

September 24, 2015, Brussels

Letter of intent and official acceptance

Dear UNEP and WHO colleagues, (sent electronically to: noleadinpaint@who.int AND noleadinpaint@unep.org)

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is delighted to accept the invitation to become a member of the AG to serve on the UNEP/WHO Advisory Group for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

We also officially request to become a Partner of the Lead Paint Alliance.

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 70 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.

HEAL's track record in hazardous chemical policies

Launched by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) in 2007, the Chemicals Health Monitor (CHM) aims to improve public health by encouraging more protective regulations of hazardous chemicals in Europe and beyond. This is done through the mobilisation of various constituencies and deploying key environmental health science at critical points of public discourse and policy discussions.

All of us are exposed to many chemicals every day without authorities, manufacturers, scientists, or the public, in other words the entire system that permits and uses them, knowing about what they do to us. This current chemicals experiment means people and their families may be more prone to obesity and diabetes, more likely to suffer from cancer or to face infertility. Most are unwitting subjects in this experiment whilst healthcare systems struggle to cope with rising disease rates. This experiment also establishes a toxic legacy for future generations. HEAL's goal is the protection of the environment and human health and well-being from toxic chemicals, through precautionary action to end use of toxic chemicals.

HEAL works to provide authoritative, public interest health expertise to promote effective implementation of the EU chemicals law REACH and other EU and global chemicals policies. HEAL addresses environmental health concerns through its partnership with the US-based Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE), which strengthens the science dialogue on environmental factors impacting human health.

HEAL is also the campaign secretariat of the EDC-Free campaign, a coalition of public interest groups established in 2013 representing more than 60 organisations in Europe and beyond who have come together through a concern about endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and efforts to raise public awareness and urge quicker governmental action. More information here www.edc-free-europe.org

Most recently, HEAL has supported and promoted the work of the ISEE Call for Action for Global Control of Lead Exposure to Eliminate Lead Poisoning, In the September issue of Epidemiology, the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) call for a concerted global effort to eliminate lead poisoning. HEAL supports this call for action as an important contribution to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Partnerships and collaborations

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

- WHO European Environment and Health Task Force (EEHTF)
- EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Member State Committee
- ECHA Management Board
- ECHA Management Advisory Group on Dissemination
- ECHA Expert Group on EDCs
- EU EDCs Expert Advisory Group
- EU Ad Hoc Group on EDCs
- International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

For more information about our work on SAICM related matters please see our latest HEAL news article here: <http://env-health.org/news/latest-news/article/international-chemicals-talks>, our Chemicals Health Monitor in English and German here <http://www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org/> and our EDC-Free website and news service subscription in 7 languages here <http://www.edc-free-europe.org/>

We look forward to being an active partner and multiplying and deepening the health constituency outreach and engagement in the activities, work programme and resources undertaken by the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and the Lead Paint Alliance.

Yours sincerely,



Genon K. Jensen
Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)