



LEVIZJA E GRUAS PËR ZHVILLIM INTEGRAL
ALBANIAN WOMAN'S MOVEMENT OF INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT



REPORT

**Product and Chemical
Safety in the Balkans**

**Civil Society Cooperation
on EU Acquis**

**Consumers' Values and
Corporate Responsibility**

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Report Analysts:

Mr. Ermal Dizdari,

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters

Mr. Arjan Cara,

Instat Expert

PhD. Evis Qaja

Executive Expert of Albanian Women's Movement of Integral Development

Ms. Ulpiana Shpata

Translation to English

Edition:

Albanian Women's Movement of Integral Development

Address: Rruga "Gjergj Fishta"

Tel: ++355 42 2428 148

Fax: ++355 42 2428 148

E-mail: evis_qaja@lgzhi.com

Web site: lgzhi.com

The hereinafter report aims to present the current situation of problems of chemical usage and management in Albania, and to analyze through concrete facts the work done up to now and the work in progress made by respective bodies. The report is based on 6 main points:

1) Albania's present situation regarding chemical problems

How did these problems emerge, why have they developed, and how are they progressing? Our focus highlights highly problematic hot spots regarding chemicals in Albania. By mentioning higher problematic zones, the most spread types of chemicals in our country are also mentioned.

2) Present Legislation regarding preparations and chemical substances

Herein it is presented a full legal framework which reflects the ways chemical substances are managed, the risks they present, and the procedures to be followed by governmental organisms that manage these processes in order to minimize risks to people especially.

3) Chemicals in toys and legal framework

Here, we are going to define the importance of chemical problems in toys in order to preserve children's health. We have presented a legal framework defining basic demands and toy's conformity evaluations. We are also going to study the procedures followed in order to address and sequestrate these "hazardous" toys.

4) Consumers' protection and legal framework

Here, we have reflected the laws and procedures followed regarding consumers' protection from chemicals' risks.

5) Albanian legislation approach to EU Directives regarding chemicals

What does the Albanian legislation on chemicals foresee, and the work of respective organisms in relation to EU guidelines and directives on chemicals.

6) Media reports on the current situation, environmental problems regarding chemicals and declarations of institutions responsible for handling these problems.



ABBREVIATIONS

PHI	- Public Health Institution
CM	- Council of Ministers
AGI	- Albanian Geologic Inspection
HI	- Hydrometeorology Institution
DCM	- Decision of Council of Ministers
METE	- Ministry of Economy Trade and Energy
MIE	- Ministry of Industry and Energy
MPO	- Ministry of Public Order
OPCW	- Organization on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
EIA	- Environmental Impact Assessment
CPCW	- Convent on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PAP	- Protection of Air from Pollution
EASW	- Environmental Administration of Solid Waste
EMNP	- Environment Monitoring National Plan
MI	- Municipal Inspectorate
SSI	- Sanitary State Inspectorate
ESI	-Environmental State Inspectorate
EI	- Environmental Inspectorate
RAE	- Regional Agency on Environment
WSI	- Work State Inspectorate
HSI	-Health State Inspectorate



GHS	- Globally Harmonized System
SAA	- Stabilization Association Agreement
MEFAW	- Ministry of Environment Forests and Administration of Waters
CTI	- Central Technical Inspectorate
GDC	- General Directorate of Customs
NPMCA	- National Profile in Managing Chemicals in Albania
NPISAA Agreement	- National Plan for Implementation of the Stabilization Association Agreement
NEHAP	- National Environmental and Health Action Plan
CEHAPE	- Children European Environmental and Health Action Plan
EHAP	- Environmental and Health Action Plan
NEMP	- National Environmental Monitoring Plan
REC	- Regional Environmental Center
WHO	- World Health Organization
EBRD	- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the 1990-1991 reform until nowadays, macroeconomic conditions in Albania have been characterized by dynamic processes linked and accompanied with a considerable decline in chemical production, and with restricted monetary policies of their production.

Negative results of these productions derive from slowdowns of structural privatization reforms and specific external conditions, supplies coming mostly from import from neighbor and other economically developed countries, and non-correspondence between continuous imports and any other opportunity to export raw materials or semi products. The situation is optimistic if we consider the reaction of some private investors, who, by noticing the efficiency of production of some chemicals whose raw materials are located in our country, are predicting to make some investments of high interest. Such a step will enable our county to enter the next phase of economical transition.

The industrial production is dimidiated and the major decline is noticed in the industry of production of chemicals such as nitric sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, caustic sodium, Solvay sodium, superphosphate, nitrogenous fertilizers, pesticides, oil and SiO₂ gas production, glycerin, O₂, S, SO₂, and CO₂. The drastic decline in the production of machineries, in the industry of metal ware processing, and in the industry of wood processing has left behind several unused chemicals which nowadays cause severe problems to the environment.

The bankruptcy of production enterprises in our country, besides unemployment, has also brought the abandonment of work places and the cession of chemicals, toxic remains and hazardous substances in an out-of-control condition, which unfortunately has led to a considerable increase of risk exposure in specific areas inhabited recently by poor population strata migrated from various areas of the country.

One of the indicators of unstable usage practices of chemicals is also the pollution deriving from past industries which have created hot environmental spots. At present, our country has 9 zones

containing such toxic and cancerous remains, which in most of the cases are left in out-of-control conditions. International Studies have considered 5 of these zones as *hot environmental spots*. They contain mercury, lindane, 6-valency chrome, tiramit, dioxides, furamit, pesticides, and oil production remains and respective abandoned installation places.

The environmental rehabilitation of *hot environmental spots* is one of the priorities of country's Strategy on Socio-Economic Development and the National Action Plan for the Environment, which is closely tied to the necessity to improve public health and the right to live in a healthy environment. It is also considered as an opportunity to increase the touristic potential of coastal areas in vicinities of hot spots (*National Profile for Chemical Management in Albania, 2006*)

1.1 DEFINITIONS

We shall explain the meaning of subjects regarding chemical substances based on Article 4 of Law Nr. 9108, dated 17.07.2003, “*On Chemical Substances and Preparations*”

1. "**Chemical Substances**", which hereinafter shall be called *substances*, are chemical elements and their compounds in natural states or states gained from a production process, including layers and major solvents ensuring their stability, and any impurity of natural or production process derivated origin, excluding solvents which can be dissociated from the substance without altering its composition or without affecting its stability.
2. "**Chemical Preparations**", which hereinafter shall be called *preparations*, are compounds or dips composed of two or more chemical substances.
3. "**Classification**" shall mean the evaluation process according to which substances or praparations are judged to have one or more hazardous attributes and further definition of individual risk categories.
4. "**Distributor**" shall mean a legal or natural person authorized to practise trade activities, who stores and distributes preparations or chemical substances to third parties and does not directly affect the substance or preparation attributes during his activities.
5. "**Assessment**" shall mean the specification of a hazardous attribute in compliance with Article 5 of this Law.
6. "**Importer**" shall mean a legal or natural person, native or foreign, who brings a preparation or chemical substance inside the territory of the Republic of Albania.
7. "**Exporter**" shall mean a legal or natural person, native or foreign, who takes a preparation or chemical substance outside of the territory of the Republic of Albania.

8. "**Trade**" shall mean the passing of preparation and chemical substances from a legal or natural person to another. Abiding this Law export is also included in trade.
9. "**Transit**" shall mean any preparation or chemical substance, which is not subject to any treatment or processing during the time period it enters and exits Albanian territory.
10. "**Administration of preparations and chemical substances**" shall mean an activity object of which are preparations and chemical substances, in particular, the production, import, export, transit, usage, storage, packing, labelling, and transport within subject's territory and their annihilation.
11. "**Registration of substances**" shall mean the registration of substances in the National Register held by the Ministry of Environment based on written data on substances, in compliance with this Law.
12. "**Regulation on Technical Security**" shall mean a summary of identification data of producers and/or importers of hazardous preparations and chemical substances, and data required for protection of humans' life and health and protection of animals and environment.
13. "**Hazardous preparations and substances**" shall mean substances and preparations which have one or more hazardous properties, classified according to the terms foreseen by this Law.

