of plant protection products and its definitely negative impact on the environment. The first production has begun in 1928, it lasted continuously for several decades. More than 42,000 tons of waste from the production of HCH, were accumulated in our city. It is worth mentioning that this is

only a fraction of all other chemical waste. Today, even though the toxic heaps of waste are overgrown, still we are feeling the environmental effects of predatory economy, and the accumulated waste heavily pollute the environment, including surface and groundwater, which pose a direct threat to people living in the vicinity of chemical plant, but that's not all. As part of the project, scientists proved that these above-mentioned water pollutants pose a real threat to the catchment area of Poland's largest river – the Vistula.

For many years the team I work with has been taking action to solve this problem. In addition to research, remediation ideas, some of them are very promising. We have been pointing out the need for legal legislation that could enable formal and effective actions to solve this gigantic problem.

Such an opportunity has finally presented itself, but not in the form I expected. Currently, Polish Ministry of Climate and Environment has been working on a special act on large-scale degraded areas which is dedicated to the Chemical Plant in Jaworzno, Tarnowskie Góry and Bydgoszcz, and the Color Industry Plant in Zgierz.

The Act provides for the transfer of a number of competences and responsibilities to the authorities of cities where hazardous waste was stored, but without providing financial resources, among others, to carry out the necessary recultivation works. Solution of each of these tasks faces different problems. However, the common factor is the presence of extremely toxic chemicals that have an exceptionally negative impact on the environment.

This Act on large-scale degraded areas is an extremely valuable and important initiative, but it imposes the entire organisational and financial burden related to remediation activities on the community in which it is located.



I am in contact with other cities. None of us avoids taking on the responsibility of recultivation work, but financing this work, due to its enormous costs, is too much of a financial burden for our cities. There is the possibility of obtaining funding from various sources to solve this problem, but there is always the question of providing our own contribution, which put the cost of environmental protection, perhaps even reaching several hundred million euros, is beyond our financial possibility. In our case, due to previous negligence, the process of purifying contaminated groundwater in the valley of the Wąwolnica stream may take up to 20 years, which will generate considerable resources and in the absence of the provision for funding by the Polish State, will burden the residents and impede the development of cities.

That is why I have already requested several times that under the auspices of the Ministry of Climate and Environment, institutional support might be created for the cities already involved, including the establishment of a team comprising of representative(s) of the Ministry and local authorities concerned. Stakeholders should develop a strategic action plan against existing chemical pollution.

It should be a document in which we will jointly define a plan of action for removing chemical product pollution, principles of monitoring, methods of minimizing the impact on the environment, a comprehensive pollution monitoring and early warning system and a multi-year program for financing individual tasks.

The model for this document should be the strategic environmental action plan against lindane waste pollution in Aragon, which is a model program identifying a multi-annual action plan, taking into account the need for an investment of EUR 550 million over the next 25 years, aimed at eliminating pollution for heavily contaminated areas of HCH isomers, named "Lindane Heritage".

I have been working in local governments for over 20 years. I can say that I introduced Jaworzno to the EU. We have successfully obtained European Funds for numerous projects developing the city.

I avoided occurring and spending money for "white elephants". Together, we have overcome the problem of over 20 percent unemployment. Today, Jaworzno is a completely different and more beautiful city thanks EU financial support. I also initiated the introduction of legal provisions solving the problem of chemical waste "hot spots", which are remnants of the activities of state-owned enterprises producing plant protection products. And now, when there is hope for solving the problem, the legislator does not want to provide the city with the necessary financing. I believe that there should be statutory financial support from the Polish State to ensure at least its own contribution to future programs, supported by the EU, and from the National Fund for Environmental Protection.

