

Common Statement

Safe Toys Coalition



Recognizing that

Many toys¹ contain hazardous chemicals, which pollute our environment and pose a significant direct risk to the health of children.

Children are the most vulnerable: Their body systems are still premature and developing. Due to their different behaviour they have different patterns of exposure, like putting things in the mouth. They are unaware of risks and unable to protect their health.

Through toys, children can be exposed to hazardous chemical groups like, CMRs, EDCs, PBTs, neurotoxins, allergens, heavy metals and other chemicals of concern.

These groups include such well-known hazards as Formaldehyde, Bisphenol A, halogenated flame retardants, phthalates, arsenic, lead, cadmium.

Exposure to these chemicals can lead to serious negative health effects, like cancer, developmental disorders, disruption of the hormone system, allergies.

Many countries do not have any regulation in place ensuring safe toys. Existing regulations are insufficient and not properly implemented by the authorities and industry. eg RAPEX, the European alert system on hazardous products has shown in 2007, that toys were the most frequently notified product category with 31 % of all notifications.

Mandatory testing by third party is not in place in many countries.

Throughout the whole supply chain of toy production right up to the consumer there is a lack of information regarding ingredients and procedures.

Consumers cannot make informed decisions, because there is no obligation to declare hazardous chemicals present in toys, and a lack of labelling in many countries.

The developing countries and economies in transition are equally if not more affected by these problems.

Therefore we demand

- The ban of hazardous chemicals in toys
- Sufficient and fully implemented legislation
- Regular and thorough control of toys²
- Transparency about ingredients and procedures throughout the supply chain
- Meaningful labelling and declaration of ingredients
- Global harmonised standards preventing double standards
- Safe destruction of detected unsafe toys and a fine imposed³
- Enabling consumers to make informed choices for a healthy and ethical consumption
- Implementation of the precautionary principle

¹ Toys are products designed or intended, whether or not exclusively, for use in play by children under 14 years of age.

² No data – no market principle

³ Polluters pay principle

Common Statement

Safe Toys Coalition



Mission

The Safe Toys Coalition aims to protect children's health by striving for a world free of toxic and unsafe toys. We address decision makers, producers, retailers and the public on national, regional and international level. We encourage and help consumers to make informed consumer decisions.

Signed by

WECF, Sascha Gabizon, International Director

Baltic Environmental Forum, Estonia, Kai Klein, Executive Director

Touffie (Sweden), Marija J-Amberg, CEO

Clean up Greece, Carla Baer Manolopoulou, President CuG

Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia,

Natasha Dokovska, Executive Director

WECF France, Anne Barre, Director

Eco-Accord (Russia), Olga Ponizova, Executive Director

Arnica (Czech Republic), Miroslava Jopkova, Executive Director Toxics and Waste programme

Acción Ecológica A.C (Mexico), Larisa de Orbe,

Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE), Elena Manvelyan, President

Center for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED)

(Nepal), Ram Charitra Sah, Executive Director

Clean Air Action Group (Hungary), Gergely Simon

Empire State Consumer Project (USA), Judy Braiman, President

EcoWaste Coalition (Philippines), Anthony Dizon

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (Philippines) Manny C. Calonzo

groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa, Nomcebo Mvelase

Janhit Foundation (India), Sonakshi Hudda, Chief Coordinator Programme

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Togo), Sena ALOUKA, Executive Director

NGO's Mutual Aid association (Latvia), Saulcerite Briede

National Toxics Network (Australia), Jo Immig

Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev) (Nigeria),

Ane Leslie Adogame, Executive Director

Taiwan Watch Institute, Herlin Hsieh

(until 2nd of February 2010)

Contact: Alexandra Caterbow, alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

Coordinator Chemicals and Health International

WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future

www.wecf.eu und www.safetoyscoalition.org