1.2 CLASSIFICATION OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS

Based on Article 5 of Law Nr. 9108, dated 17.07.2003, “*On Chemical Substances and Preparations*”, because of their properties chemical substances and preparations are classified as following:

1. **Explosive**, operate in an exothermic way, in absence of oxygen, fast development of gas, self flammable, burn quickly in specific conditions, explode when heated and put in non-hermetic containers.
2. **Oxidising**, when in contact with other substances, especially flammable substances, cause powerful exothermic reactions.
3. **Extremely flammable**, in liquid state ignite at a temperature point lower than 0°C and boil at a temperature point lower than 35°C or are flammable in gas state when in contact with normal room temperature and normal atmospheric pressure air.
4. **Highly flammable**, :
 - a) May be heated spontaneously and then burn when in contact with normal room temperature and normal atmospheric pressure air, without presence of any energy;
 - b) May easily burn in a solid state, as a consequence of a brief contact with an ignition source and continue to burn or release smoke even after removal of ignition source;
 - c) In liquid state have an ignition point lower than 21°C and are not extremely flammable;
 - d) When in contact with water or moist air release very dangerous gases, in amounts that reach 1 litre/kg. h

5. **Flammable**, ignition point from 21°C until 55°C.
6. **Highly toxic**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration, even in small quantities, may cause severe acute or chronic health damage, or even death.
7. **Toxic**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration, even in small quantities, may cause acute or chronic health damage, or even death.
8. **Harmful to human health**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration, even in small quantities, may cause severe acute or chronic health damage, or even death.
9. **Corrosive**, when in contact with living tissues may damage them permanently.
10. **Exasperating**, they do not have corrosive substances' qualities, but when they come to direct contact for a long time with the skin or mucous membranes they may cause inflammations.
11. **Sensible**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration may cause hyper sensibility and, as a consequence, after another exposure, display this lasts characteristic symptoms.
12. **Cancerous**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration may cause or increase the frequency of getting cancer.
13. **Mutagenic**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration may cause or increase the frequency of genetic disorders.
14. **Harmful to reproduction**, after inhaling, swallowing or skin penetration may cause or increase the frequency of damages in reproduction or in males and females' reproductive abilities.
15. **Harmful to the environment**, after exposure or release to the environment may present an instant or later risk.

1.3 RISK ASSESSMENT OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Based on Article 13 of Law Nr. 9108, dated 17.07.2003, “*On Chemical Substances and Preparations*”, risk assessment of substances hazardous to human health and environment is approached as following:

- The List of hazardous substances whose nature poses a serious threat to human life and health and to the environment is defined by a Decision of the Council of Ministers.
- In compliance with point 1 of this Article, the Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with other Ministries abiding to this Law, takes measures to assess the risks posed to human life and health and to the environment from substances included in the abovementioned list.
- The Procedure of risk assessment of substances hazardous to human life and health is defined by Decision of the Minister of Health.
- The Procedure of risk assessment of substances hazardous to the environment is defined by Decision of the Minister of Environment.
- The Council of Ministers, by proposal of respective ministers, based on hazardous substances risk assessment results in a national and international level, decides upon the terms on launching these substances to the market.

1.4 HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIAL WASTE

In 1990, the industry contributed with more than 37% to the Gross Domestic Product. This contribution dropped to 12% in 1999. The main industry sectors were the metallurgy, oil refinery and production of chemicals. Albania is rich in mineral resources. According to Geological Studies, potential reserves of mineral resources are estimated to be (in million tons): chrome 5: copper 45-50: nickel 500: charcoal 350.

Past and present industrial activities are based on the usage of natural resources as raw material. During the last years, the industrial production of several major products dropped 50-70% and some products are no longer produced. *These products include metallurgy, nickel and chemical production concentrates which evolved in hazardous industrial waste laying in fields or in abandoned work implants.*

The main reasons for this occurrence rely on the changing social and economic conditions. Nowadays, industrial production consists of mines, enrichment of minerals such as chrome, copper and charcoal, oil refinery and processing of construction materials, therefore, most of the industrial waste is still formed from these industries.

The main environmental problem regarding closed industrial enterprises is the accumulation of waste from previous operations. In 2000, the highest quantities of hazardous industrial waste were created by the chrome and copper industries.

During this transitional period the Albanian chemical industry has experienced a drastic decline. Production of pesticides, chemical fertilisers, sodium, sulphuric acid, and glycerine, which once had a special priority because of agricultural needs and country's necessity for raw material, now do not even exist.

Today, our country has developed the cement industry and the industry of mass commodities which need raw materials and semi products which are mainly imported from other countries. Only in few occasions, O₂ and N₂ are produced in our country for usage and export upon demand.

Albania, as a consequence of industrial and agricultural developments, imports pesticides, fertilisers, several chemicals used for detergents, lubricants, chemical cleansers, and construction materials, whose environmental impact is closely linked to their processing, storage and transport. Some of the problems they create are as following;

1.4.1 AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution resulting from emissions of petrol station combustions, motor transport and uncontrolled constructions has become highly problematic in industrial areas. It is mostly noticed in areas with cement industry, metallurgy, oil refinery and a vast motor transport network.

The main created polluters are PM10 and PM 2.5 deriving from the cement industry and constructions all over the country; N Ox deriving from oil refinery and motor transport; S Ox and CO2 deriving from thermo centrals and flow generators; ammonium released from processes of food industry; phenol released from the metallurgic industry and refineries etc...

Other important factors to be taken into consideration are also industrial accidents which pollute the air in many specific forms, oil industry fires, oil well fires or over usage of pesticides in agriculture.

1.4.2 MONITORING AIR QUALITY

The legal obligation on monitoring air quality derives from Laws on Environment Protection from State Inspectorate of Health. It is important to highlight the rules and regulations enforced to complement the uncompleted two Laws. The laws do not foresee definitions clearly and do not present full rights and obligations of various responsible institutions. This has led to misunderstandings and continuous misinterpreting, which has affected the process.

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) operates the main control on air pollution in Tirana. The laboratory began its functioning in 1997 and is equipped with modern instruments.

This institution also monitors the air quality in cities like Tirana, Korca, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodra, Fier and Vlora.

Because of limited financial and technical recourses, the monitoring of air is done 5 times a month in each city, which makes a total of not more than 60 days/year per city, resulting in an average of approximately 16 %. This is way below the minimum recommended by the World Health Organization, which is 247 days/year. Massive monitoring is used only for measuring O₃ levels and some parallel measuring of NO₂.

Since 1996, the IPH has also had an automatic station for monitoring air quality. This station is located in Tirana and measures uninterruptedly the dynamic of pollutants like O₃, SO₂, CO and N Ox. The automatic monitoring program was interrupted in 1999 due to lack of spare parts and servicing equipments. The IPH's air pollution laboratory is planning to restart the automatic monitoring according to CARDS program.

Being in the situation of an highly increasing urban traffic, the frequency of registrations has become insufficient. PM₁₀ concentrations are generally registered 4-5 times a month, when you need to measure them at least 247 days/year in order to have sufficient data to interpret results.

1.4.3 MONITORING WATERS

A Council of Ministers' Decree on Monitoring the Republic of Albania, in order to clarify various institutions' obligations and to avoid duplications and loops, conditions and specifies who shall monitor special indicators.

In 2001, the Ministry of Environment, which is responsible for monitoring the environment, subcontracted water monitoring in cooperation with some other specialised domestic institutions.

1.4.4 TERRESTRIAL WATERS

For approximately half a century, the Albanian Geologic Inspectorate has monitored terrestrial waters, especially their quantity, quality and movement. AGI has undertaken even hydrological studies on terrestrial waters. By law, the Inspectorate shall protect aquifers, but the quantity of aquifer water is not reported to it. AGI highlights the fact that continuous usage of terrestrial waters is unstable, because in some areas and aquifers is too intensive.

1.4.5 SURFACE WATERS

The monitoring of rivers is subcontracted by the Ministry of Environment and the Hydrometeorology Institution. According to this institution's Environmental Reports surface waters are of first category based on their quality, but the report also shows that monitoring stations are located far away from pollution sources.

The monitoring of surface waters has drastically decreased. Most of the 150 stations are no longer functioning, because they do not have sufficient staff, equipment for samples and analysis and machineries. Today, only two series of results per year are presented to the Ministry of Environment.

1.4.6 DRINKING WATER

Drinking and seaside water is monitored by the Ministry of Health and subcontracted by the Ministry of Environment. There are monitored 15 parameters, including global standards of Physic-Chemistry and bacteria. Pesticides are rarely monitored, while hydrocarbons are not monitored at all. Monitoring of coastal areas is done only during the touristic season.