I admire the determination, consistency, perseverance, effectiveness of our friends. This is an approach we need in Poland: the common concern and the responsibility of all stakeholders. Now it is your time, John. You fully deserve it! We really want to follow you and learn from your experiences. I remember very well John Vijgen's presentation in Brussels, especially the part you showed us how remediation cost increase over time! John, it was a very accurate, concrete. Many years have passed since our first meeting and at that time, day after day, a lot of water was constantly washing chemical waste and got into the Vistula River and went into the Baltic Sea. This has been going on for many years, but it doesn't have to be! Perhaps we are quite close to permanent work on full protection of the waters of the Vistula catchment. Perhaps, we will be able to raise funds for the full disposal of the waste, but we will not do it without the understanding and real help of our government.

Now it's time to use the experience of John and other experts from Zaragoza to inspire our political authorities. Note that our new law gives us false hope and shifts responsibility to local governments without any responsibility of the Polish government.

I like to see you, John, on the negotiation team with our Minister. I feel, if you are invited, you will not refuse. I feel if we ask you, you will not refuse to show that this difficult legacy can be dealt with. Please support our efforts with examples of your solution, showing that even gigantic problems can be solved with joint efforts. This can help inspire necessary courage in decision-makers taking real action.

If You have any questions related to the technical issues, my colleagues will answer them after my presentation on chat.

Thank You very much!

[Video of the speech in English](#)





## John Vijgen

### Director of International HCH and Pesticide Association

*Let me first congratulate the Aragon Government facilitating that we can be here in this beautiful palace the coming days. Thanks to all the donors and sponsors to come and work together in various ways on our old Lindane and future PFAS problems. Let me give you a small overview of what we have been doing and of course I must give a huge*

*compliment and congratulations-to-SARGA as our local organizer and the Government on all the work and preparation you made; and now all this stress is coming out in the next days, but you did an enormous job, and Kateryna too, so everybody a great thanks again!*

I like to give you a small welcome and introduction about what we have been doing all these years and show you first the girl from Georgia living on the pesticides!



The International HCH and Pesticides Association has been focused on 2 issues: the first one is the Lindane Legacy; with millions of tons of white hazardous HCH-waste all around the globe which nobody wanted and wants to see. The second one is issue of obsolete and POPs pesticides and show you the kids in Central and Eastern Asia lying and playing, living on that dangerous waste! That is a task for a generation, but we have to deal with it.

mountains at French Mega-site Ugine Kuhlmann ([www.martinforter.ch](http://www.martinforter.ch))

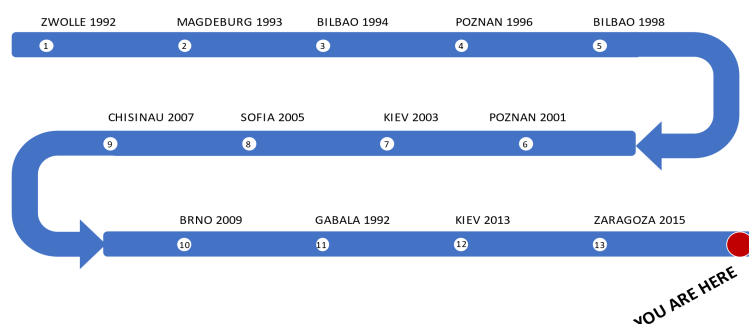
Please note on the left side the white HCH Huningue (France) (Ref. Martin Fortmann,



the country, so we needed to pay attention to this issue. Then, in 1998, we went back to Bilbao and the government explained that they finalized their job, and cleaned their country, claiming to be the first one. And they showed us around and held a beautiful Forum. In 2001, Poland showed us their progress made in the clean-up of obsolete pesticides. We went to Kiev, in 2003, where Ukraine explained us about the thousands and thousands of tons of obsolete pesticides, followed in Bulgaria in 2005 again with huge amounts of obsolete pesticides.

