

OPEN STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

PRIORITIES FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH RESEARCH IN FP7

Brussels, Belgium, May 22 2006

NGO Perspective of Environment and Health Research under FP7



Christian Farrar-Hockley, Christian@env-health.org
EPHA Environment Network, www.env-health.org

NGO Perspective

- NGOs can benefit from research results to build up their activities and to support their interventions (e.g. Cascade, PINCHE, Air pollution letter, DG ENV news cast);
- NGOs have policy and scientific expertise and can contribute to the identification of research priorities and gaps in knowledge (Env Health, Mercury, Chemicals policy, etc) ;
- NGOs have knowledge to contribute to the research system (SCENIHR) and some NGOs have research capacities of their own (WWF, Greenpeace etc), as well as volunteers and employees motivated to bring forward their own knowledge (Biodiversity);
- ***Information on research activities should be appropriate and accessible to NGOs***
- ***Researchers should make more and better use of what NGOs have to offer to research***
 - They provide different visions and knowledge, complementary to the research community and industry, and therefore enrich the research agendas
 - They add legitimacy to research policy by reinforcing its societal dimension (EFA - GALEN)

RESEARCH SESSION CONCLUSIONS

- **Four main specific orientations emerged from the discussions (Egmond Aan Zee)**
 - ↪ a) Extension of environmental & health concept in research
 - ↪ b) Integrated Environment and Health Risk Assessment
 - ↪ c) Coordination of research programmes / activities at the Member State / EU levels (added value)
 - ↪ d) Ensuring that environment and health research serves policy needs (EFSA – Mercury)

Tools to implement the action plan

- **Biomonitoring.**
- **Child (mother/father) cohort.**
- **Coordination and harmonization of approaches and better data on burden of disease to improve HIA and DALYs**
- **Prioritization of environmental risk factors for policy priority setting, focus on those aspects that concern the general public. air pollution, chemical pollution, long term exposure to low concentrations, multiple exposures, noise, indoor air and allergens, CMR, neurodevelopmental, endocrine disruption**
- **Identification of policy needs determines research, ensure flexibility for emerging threats (HERO and NERO).**
- **Are there any stages in development where children are more susceptible or primed to be more susceptible**
- **Responsible Communication: translate science into layman's or policy makers language in a policy context.**
- **Communication between stakeholders, scientist and policymakers**