1.5 QUANTITY OF ACCUMULATED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES

CHEMICALS	QUANTITY IN TONS
Highly Toxic	40
Toxic	575
Extremely Flammable	110
Oxidising	330
Harmful to Human Health	300
Exasperating	12
Others	164
TOTAL	1.531

1.5.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEMATIC AREAS

Natyre of the Problem	City /Region	Problem Description	Chemicals/Polluters
Air Pollution	Tirana,Durres,	Motor Transport Constructions, Industries	NO _x ,So _x ,CO ₂ ,PM ₁₀
	Fier,Marins Ballsh,Patos	Hydrocarbon Pollution, Nitrogenous Fertilizer's Industry	SO ₂ , CO ₂ , As ,
	Elbasan	Cement Factory Metallurgy	PM ₁₀ ,SO ₂ .CO ₂ ,NO _x
	Vlora	Pollution from Mercury	
	Lac	Sulfuric and phosphoric acid waste from Industries	V ₂ O ₅
	Durres	Pollution from chrome derivates and pesticides, Leather manufacturing	Cr , pesticides
	Rubik	Copper Industry and Enrichment of minerals	Copper, Microelements

1.5.2 PRIORITY CONCERNS REGARDING CHEMICALS

Nature of the problem	Range of the problem	Level of concern	Problem control possibility	Statistical data at disposal	Special chemicals causing problems	Priority
Air Pollution	National	High	Medium	Insufficient	PM10,PM2.5 SO2.CO2, NOx	Controlled movement of vehicles Controlled constructions
River Pollution	National	High	Medium		NH3,NO2,N O3,P, COD,BOD5	Control of dumping in rivers Installation of cleaning/filtering implants
Terrestrial Water Pollution	National	High	Medium		Urban Dumps	Control of dumping, Installation of cleaning/filtering implants
Earth Pollution	National	High	Medium		Construction Industries	Control of dumping, Installation of cleaning/filtering implants
Pollution from chemical waste in food	National	High	Medium		Heavy Metals Pesticides	Control of pesticides' usage and controlled technologies

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK REGARDING CHEMICALS

2.1 POLITICAL OBJECTIVES

Stable management of chemicals, besides being an obligation deriving from the Association Stabilisation Agreement, is also one of Albanian Government's Objectives included in its 2005-2009 Program. This objective aims to stimulate clean technology's development, which inter alia must use certified chemical substances in order to diminish harmful discharges in the environment (water, air, earth etc).

Parties shall develop and strengthen cooperation to serve to the important task of fighting against environmental degradation, and aiming to promote environmental stability.

Cooperation is mainly focused on priority areas regarding Acquis Communautaire on Environment (Article 108 of SAA)/ (NATIONAL PLAN ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, 2007-2012)

The legislation regarding chemical substances in the Republic of Albania regulates the management of preparations and chemical substances, substances for plants' protection, explosives, gaseous and liquid flammables, hazardous substances, ozone unfriendly substances, stable organic pollutants etc...

The basic law regulating the administration of preparations and chemical substances in the Republic of Albania is Law Nr.9108, dated 17.7.2003 "*On Chemical Substances and Preparations*", published in the official gazette Nr 66, Year 2003, page 2925, publishing date 04.08.2003.

Law 9108/03 partly transposes (70%) the Council's Directive 76/769/EEC, dated 27/07/1976 , on approaching legislation, regulations and administrative provisions of member countries regarding sale and usage of some hazardous preparations and chemical substances, 31976L0769, official gazette 262, series L, dated 17/09/1976, page 0201 – 0203.

This law's objective is the settlement of rights and obligations of legal and natural persons in defining preparations and chemical substances' qualities and classifications for their registration, inventory, announcement, management and trade.

Law 9108/03 foresees rules on classifying and testing preparations and chemical substances before they are launched to market.

According to this law, testing shall be made by methods abiding experimental animal protection principles set by decision of the competent Ministry. According to this law the Ministry of Environment holds a National Register for preparations and chemical substances and the data on the register are provided by ministries appointed by the law.

In abidance to law 9108/03 the Council of Ministers approved Decision Nr. 824, dated 1.12.2003 “On classification, packaging, labeling and safe storage of hazardous preparations and chemical substances, which partly transposes(70%), Council’s Directive 67/548/EEC, dated 27/06/1967, on approaching legislation, regulations and administrative provisions regarding classification, packaging, labeling and safe storage of hazardous preparations and chemical substances, 31967L 0548, Official Gazette 196, series L , dated 16/08/1967, pg. 0001 - 0098.

CMD Nr.824, dated 11.12.2003 “On classification, packaging, labeling and safe storage of hazardous preparations and chemical substances”, Official Gazette Nr 106, year 2003, page 4543, publishing date 31.12.2003, aims to regulate the production, trade, storage and distribution of hazardous preparations and chemical substances , by respecting the Albanian legislation and international rules.

CDM 824/03 also defines principles on hazardous preparations and chemical substances’ classification, in compliance with international classifications and abiding to last directives of the European Council on packaging, labeling and safe storage of hazardous preparations and chemical substances.

According to point 7.10 of this Decision depositing and storage of preparations and chemical substances hazardous to human health and environment undergoes to permit and registration procedures.

Permit applications are addressed to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, while registration applications to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters.

In the Ministry of Industry and Energy there is a commission with representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Energy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Order and Ministry of Environment, which gives permits to deposit and store hazardous preparations and chemical substances. The procedure of taking the permit and the regulation on the commission functioning are approved by officials of ministries in charge.

Regulation of activities such as import, export, transit and transshipping of all chemicals included in the chemical convent, is done in abidance to normative acts as following;

Law Nr. 7747, dated 29.07.1993 “On ratification of the convent for banning development, production, storage and usage of chemical weapons and on their distruction” (*Official Gazette* , year 1993 , nr 10, pg 677, publication date 7.8.1993).

Law nr. 9092, dated 03.07.2003 “On implementing the convent for banning development, production, storage and usage of chemical weapons and on their distruction”(Official Gazette, year 2003, nr 63, page 2809,publication date 4.8.2003),

Council of Minister’s Decision Nr. 38, dated 22.01.2004 “On Structure, Functioning and obligations of the board of counselors, on implementing the convent for banning development, production, storage and usage of chemical weapons and on their distruction” (*Official Gazette*, year2004, nr 3, pg 77, publication date 30.01.2004).

All chemicals being of first, second or third degree, included in the chemical convent, other chemical production equipments which are object of control for this convent, may, at any time, in compliance with the above legal framework, be inspected by the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The abovementioned chemicals are also reported to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the last, at any time, may inspect them.

Law Nr.8934, dated 5.09.2002 “On Environment Protection” is the basic law, which regulates interrelations between men and environment, protects the environment and environmental processes and ensures the necessary conditions for a stable development. The law does not directly regulate activities regarding chemicals, but indirectly and with the same responsibility, abiding to its specific articles and points, it prevents the negative impact that might arise from maladministration on the environment. Article 2 of this Law states: “*Protection of the environment from pollution and damage is a priority of all governmental bodies, natural or legal persons, foreign or native, who exert their activities in the territory of the Republic of Albania*”... The law mentions in specific chapters The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Permits for activities Impacting the Environment, Prevention and Restriction of Environmental Pollution, Monitoring and Statistics, Environmental Control, Governmental Bodies’ tasks on Environment, Public Role and Sanctions.

Although it does not mention chemicals in the formulation of its articles and chapters, it protects the environment from their impact, and simultaneously leads the way for a safe development of activities which might harm men and environment.

By demanding a series of measures from subjects exerting activities and by setting governmental body's competences on prevention of environmental impacts, the Law with its predicted sanctions does not exclude chemical activities.

Law Nr.9092, dated 3.07.2003 on implementation of "Convent for banning development, production, storage and usage of chemical weapons and on their distruction". The law defines authority, responsibilities, creation and functioning of necessary bodies implementing tasks deriving from the Convent on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CPCW) in the *National Profile of Chemical Managment in Albania*. The Minister of Defense is the governmental authority of the Republic of Albanian in charge of implementing the Convent. In the Ministry of Defense there is created a Board of Counselors as a counseling body on convent issues, whose composition is proposed by the Minister of Defense and is approved by the Council of Ministers. According to Point 5 of this law "any legal or natural person, foreign or native, producing, owning, using or transferring chemical weapons, importing and/or exporting chemical substances with compositions defined in table 1.2 and 3 attached to this law, and owners of implants of production of chemicals, are subject of declaration and verification from the authority in order to ensure their activities compatibility with the convent predictions and this law.