This is the road map. We started in the Netherlands 1991, where we talked about HCH and Lindane. In 1993, we went to Magdeburg, Saxony Anhalt. You heard the MEP from Saxony Anhalt before, where they had even more waste and related problems. Then, in 1994, we went to Bilbao, in the Basque Country, with many sites with HCH and Lindane. Then we went in 1996 to Poland and the Polish people asked why do you only talk about Lindane and HCH? Yes, we have such a site here, but we have much more obsolete pesticides, which are spread all over

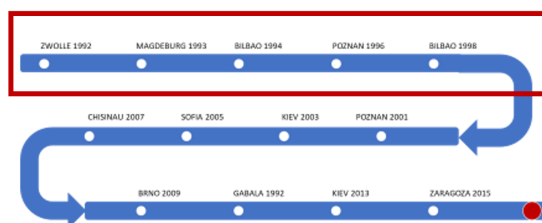
## THE FORUM IS PUSHED FORWARD BY REGIONS AND COUNTRIES



Then, in 2007 we went to Moldova. Just remember, this is the poorest country in Europe, but they an excellent work with own funding and help of the GEF and World Bank). They were the real front runners explained their problems and their solutions! Finally, we went in 2009 to Brno in Czech Republic. In 2011, we went to Azerbaijan. They started to collect all the pesticides and the minister promised that they would clean up the country. You will see today in the Central Asia session, led by Stephan Robinson of FAO. Where the Azerbaijan Government are now are trying to clean up all the Obsolete Pesticides and they could be one of the first Central Asian Countries to clean it up and that is an achievement!

Then we went to Kiev in 2013, just before the Revolution, with the protest flags around our forum in the center of Kiev. We went to Zaragoza in 2015 and we worked together on the “EU Life Discovered Project”, where the Aragon government showed us how they had been moving forward with their works. And finally, we are here again in Zaragoza.

## MAIN INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT LINDANE LEGACY ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA (1/3)



### 1992 - 2000 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS SPEAK UP

EU has a comprehensive legal framework targeting new pesticides, but **the EU Commission acknowledged** that **there is a lack of rules and remedy means for existing lindane sites.**

### What to do with Legacy Lindane?

After the start in Hengelo (Zwolle, NL), the **Basque Country was the first region** to finalise the elimination of the Lindane Legacy. 5<sup>th</sup> Forum in Bilbao celebrated the achievement



Basque Country



Romania

Now, what works we have implemented? The first project, we have worked on in the Netherlands was the HCH-problem, which took over 15 years to clean it up! Our exchanges with the Basque Country showed how steady they progressed. In this period in the Forums, it became clear that the regions had the real problems, and they were the first ones making a lot of efforts to solve them, and thereafter also the countries became involved. You could also see that the EU has been active. They looked at the obsolete pesticides issues and acknowledged that there is a lack of rules, and remediation programs to clean these sites.

You see the left photo of Basque Country with cows grazing on pure HCH waste. On the right side the largest Romanian Lindane production site with huge amounts of HCH-waste. To get more insight of real extend of the Lindane/HCH problem, we made a global inventory, just on our own, and asked globally for information, which was very difficult to obtain and in 2006 we completed a report called “The Legacy of Lindane HCH



Isomer Production". This report we submitted to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, requesting to include it in the POPs Convention. At the COP(Conference of Parties) in 2009, Alpha-HCH, Beta-HCH and Lindane were official nominated as POPs and this created for us the legal framework to start working on this issue.

## MAIN INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT LINDANE LEGACY ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA (2/3)

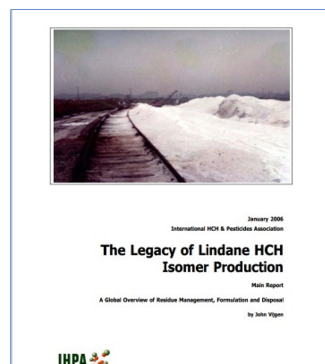
IHPA conducted a 2-year on the Lindane Legacy, which in **2006** was submitted to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat (right).

In **2009**, the Lindane, alpha-, beta-HCH, was recognised and approved as POPs in the **Stockholm Convention**.