In this law are also defined the rules on declaration and license acquisition. In article 17 of the law it states "In the Ministry of Industry and Energy it is created and functions a controlling body, structure of the State Inspectorate".

Law Nr.8990, dated 23.01.2003 "On Environmental Impact Assessment" aims to ensure an overall and in time assessment of environmental impacts, projects or activities to be implemented, by preventing and reducing negative impacts to the environment(Article 1, point 2). These projects or activities undergo processes predicted in annexes 1 and 2 of article 4 of this law.

As regards various chemicals' production processes, they undergo processes predicted in annex 1, point 22, from letter (a-dh) and point 23,34,39,40 and 41. The law defines rules, procedures,

deadlines, rights and obligations to identify and accurately assess direct and indirect environmental impacts of activities exerted.

Law Nr.8897, dated 16.05.2002 “Protection of Air from Pollution”, guarantees citizens’ right to live in a clean air environment, by protecting human health, fauna, flora and natural and cultural values of the Albanian environment. The law defines and classifies pollution sources, and environmental indicators based on air conditions (content of solid matters, sulfur oxides, carbon dioxides, and ozone, lead/aerosol and nitrogen oxides). The Council of Ministers, by proposal of the ministry of Environment, approves temporary norms of discharges in the open air, based on EU norms.

In chapter 4 of the law are stated the obligations on air protection for natural and legal persons, and also the main obligations of operators of stationary sources of pollution. Norms of discharges from stationary pollution sources are approve by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transport.

Special protected zones are announced by the Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health. Pollution source operators pay a discharge tax, based on quantity and type of discharges defined by Law nr.8435, dated 28.12.1998 “On tax System of the Republic of Albania”.

Law Nr.8906, dated 06.06.2002 “On Protected Areas”, aims to ensure special protection for important ingredients of natural resources, biodiversity and nature in general, by creating protected areas. Article 6 of this Act, point 2, letter dh and g, point 3, letter d and article 9, point 2b, prevents usage or storage of various chemicals in Protected Areas (National Parks)

Law Nr.9010,dt 13.02.2003 ‘On Environmental Administration of Solid Waste’ aims environment and health protection from pollution and damage from solid waste, through their environmental administration at any phase, including creation, accumulation, division, storage, transport, recycling, processing and annihilation, which leads to reduction of waste and diminishing of hazardous impacts.

The Law is not applicable according to point 3 and 2 to hazardous, radioactive, nuclear and explosive waste, whose administration is regulated by special laws.

According to Article 10, letter c, owners of waste shall ensure the division of harmful waste from harmless waste and storage for the ones that there are no proper methods to get them annihilated or processed.

Based on same article, letter d, owners of waste shall ensure that the accumulation of harmful waste is done in isolated places and they shall be temporarily preserved in special containers, packed, labeled and transported in compliance with the rules and international norms approved in the Republic of Albania. All costs are bearable by the owners.

According to Article 26 of this Law, in the Republic of Albanian it is prohibited to import waste for storage, depositing and annihilation. Monitoring of waste is part of the National Program on Monitoring the Environment and it is done based on its requirements. Municipality Inspectorate and Sanitary Inspectorate control the implementation of rules and requirements for creation, accumulation, storage, transport, processing and annihilation of urban waste, construction waste and voluminous waste. The Environment Inspectorate controls implementation of rules and requirements set by the Environmental Permit of the waste owner.

Law Nr.9115, dated 24.07.2003 “On Environmental Treatment of Polluted Waters” aims to protect the environment and human health from negative impacts from polluted waters, by defining rules and their environmental treatment, and also obligations of dischargers in polluted waters. Article 4 of this law defines obligations of the Ministry of Environment and governmental bodies to cooperate on:

- defining best techniques and technologies for polluted waters’ treatment;
- drafting plans, creating a contemporary legal framework, bettering the responsible institutional network, ensuring and using the necessary financial means and exerting continuous control on activities causing water pollution and subjects committed to water cleaning. Regarding the existence of an official register of chemicals in the Albanian market, we state that: In the Republic of Albania there is not chemicals register yet, that fulfils all requirements of the European legislation. In abidance to law nr.9108 dated 17.7.2003 “On Chemical Substances and Preparations”, the producer, importer, and distributor of hazardous chemical substances and preparations is obliged to register the type, quantity and attributes of the chemical substance and/or preparation. Registration is done for any businesses separately. Method and Registration and Announcement details are defined by the chemicals registration office. Producers and importers of only hazardous chemicals or preparations in containers with sizes more than 10 tons in a calendar year are also obliged to notify in writing the responsible Ministry that they are producing or importing, once a year. Legal and Natural persons authorised to exert trade activities, for management of substances and preparations defined by law 9108/03, are obliged to notify the Regional Agency for Environment, to register the entrance of these substances and the maximal allowed quantity. Regional Agencies of Environment and local units for health protection define special conditions for exerting activities which involve the usage of hazardous substances.

Law 9108/03, defines that upon the proposal of the Ministry of Environment, the Council of Ministers approves the list of chemical substances and preparations , whose production, release to the market and usage is restricted or prohibited.

The Council of Ministers, for new substance identification, by Decision Nr. 100, dated 03.02.2008 “On defining hazardous substances”, and abiding Article 100 of the Constitution and

point 19 of article 2 of Law nr.9634, dated 30.10.2006 “On Work Inspection and State Inspectorate of Work”, approved the list with 220 hazardous substances.

3.RULES ON CLASSIFICATION, PACKING AND LABELLING CHEMICALS (SUBSTANCES & PREPARATIONS)

According to article 7/4 of Law Nr. 9108 dated 17.7.2003 “On chemical substances and Preparations”, procedures to evaluate hazardous chemicals, methods of their classification, packing and labelling and the list of hazardous chemicals to be classified, are defined by a Council of Ministers’ Decision.

Rules of classification, packing and labelling in Albania are defined by DCM Nr.824, dated 11.12.2003“On classification, packing, labelling and storage of hazardous chemical substances and preparations”, a decision drafted in compliance with EU Directive 67/548/EEC dated 27/06/1967 “On classification, packing and labelling of hazardous substances”, 31967L0548, Official Gazette 196, dated 16/08/ 1967, pg. 1–98.

DCM 824/03 aims the creation of safe conditions for administration of all chemicals and preparations imported, exported, produced, traded, used and stored in our country.

According point 3 of DCM 824/03, the classification of hazardous substances and preparations is done based on the International System, which is based on the physical-chemical and toxic qualities, and on special impacts to human health and environment.

In compliance with the Law “On chemical substances and Preparations ”, risk assessment of a chemical or preparation harmful to human health, is done with traditional methods, by using limit and individual concentrations of the preparation.

Point 4 of this Decision regulates requirements that shall be fulfilled by the producer, importer, and distributor for packing hazardous substances and preparations and instructs on the way of packing, the material to be used and isolation conditions. Requirements relate to packing stability, hermetic and risk warning signs for hazardous chemical substances and preparations.

This decision (point5) also gives rules on labelling hazardous substances before they are released to the market. In the same way, it defines what a hazardous chemical label shall contain and it

gives special predictions regarding labelling some preparations classified hazardous for sale to the public.

Chemical substances and preparations according to point 7 of DCM 824/03 are stored deposited in warehouses with special conditions for this purpose.

In annexes of this decision is reflected the list of standard phrases on the nature of substance's risk(R-phrases), rules of security by security phrases (S-phrases) and the classification of chemical substances and preparations according to numerical number of element (Rules on classification, labelling and packing, dated 22.12.2008) .

More concretely, in this DCM it is stated; labels shall be clearly visible and are their content inerasable, which is obligatory to be in Albanian; filling and putting it labels on the packing; requirements obligatory to PMB-packing people; legal obligations of PMB trade subjects requiring labelling products in the Republic of Albania.

Taking into consideration international and European developments regarding classification and labelling of chemicals, it is necessary to review the present respective legislation based on regulation (EC)1272/2008, “, On Classification, labelling and packing of compounds”, or based on the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS- Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals).

In the National Plan to Implement SAA 2009-2014 in addressing long term goals, it has also been predicted the drafting of some legal acts aiming the partial transposing of respective EU Directives .

4.1 PROCEDURE ON GATHERING DATA & RISKS ASSESSMENT FROM CHEMICALS

Article 13 of Law Nr. 9108 dated 17.7. 2003 “On Chemical Substances and Preparations”, predicts risk assessment of substances harmful to human health and the environment. The list of hazardous substances, which because of their nature pose a threat to human life and environment, is defined by decision of Council of Ministers. The Ministry of Environment, together with other responsible Ministries, take measures to assess risks to life and human health and environment for substances included in the list.

Procedures for risk assessment of substances harmful to human life and health are defined by verdict of the Minister of Health, while procedures for risk assessment of substances harmful to the environment are defined by verdict of the Minister of Environment.

Based on risk assessment results in an international and national level, the Council of Minister, upon proposal of the respective Minister, decides upon the release of these substances to market. Study of 2008 of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Energy (METE) “Treatment of hazardous chemicals, stock in companies under METE’s responsibility” has cleared and updated the situation regarding the status of hazardous chemicals in the warehouses of companies, enterprises and institutions of industries not related to food. The study has also mentioned the options for their elimination, bearing the specific costs, to make them harmless to the environment and people living in those areas.

Under UNDP’s Program on hot environmental spots, the project on “Identification and Prioritizing Hot-Spots in Albania” is being developed. The project has made a preliminary inventory of 35 hot spots identified by MEFAW. The Environmental Impact Assessment is developing a detailed study for 10 Priority hot spots, which shall reflect more accurately the inventory on these hot spots.

4.2 LEGAL PROVISIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROHIBITION AND CONTROL OF SOME HAZARDOUS AND/OR PROHIBITED CHEMICALS' EXPORT AND IMPORT

The Albanian legislation has predictions regarding prohibition and control of certain hazardous chemicals' export-import. Law Nr.9108, dated 17.07.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations", in chapter 7 handles the import and export of hazardous chemical substances and preparations, conditions the exporters and importers of these substances shall obey to and the necessity for application and approval by respective ministries.

According to Article 21 of Law 9108/03, import and export of hazardous substances and chemicals is done only with the permit of the relevant minister. The Chemicals' Registration Office, based on the data retrieved from respective ministries, shall register applications for import and export of hazardous chemical substances and preparations, and given approvals, and must notify the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters for international exchange of data related to these substances. The exporter is obliged to put on the packing of hazardous chemical substances and preparations destined for trade activities the labels in the language of the receiving country and where these substances will be used. The importers and exporters are obliged to present to the customs authorities for control all documentations accompanying hazardous chemical substances and preparations destined for trade.

According to Article 22 of Law 9108/03, the producer, importer and distributor of hazardous chemicals and preparations is obliged to register the type, quantity and preparations and substances' attributes. Registration is done for each business separately. Producers and importers of hazardous preparations and substances are obliged to notify in writing the respective Ministry, within February 15th of every year, about the type of substance they are producing or importing, its quantity and its attributes.

Legal and natural persons authorised to exert trade activities are obliged to notify the Regional Agency for Environment about their management of hazardous chemicals and substances, and to register the quantity of these substances and the maximum allowed quantity. They also shall send this agency the Regulation on Technical Security for these substances. The Regional Agency for

Environment and local health protection units, 24 hour before initiation of activity, shall notify the specific conditions needed in order to exert this kind of activity.

Regarding the relevant structure for prohibition and control of export and import of certain hazardous and/or prohibited chemicals, including pesticides, find as following:

1. Custom Authorities control in border crossings the goods declared as hazardous substance or preparation, whose import and export requires approval by the respective ministry.
2. In case of suspicion or law infringement, custom authorities block the goods and notify the Health State Inspectorate or the Sanitary State Inspectorate and ask for technical support.
3. Custom Authorities register loads containing hazardous substances or preparations when crossing borders.
4. Custom Authorities allow employees of the Ministry of Environment and Inspectorates to verify registers in written or photocopied copies and also in digital copies if available.
5. Environment State Inspectorate cooperates with Custom Authorities and assists them with specialists and technical support.
6. Sanitary State Inspectorate cooperates with Environment State Inspectorate and Custom Authorities, and assists them with specialists and technical support.

5. TOYS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

5.1 POLITICAL OBJECTIVE

In Article 75 of the SAA it is promoted the implementation of technical rules of the Community and European Standards and compatibility procedures. National strategy's political objective for consumers' protection and market monitoring is the guaranteeing for only safe products and services to be released to or circulate the market.

5.2.1 EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Laws not transposing community acts and their compatibility:

Law Nr. 9097, dated 3.7.2003 "On Conformity Assessment".

DCM Nr. 723, dated. 5.11.2004 "On procedures and ground rules on functioning of organisms authorised to assess conformity"

According Decision Nr. 888, dated 19.12.2007, "On defining basic requirements and Conformity Assessment in Toys", there have been defined in details some technical rules, which are as following:

5.2.2 COMBUSTABILITY

a) Toys shall not consist of combustible elements, dangerous to children and environment.

Therefore, they should be composed of materials that:

- Do not combust when directly exposed to flames, sparks or a potential fire holder, or;
- Do not instantly ignite (flame vanishes as soon as source of fire vanishes); or
- In case they ignite, they burn slowly and present a low scale of fire expansion; or
- Despite toy's chemical composition, are treated in such a way that delays the combustion process.

These combustible materials shall not pose an ignition threat to other materials used in toys.

b) Toys that, for basic reason of their functioning, contain hazardous preparations or substances, as defined in Law Nr.9108, dated 17.7.2003 "On Chemical Substances and Preparations", particularly materials and equipments used for chemical experiments, plastic or ceramic frames, enamel, photography or similar activities, shall not contain substances or preparations that may become combustible because of loss of incombustible fluoride elements.

c) Toys that shall not be explosive or containing elements or substances that may explode when used, as predicted in Point 3.

d) Toys and in particular, plays and chemical toys shall not contain substances or preparation that when mixed may explode:

- By creating chemical reactions or from heat;
- When mixed with oxidisers;
- Or contain fluoride elements which combust in air and may create combustible or explosive air/steam compounds.

5.2.3 CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

a) Toys shall be projected and constructed in such a way that, when used as specified in point 3 of technical regulations, they do not endanger health or cause risks of physical damages when swallowing, inhaling or skin contact or contact with mucous tissues or eyes.

In all cases, they shall abide to the respective legislation of the Republic of Albania, that deals with certain categories of products or with the prevention, restriction or labelling of some hazardous substances and preparations.

b) Particularly, for health protection of children, biodisponibility deriving from toy usage objectively must not overcome below mentioned levels per day:

0,2 µg for antimonies

0,1 µg for arsenic

25,0 µg for barium

0,6 µg for cadmium

0,3 µg for chrome

0,7 µg for lead

0,5 µg for mercury

5,0 µg for selenium

Or other such values determined by the Albanian legislation for other substances based on scientific evidences. Biodisponibility of these matters means that the soluble extract has toxic importance.

c) Toys shall not contain hazardous substances or preparations in compliance with Law Nr.9107, dated 17.7.2003 “On Hazardous Substances”, in quantities that may cause health damages to children using them. In all cases, it is strictly prohibited for a toy to contain hazardous substances or preparations if they are destined to be used as such during toys’ usage by children.

However, when a restricted number of substances and preparations is basic for a specific toy’s functioning, especially materials and equipments for chemical experiments, frame assemblage, plastic or ceramic frames, enamel, photography or other similar activities, they are permitted up to a maximal level of concentration as long as in conformity with the Decision of Council of

Ministers Nr.824, dated 11.12.2003 “On Classification, Packing, Labelling and Storage of Hazardous Preparations” regarding labelling, without prejudice of point 26(d).

d) Toys containing hazardous substances or preparations. Chemical Toys

- without prejudice of implementation of predicted provisions in the decision of Council of Ministers Nr.824, dated 11.12.2003 “On Classification, Packing, Labelling and Storage of Hazardous Preparations, directives on usage of toys containing hazardous substances or preparations shall contain a warning regarding the hazardous nature of these chemicals and preparations and an indicator of preliminary measures to be taken by the user based on the specific type of toy used, in order to avoid endangerment. First aid shall also be mentioned as in case of a severe accident caused by the toy usage. It must be highlighted the fact that they must be kept out of reach of very young children.

These toys are particularly considered as chemical toys: chemical sets, plastic sets, miniature ceramic sets, enamel, photography and similar toys.

- Besides the directives predicted in (a), chemical toys shall have this note on their packing:

Caution!!