The Stockholm Convention is the legal framework for elimination of POPs and POPs pesticides.

**Continuous protests and petitions** for Action from Spanish Civil Society asking for specific political activities for the solution of Lindane Legacy. In **November 2016**, the EU published the report "**Lindane (persistent organic pollutant) in the EU**".

This was the reason why a proposals was approved by EU Commission, and the **HCH in EU project** was implemented from **1 Jan 2020 till 31 Dec 2021**. The HCH in EU has developed a strategy and inventory of Lindane Legacy.



It took a very long time, before the first EU funded project was approved to make an inventory of the Lindane production sites and made an action plan for 6 regions to clean up! So, we really made progress in the last years as documented in our open access publication in "[Emerging Contaminants](#)".

I would like to show, who has been involved and there are many more as is shown here in this overview, but just a couple of ones to mention here MEPs Pilar Ayuso, Inés Ayala Sender, who both started to give the right push with a proposal and this proposal was finally submitted and approved by the Budget Committee of the EU Parliament with the task that EU Commission had to implement it. Thereafter followed the so important project "HCH in EU". At the end of that project strong and committed politicians in the final workshop in November 2021 made strong supporting statements. MEPs Martin Hojsik, who was exactly informed was going on Vrakuna site in Slovakia, Margrete Auken, you saw Isabel today and César Luena, all of them have been fighting to move our issue forward.

## MAIN INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT MOBILISING FOR THE EUROPEAN AGENDA (3/3)

### LINDANE LEGACY

**Continuous protests and petitions 2018 -2019** from today former MEPs

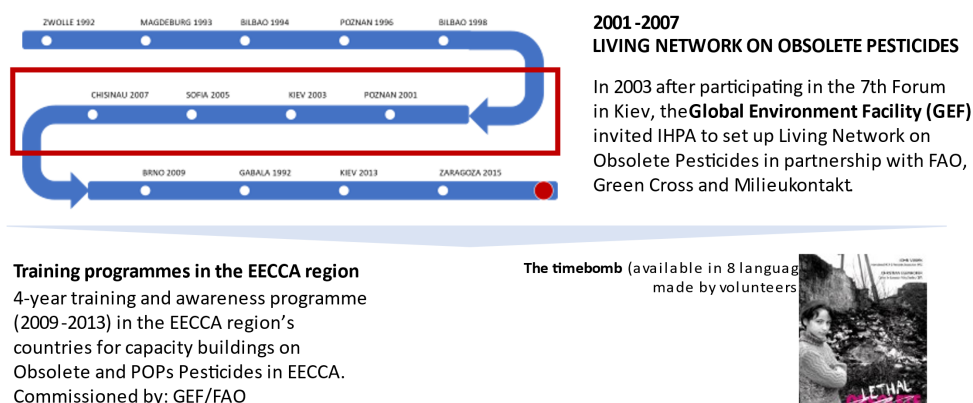


**Full Support from:** Martin Hojsik, Margrete Auken, Isabel García Muñoz and César Luena

Moving on forward with our 2 main issues being Obsolete and POPs Pesticides and Lindane. We tried to push forward the Central Asia Obsolete and POPs pesticides problem and we saw that in 2003, the GEF (Global Environment Facility) approached us at our first Forum in Kiev, where they expressed that this forum "is a complete Living Network, where the participants are not just sitting, but everybody is active working and communicating with each other" and that is exactly what the GEF needed! So, there we started to work with our partners. We had a long-term cooperation with Milieukontakt International, an NGO, with special experience on awareness and involvement of civil society, Green Cross was also active but previous only on chemical weapons and we worked already with them and at the same time, we had to find a UN partner because at The GEF it is not possible to work without an Implementing Agency and we had already a good cooperation with FAO (the UN organization that has started with their fight to eliminate Obsolete Pesticides in Africa). They helped us to set up a fantastic training program of 4 years training and awareness program

for EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asian Republics) for Capacity Building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides. This cooperation was very well assessed by the GEF. We also produced a political booklet called “the Timebomb” which was translated by the involved countries. It was impressive to see how the countries offered to translate it and first volunteers came in Georgia and then volunteers in Uzbekistan followed. Later volunteers Romania, Mongolia, Russia, Azerbaijan and Aragon (Spanish version) and we could see how people got more and more involved and to be part of our joint movement. They all wanted to act and that is what it is all about! They all make things happen and IHPA facilitates that process!

## INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT OBSOLETE PESTICIDES – POPs PESTICIDES (1/3)



Then we moved on with the Obsolete and POPs Pesticides and we had a hearing in the European Parliament with MEPs Ria Oomen and Esther de Lange in 2010. Then followed in 2016 another session in the European Parliament called “Black spots to White spots” on agriculture and this led to the next big EU-FAO financed project “Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent recurrence of obsolete pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union” from 2013 to 2017, a project with a lot of clean-up actions, but IHPA concentrated specifically on finding a strategy how we can move the Central Asian countries forward. We found a strategy how to do that and produced a strategy for every country but also a regional strategy. That is what Central Asia needs. We have now incidental projects, but they are not sustainable. We need a longterm strategy to free the countries in the region and move forward! That is what is still lacking!

Here again, some politicians: MEP Wieslaw Kuc who supported and produced with us a huge book with all the contributions of experts and many politicians on Obsolete and POPs pesticides, from which 2000 copies were printed and handed over to all politicians in the European Parliament. Then MEP Dan Joergensen, now Climate Minister in Denmark he has been pushing the issue in Ukraine and MEPs Margret Auken, Benedik Javor, and Jorge Sebastià helping us to move the issue forward. We had a lot of committed politicians supporting us.

Back to the HCH and Lindane issues, the Aragon government contacted IHPA and asked us to join an EU project. Then it became clear to us what the Aragon government had been successfully implementing in the field in their Lindane project. Especially during the field trip of the 13th Forum, participants started to understand the huge efforts of dealing with the problems and solutions applied at one of the largest HCH waste Mega-sites in the EU. It is therefore I recommend you strongly to join this field trip to this site to see the specific circumstances, and if you ask Jesus Fernandez, who has been the longterm initiator and stimulator of the technical developments, the biological degrading of Lindane and HCH is ongoing all the time. Therefore, this site is like a garden for HCH solutions!



# INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT OBSOLETE PESTICIDES – POPs PESTICIDES (2/3)

In 2010, a Mini-hearing was held in EP arranged by the MEPs Ester de Lange and Ria Oomen-Ruijten – leading to the EU/FAO project for obsolete the EECCA region.

In 2016, a Hearing on 'Black spots' to 'White spots' was arranged by Margrete Auken, Benedek Javor and Jordi Sebastia.

The Hearings increased pressure on the EU Commission to act. A result was the EU/FAO project on the EECCA Region,

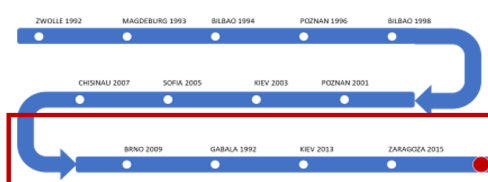
Improving capacities to eliminate and prevent occurrence of obsolete Pesticides as a model for tackling unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union (2013-2017)



Obsolete pesticides in the EECCA region. Strategy. (2017)

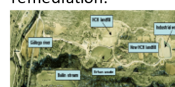
Finally, the **most important and smallest project is Lindanet**: Cooperation of regions in Europe, which are confronted with the Lindane problem. Here Aragon took the lead and is the frontrunner to get everybody together and now the process of crystallizing on where to cooperate more technically, but also find ways to move forward politically, as speakers have been expressing before today!

## INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENT MOBILISING THE 'PROBLEM OWNERS'



### 2009-2023 FURTHER MOBILISING

The Forum focused on learning and knowledge sharing from project level investigation and remediation.