Only For children above (age to be decided by the producer)

Use only under adult supervision

6. SITUATION ON TERRAIN

Concerns on import of toxic or unsecure toys and on various goods coming from China are now part of the European Parliament. Half of alarms that go on regarding unsecure products are related to Chinese productions. Secure toys bear a stamp in which it is written that they are produced according to EU directives, have the sign EC, and do not contain toxic or inappropriate substances. Unfortunately, this sign circulates often and in different styles by forfeiting it not only in our country but also in EU member countries. Many of the toys traded in our country are harmful to children's health, because they contain high levels of chemicals. The alarm comes from the Ministry of Economy. Concretely we are talking about some toys of the "Fisher Price" company, which has demanded withdraw from the market because of a certain category of toys produced by itself that contain lead above allowed levels and are dangerous. Besides this, high risks to children come also from toys imported from China. Toys produced in China present high risks of choking or poisoning, electric shock, and various physical and bacteriological damages, proven by laboratory tests which are accredited by many EU countries. At these conditions, the Ministry of Economy has asked all consumers not to buy this category of toys. On the other hand, it has asked all traders not to sell toys produced by this company or in China. The list of dangerous toys is long, including cars and dolls for children. The Central Technical Inspectorate will deal with the prohibition of trading these toys. In a press release in "Panorama", the Director of this Inspectorate, Mr. Ilir Kurti, stated that action for identifying the selling point of these toys has started since Monday. According to him, the main trading area of these toys is Medreseja which is also known as the Chinese market, but this is not the only place you can find them. There are many unlicensed individuals who sell these toys on the streets. At this point he asks citizens not to buy toys sold in city streets, because they are imported from China and as a consequence contain high levels of chemicals. Up to now, inspectors of this Inspectorate have found all selling points of this category of products. "On Friday we will give order to close them all":- said Mr. Kurti. According to him, this is not the only problem. The inspectorate shall remove from the market also the ball-bearing toy gun because it is also dangerous for children. Besides these kinds of toys there are also electrical appliances with very poor quality and as a consequence will not be allowed to be sold in the market.

CASE 1

In 2010, the Inspectorate sequestered approximately 890 plastic toys from the Albanian markets because they contained high percentage of lead and poisoning substances. At the end of last year, the Ministry of Economy announced that a category of "Fisher Price" toys were highly dangerous, because they contained high levels of lead. According to the ministry, this company has asked for the removal of these toys from the market itself. On the other hand, based on the System of Fast Data Exchange on hazardous products set on the domestic EU market, the Ministry of Economy informed the public that there is another category of dangerous products. These toys come mostly from China and they present high risks of choke or poisoning, electric shock and various physical and bacteriological damages, proven by EU laboratory tests.

Caution Appeal

The Ministry of Economy is responsible for taking all necessary measures for guaranteeing safety of non nutritional products in the market, and for consumer rights' protection. It continuously draws the attention of consumers not to buy these products, but it also asks retailers to stop trading this category of toys. During that period, the Ministry took measures to successfully coordinate with the General Customs Directorate on blocking this category of products, and CTI banned their further trade. Besides sequestrations, CTI inspectors filed fines whose value varies from 200.000ALL to 600.000 ALL for all traders of these products. Subjects will also be fined 200.000 ALL if they do not accept to show inspectors all the relevant documentation for verification when asked. Controls are predicted to be exerted for all categories of products.

CASE 2

30th of December 2008

Yesterday, the Central Technical Inspectorate undertook an unusual action for children toys in Tirana. The Inspectorate blocked approximately 300 plastic toys, and fruit imitations in the capital, which resulted to be filled with various substances harmful to human health. The Director of CTI, Mr. Ilir Kurti asked consumers not to buy toys sold in streets because they are traded without being controlled. "Plastic toys were filled with dust or ink and were sold by random salesmen near schools and on the streets":- Mr. Kurti said. The Director of CTI, Mr. Ilir Kurti added that there has been placed a special telephone number for this problem, where citizens may report cases of witnessing trade of these products harmful to human health. At the present, it is being investigated on the products' origin and on subjects bringing them to Albania. Although people know that dangerous toys have entered Albanian markets, they keep asking for them. Salesmen confess that even parents ask about these toys even though they know they are dangerous to their children's health. However, there are also consumers which are becoming aware of these toys' harmful effects if used. These consumers avoid buying these toys and taking their children to this kind of shops. They are obliged to buy them cars, even though more expensive, just to avoid toys with poisonous or radioactive contents. Yet, the purchase of these toys has dropped considerably compared to previous years. According to traders, incomes were higher before because of purchase variety, but now parents are limited to buy only one or two kinds of toys.

(Above mentioned materials are subject of the written media)

7. CONSUMER PROTECTION

RELEVANT LAWS

Law Nr.8531, dated 23.09.1999 “On Control of Chemical Fertilisers”, Official Gazette Nr 27, Year 1999, page 1035, publication date 22.10.1999, regulates control of chemical fertilisers, imported or domestic, circulating in the Albanian market, to ensure usage of safe and qualitative fertilizers, in compliance with requirements on protecting human health, consumers, animals, plants and the environment.

7.1 GENERAL CONDITIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS

I. Article 14 of Law Nr. 9108, dated 17.07.2003

On Chemical Substances and Preparations

1. When managing hazardous chemical substances and preparations, any person is obliged to protect human health and the environment, to put danger warning signs containing statements specifically describing the risk and explaining technical security directions for their management.

2. Legal or natural persons authorized to exert trade activities, may manage hazardous substances and preparations having one or more hazardous properties, in compliance with points 1 , 2 , 3 , 6 , 12 , 13 , 14 and 15 of Article 5 of this Law and handle these substances in quantities larger than 10 tons/calendar year only upon permission of the respective Ministry.

3. Management of hazardous substances is done only after taking permission from the Regional Agency of Environment.

4. Natural persons above 18 years old and with full legal ability to act, may manage substances and preparations classified based on points 6, 7, 9, 12, 13 and 14 of Article 5 of this Law.

5. Natural Persons from 15 to 18 years old may manage substances and preparations classified based on points 6, 7, 9, 12, 13 and 14 of Article 5 of this Law, only if prepared professionally and under the supervision of professionally qualified person, based on point 2 of Article 19 of this Law.

6. Legal or natural persons authorized to exert trade activities, are obliged to allow people authorised by the control and inspection office, to access their building facilities and environment and retrieve all data necessary for their work.

II. Article 15 of Law Nr. 9108, dated 17.07.2003, *On Chemical Substances and Preparations*

1. The Producer, Importer and Distributer are not allowed to launch to market hazardous substances and preparations included in annex Nr.2 of this Law.

2. The Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister of Environment, approves the list of chemical substances and preparations whose production, marketing and usage is restricted or prohibited.

**III. Article 16 of Law Nr. 9108, dated 17.07.2003,
*On Chemical Substances and Preparations***

1. Legal or Natural persons cannot sell to consumers or to another person, not related to the trade activity, hazardous substances and preparations classified according to point 6, 12, 13 and 14 of Article 5 of this Law.

2. Legal or Natural persons authorized to exert trade activities are not allowed to sell to consumers or to give to other people hazardous substances and preparations classified according to points 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Article 5 of this Law:

a) Persons under 18 years old;

b) Persons whose legal ability to act is withdrawn or restricted.

3. Legal or Natural persons authorized to exert trade activities are not allowed to sell hazardous substances and preparations classified according to points 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Article 5 of this Law, in stops, in movement, in automatic vehicles for sale and containers, defined by the buyer.

4. Legal or Natural persons authorized to exert trade activities, are obliged to ensure the separate placing from other goods of these hazardous substances and preparations classified according to points 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Article 5 of this Law. These substances and preparations must be kept only in closed and unbreakable original packing. In self service sale cases, these products are not allowed to be exposed in places where they can be easily reached, they should be given by the seller himself.

7.2 PACKING OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS FOR CONSUMERS' PROTECTION

Based on Decision Nr. 824, dated 11.12.2003 *“On classification, packing, labelling and storage of hazardous substances and preparations”*

Classification of hazardous substances and preparations is done according to the International System, which is based on physical-chemical and toxic qualities and specific impacts on human health and on the impacts on environment pollution.

1. The Producer, Importer and Distributor of hazardous substances and preparations may market them, if he ensures that their packing is safe, does not leak and does not pose a threat to human health and to the environment.

2. The Producer, Importer and Distributor of hazardous substances and preparations shall take into consideration these requirements when packing them:

a) Packing shall be constructed in a way for its content not to leak spontaneously.

b) Packing material and isolators must not be affected by the packing content and they should not react with the content forming dangerous compounds.

c) In normal work conditions, packing must be resistant to damages and must be secured not to create isolators spontaneous openings.

ç) Repeatedly used isolators must be projected in such a way they should close after opening of the packing and must ensure the non-leaking of the packing's content.

d) Packing of hazardous substances and preparations, labelled as highly poisonous, toxic, corrosive, corrosive destined for retail sale must be equipped with extra isolators, in order not to be opened by children.

dh) Packing of hazardous substances and preparations labelled as harmful to health, extremely flammable, highly flammable, destined for retail sale, must be equipped with touchable warnings for blind people.

e) Packing of hazardous substances and preparations must differ from packing normally used for water, food or medical products.

ë) Packing of hazardous substances and preparations, offered for sale to the public, must not have:

- Forms or decorations that attract children's and not oriented consumers' attention;
- Drawings previously found in food products used by people or animals, or cosmetic and medical products.

3. The Producer, Importer and Distributor of hazardous substances and preparations must take all necessary measures to guarantee that packing containing these materials offered for sale to the public is equipped with noticeable danger warning signs.

7.3 STORAGE OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS

1. Chemical substances and preparations are stored in warehouses destined for this purpose and in special conditions. The building and warehouse installations must be projected, dimensioned, and constructed taking into consideration the properties of the substances store, in order to prevent danger in case of accidents.

2. The warehouse storing chemicals must be positioned in a sufficient distance from inhabited areas, schools, health care institutions, industrial centres, roads with heavy traffic and important environmental areas.

The warehouse storing chemicals, without any justified reasons, cannot be positioned in an area of underground waters which are used for drinking water. In case a warehouse storing chemicals is positioned in such a place, then special measures must be taken, being structural or operative, to ensure that warehouse inside or outside activities do not endanger people, environment or property in case of an accident or malfunction.

3. The warehouse storing chemicals must have natural and artificial ventilation, be protected from lightening, have water sanitation and flowing water for hand washing.

The warehouse storing chemicals must have these equipments:

- Cupboards, shelves, stairs, table and chairs for working when controlling materials;
- work supplies and instruments for technical services;
- Dissymmetric measuring apparatus and anti- chemical protective equipments;
- First aid and fire-fighter equipments and tools;
- Guidelines book on technical security measures and fire protection for storage personnel.

7.4 STORAGE OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS

1. Highly toxic and toxic substances are stored in special warehouses, separate from other substances and preparations. They are put in special packing in wooden containers or in cupboards when in small packing, closed and safely locked with a key and wax seal.
2. Hazardous substances and preparations, deposited in special warehouses and under special conditions, shall be packed and labelled with the danger warning symbol and the indicator of danger and security.
3. During storage of chemical substances and preparations in warehouses, chemical compatibility principles as following must be respected and monitored;
 - a) Highly oxidising substances and preparations are put separately from other easily combustible substances and preparations.
 - b) Acids and Bases are put separately.
 - c) Chemical substances and preparations, which react as a result of their toxic ingredients, shall be put separately.
 - d) Chemical substances and preparations, depending on their size (or volume or quantity) are put on tends or shelves separated from each other from a 1-meter distance.
4. In warehouses of chemicals it is strictly prohibited to deposit food or silage.
5. Entrance of unauthorised people and placement of chemicals without authorization in a chemicals' warehouse is prohibited and prevented by administrative measures and other effective measures depending on the nature of activity. Servicing and maintenance of structures, equipments and additional elements of the warehouse shall be administered effectively depending on the nature of activity.
6. Workers handling servicing, maintenance and installations of the storage station, must be trained and instructed for security actions, based on the nature of service. Service employers shall undergo periodical medical checks.
7. Hazardous chemicals storage and depositing must undergo permit acquisition and registration procedures. Permit Applications are addressed to the Ministry of Industry and Energy while registration applications are submitted to the Ministry of Environment. In the Ministry of Industry and Energy, there is established a commission authorised to give permits for deposit and

storage of hazardous chemicals, comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry and Energy, Ministry of Public Order, and Ministry of Environment. Permit acquisition procedures and regulation on commission's functioning are approved by respective responsible ministries.

8. Any station depositing and storing hazardous chemicals must have a technical director, chemist, who knows chemicals properties, their treatment regulations, their administration and preventive measures to be taken in case of accident.

9. Substances and preparations kept in storages shall undergo continuous controls by people responsible. The general control includes periodic controls of storehouses, equipments, packing and periodic laboratory analysis.

10. Controls aim to define the chemical qualities' status and alterations that might occur to them during the storage process and they deal with the separation of materials which shall be repaired and materials in use. The storage place shall at any times be kept clean and neat, and in case of damages it should immediately be reconstructed.

8. NON-REGULATORY MECHANISMS ON CHEMICALS' MANAGEMENT

* National Action Plan for Environment & Health. Even though this plan was drafted based on the support of all relevant ministries and institutions, it was not supported properly. The plan has predicted a series of actions which were never done because of lack of financial means and sub-implementation. Plan's Directive Committee and the Ministry drafting this plan were not fully committed in its proper implementation. However, this plan helped for some problems to take the right direction.

* The Initiative of the former Ministry of Industry and Energy to accumulate in a safe place all chemical stocks, despite their riskiness, played an important role in preventing risks posed to humans, animals and environment by their storage in unsafe conditions. All costs for accumulation of approximately 100 tons of chemicals were afforded by the funds of this Ministry. Private subjects handling these chemicals did not accept to afford expenses for their repacking or transport to a safe storage house.

* Lack of a full legal framework on privatization process, particularly for environmental problems, has left unsolved many problems of historic pollution, accumulated through years which now is responsibility of the present owner. The government must take necessary measures to repack, transport, store and annihilate stock chemicals by using non regulatory mechanisms stimulating these activities, as it is done for weapon accumulations.

* Level of communication with the public and publications are low. Publication of laws only in the official gazette is insufficient. The written and spoken media shall be also used as a communication mean. The only case where the media played a role was the one of Elbasan, where there was a problem of storing cyanic close to homes. Based on misinformation and poor communication, solutions to certain problems were misinterpreted and developed negative consequences to the real solution. Despite the now existence of a law on chemicals, not all private and governmental subjects are familiar with and implement it. The public has little or no knowledge on chemicals and their riskiness. Even people working with chemicals lack proper knowledge on instructions on handling hazardous substances, security measures and plans, or first aid and emergency directives.

(National Profile of Chemical Management in Albania, 2006)

9. ALBANIAN LEGISLATION APPROACH TO EU DIRECTIVES ON CHEMICALS

Following the process of National Environment & Health Action Plan (NEHAP) and Children Environment & Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), where Albania is a party, it has cooperated with OBSH and countries of the region and in the near future it will establish the Environment and Health Indicators Set. A part of this Group of Indicators is also group of indicators on chemicals, where it is predicted to create a register and risk assessment of chemicals harming human health.

MEFAW based on the information given by the Regional Agencies on Environment and local government bodies' demands for intervention, has identified a number of hot spots, chemical industries former centres. Source of information in identifying hot spots were also donors programs for management of chemicals. Identified hot spots are part of the National Environment Action Plan (2002).

The Republic of Albania has signed the convent of Rotterdam and is following the ratification procedures by drafting a bill on adhere of the Republic of Albania in the Convent of Rotterdam "On procedures of former approval for some notified hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade". This bill enforces the necessity for establishment of a Chemical Bureau, which will execute all obligations deriving from the Basel and Stockholm Convents, in which our country is a party.

Together with the Basel and Stockholm Convents, it complements the necessary legal framework regulating international movement of hazardous chemicals by avoiding the risks they present. Approval of this bill is done in compliance with National Plan of Implementation of SAA 2009-2014.

In abidance to National Plan of Implementation of SAA 2009-2014, within the first trimester of 2010 must end the ratification of the Rotterdam Convent, which together with the Basel and Stockholm Convents complement the necessary legal framework regulating international movement of hazardous chemicals by avoiding the risks they present.

In the National Plan of Implementation of SAA 2009-2014 in addressing long term priorities the chemicals registration office has been predicted as an implementation measure for time period 2013-2014. According to NPISAA 2009-2014 implementation of EC regulation on Import & Export of Hazardous Chemicals (EC) 689/2008) is predicted to be finalised in 2012.

10. DECLARATIONS

I. Being in the status of Albanian legislation approach to EU directives, we have to mention the fact that many prompt efficient steps have been taken by the ministry of Environment, which has drafted and approved a series of bills regarding chemicals.