**EU LIFE DISCOVERED**  
In-situ treatment of DNAPLs (2013-2017)

**EU LIFE SURFING**  
Continuation/finalisation (2019-2023)

### ARAGON REGION IS A FRONTRUNNER IN EUROPE

**EU LINDANET** is a European Network of Lindane waste affected regions working together towards a greener environment (2019-2023)

You see the participating regions of Aragon, Galicia, South Bohemia, Saxony Anhalt, Silesia and Lazio and the follow-up which was running parallel to the HCH in EU project, which I explained before, where we made the complete inventory with the tasks that the countries themselves going to follow-up, however this has not been done yet! Additionally, we made plans for prioritized sites in 6 regions, ready for actions, so all was ready to get started!

## Way forward

### LINDANE LEGACY

The international HCH and Pesticides Association will close on Dec 31, 2023

A network/association of the Lindane Affected Regions should be established

The follow-on Network should have technical know-how as well as long term political commitment to cooperate on the elimination of Lindane Legacy in the coming generation

### POPs PESTICIDES

Implementation of the strategy for the EECCA region being.

Instalment of sufficient capacity to eliminate all the POPs pesticides following making this capacity available to destroy presently occurring hazardous waste in combination with circular economy implementation.

Finance should be pursued with a stronger engagement from the GEF and the European Commission

## So, what is the way forward?

IHPA we are planning to close down and Bram and I are going to retire. So, it up to you now to take action and therefore we propose to start an European network of Lindane and HCH affected European regions, a follow up of IHPA's network. In that way, we can make available all existing tools and information to you, so you take it over and move on with a new strong

# YOU ARE HERE TO LEARN ABOUT RESULTS

## LINDANE LEGACY

**LINDANET** is an ambitious project that aims to join efforts among European regions to work together towards the improvement of the HCH (Lindane) contaminated sites. Aragon, Galicia, South Bohemian Region, Saxony-Anhalt Region, Silecia, and Lazio  
(Session 3 1<sup>st</sup> PPT in Block 9 Wednesday)

**HCH IN EU project** . EU Wide inventory to be verified and further on the ground in each Member State. 6 Action Plans ready for implementations in the most important regions such as Aragon, Galicia, Alsace, Saxony Anhalt, Czech Republic, Valle del Sacco (Italy)  
(Session 2 in Block 8 Wednesday)

## OBSOLETE PESTICIDES - POPs PESTICIDES



IMPLEMENTATION IS ONGOING

(Session 2 Block 10 : GEF-FAO Life cycle management of pesticides and disposal in central Asian countries and Türkiye

**Block 10 Wednesday**  
Stephen Robinson & Mark Davis

association. You have all the technical know how, so you know how to implement things, and you need political commitment. Therefore, you all need to fight like these politicians that have supported us, but you need to do it yourself. Remember you can't do without! The strategy for the solution, we have defined in the HCH in EU project how to implement it. How to set it up and how to work in the cities and establish remediation organisations. We made a recipe book for you, so all tools are available now.

**What about the obsolete and POPs pesticides?** We made the strategy per country and for the EECCA region, with the instalment of so much treatment capacity financed by The GEF, so you establish the total structure to clean up. So, you can treat all the Obsolete and POPs Pesticides within 5 to 10 years. And when that is completed, the whole capacity is working and then you are able to treat all your presently generated hazardous waste. That is the way to solve the problems in Central Asia! That is why The GEF should not

implement only individual projects, but use a longterm strategy to clean up the region and I appeal to Mark Davis, although retired, to take up that challenge!



THANK YOU

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So, finally I want to thank all of you, present and not present and especially the Government of Aragon and especially my dear friend Mr. Wieslaw Kuc, who has so strongly supported our work in the very early days

And special thanks to the chair of IHPA, Bram de Borst, who has always strongly been supporting our common work and participating in the work, and his great friendship.

[Video of the speech in English](#)