Therefore, on 27.07.2010, in “Tirana International Hotel”, the Ministry of Environment presented 3 bills for handling 3 very specific categories of urban waste. Bills on managing “Packing and their Waste”; “Batteries and Accumulators”; “Electronic and Electric Equipment Waste”, have been drafted in cooperation with IFC, in compliance with best EU standards on environment. These three bills are introduced in e moment that MEFAW is taking prompt steps to realisation of its major priority which is environmental legislation approach. During this meeting, present were also Mr. Fatmir Mediu, Minister of MEFAW, the chairman of the commission on agricultural and environmental matters, Mr. Jemin Gjana, directors of MEFAW and IFC, and representatives of businesses trading commodities categorised by these bills. Mr. Mediu emphasised that these three acts are part of by legal acts of the law on waste and their drafting enables this law’s approval and implementation by making it more efficient and complete. Continuing in this context, Minister Mediu stated that with this reform the environmental legislation approaches 100% the EU Directives. Besides the level of approach, these acts contain objectives which aim the creation of the proper infrastructure for implementing the legal framework, empowering institutions and abiding to international environmental standards, and also obligations that derive from the Government’s Program of Stabilization and Association. Minister Mediu admitted that the group of interest, experts’ and public opinion is also very important for the implementation of these 3 bills.

II. Director of Public Health Institute, Mr. Enver Rroshi on 24. 03.2011, presents in overall frames the Hazardous Chemicals' Management Strategy

He states that: All chemicals entering and exiting Albanian territory from custom points, and also products containing hazardous chemical substances produced in air or earth by local producers, must be subject of full monitoring by the Public Health Institute in order to avoid creating new hot spots in the Albanian territory. The director of Public Health Institutes, Mr. Rroshi explains that there is established a work group of experts from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and also foreign experts, with the purpose to draft a new management strategy for handling hazardous chemicals, based on the international methodology. PHI' role is the enforcement of local capacities regarding the implementation of international regulations on chemical management, since it is known that this chemical has environmental harmful impacts when not managed properly and safely. According to Mr. Rroshi, even chemical leaks on undefined areas shall be object of monitoring.

11. ALBANIA'S PROBLEMATIC AREAS INDICATING CHEMICAL POLLUTION

11.1 OIL-TANKER FIELD IN PATOS – MARINEZ

I. Oil-tanker field of Patos-Marinez is one of the largest fields in Europe as regards oil reserves under earth. The field, which has a surface of 160 km², was discovered initially in 1928 and since then several technologies have been used in it. This 80-year exploitation has had its economic benefits but has also caused an inappropriate environmental situation which is easily identified if you look at the terrain. The rise in people's awareness and the establishment of Albanian environmental institutions cannot let this problem go unnoticed anymore. Its usage is done in full contradiction with environmental standards and countries integrating aspirations. The European Commission, in order to assist the Albanian government in its environmental integration, particularly in the oil-tanker field of Patos-Marinze, financed a project finalised in 2008, which had 2 main targets:

- Assessment of environmental and health state of Patos-Marinze Area;
- Drafting an Environmental Health Action Plan for the specific area.

II. General environmental and health status of the area

With the environmental and health status assessment of area Patos Marinze, it was able to make a clear assessment of the pollution problem and the necessity for intervention. The study concluded that the following phenomena are witnessed in the area,

- Earth pollution, there exist approximately 1480 sumps of oil waste covering a surface of 95 hectares, and this is an evident threat to local inhabitants' health.
- Pollution of surface waters, there exist approximately 117 km of surface waters polluted by oil/polymers waste, including waters of river Gjanicë, Seman and local streams' water. This water pollution poses a threat to the agricultural food chain and as a consequence also to drinking water and water used for irrigation.

- Air quality, in the area it is noticed a cloud containing volatile hydrocarbon substances, hydrogen sulphides and sulphur dioxides.
- Biodiversity, it is witnessed damage of physic-chemical conditions of natural resources and surface waters, resulting negatively to biologic qualities of the area.
- Inhabitants' health, it is witnessed a medical condition negatively affected by th environmental conditions and air and drinking water quality.
- Economic damages, the environmental and health condition impacts directly on the economic production system of the area, by creating low agricultural efficiency and increase of costs for medical care. These phenomena are closely related to the area's environmental status and conditions. As results from the relevant study, the oil industry in Patos Marinze has not been managed according to environmental standards, and as a consequence has turned this area into a hot environmental spot needing extreme rehabilitation and intervention.

III. Environmental and Health Action Plan in Patos Marinze

Environmental and Health Action Plan in Patos Marinze, drafted in 2008 with the support of the European Delegation, aims to make an integrated intervention for rehabilitation and improvement of environmental and health conditions of inhabitants living in the area.

The Action Plan is based on the necessity for intervention, also evidenced by the previous study, and considers also the area's past and inhabitants'' aspirations for improvement of their environment and life quality.

Interventions defined by the Action Plan consist of three main tasks;

-Action on industry to avoid and reduce pollution

-Intervention on environment which aims environmental receptors' interruption of transference of pollution

-Health measures, aiming avoidance and control of negative impacts on environment and inhabitant's health.

The plan will be implemented in 2 main phases:

Phase 1 – where we aim to address priority issues in order to recruit potential industry impacts to environment and health, during a time period of three years. The successful implementation of this phase will result to drastic improvement of areas environmental conditions.

Phase 2 – aims the implementation of measures for a time period of 20 years. These measures will try to increase the performance of various factors, such as environmental education of inhabitants, landscape restorations, improvement of waste management etc. To successfully implement this plan, we need that all actors take responsibility, including the oil industry. Technologies used in the oil industry shall be improved, there shall be drafted a new improved management plan on waste, there shall be established an efficient monitoring network etc...

11.2 CHEMICALS IN DURRES (PORTO ROMANO)

Porto Romano is approximately 6.5 km and because of the chemical factory stationed there for several decades, it is transformed in the epicentre of World Bank's strategic projects.

More than 700 tons of chemicals are transported to melting points abroad and tens of tons of chemicals are stored in the former-military unit warehouse in Bisht Palla. The former fabric located in the northern part of Durres is one of the 5 most dangerous sources in the Balkans based on its high rate of pollution since 2002 until now. The development phase of the project is from 2003 to 2005 and has consumed considerable funds. Initially, it was realised the Feasibility Study, financed by the World Bank and its objective was the identification of polluted areas, environmental risk assessment, and identification of proper technical solutions. Then, chemicals were isolated, the fabric was enclosed, a 4 meter canal was opened and the tampon process was finalised. The families living inside the area were removed and by funding of the Albanian government they were found new places to live. Local inhabitants have constantly had health problems. Medic personnel have noticed that some inhabitants have developed severe heart and lung conditions, including damages to their nervous systems. Close to this factory were found urban waste which were burned and increased the pollution rate in the area. It is decided to build a land field which will solve once and for all the pollution problem in Durres. This land field which will also process sewerage systems has begun to be built where once the fish baths were located. The Minister of Environment, Mr. Fatmir Mediu and the minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr. Sokol Olldashi, declared the initiation of the process in 2010. The project aims to fully integrate this area with high risks to human life and environment. The Dutch and Japanese governments have offered their support, offering funds to the World Bank, with the purpose to solve this issue.

AWARNESS

Awareness & Action for a safe future

According to statistics, if the production of plastic waste will not stop and necessary measure for reduction or recycling will not be taken, then our country will produce approximately 800.000 tons of plastic waste in a year resulting in a wide spread of cancerous diseases. 22.000 tons are produced in the capital, and according to statistics Tiran is the city which produces more waste than any other city in the country. Plastic waste in Albanian families increases by 10% every year. While on the other hand, urban waste is increased by 10.5 % every year. In many cases we can notice that urban waste are burned everywhere without taking into consideration the hazardous impacts. Plastic waste burns in air after urban waste burns, and by doing so they fill our lungs with a chemical called Bisphenol A. This element, in its compound, contains qualities like estrogens and when penetrating human receptors causes genetic diseases, cancer and various hormonal diseases. Bisphenol A is found in polycarbonates packing and food and drink cans. It may jump to our organism from food or drink cans very easily and cause irreversible effects.

13. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

This questionnaire's goal is measuring buyers' level of awareness regarding chemicals in toys. Questions are asked to 40 buyers after they have left children toy stores. Selection was random. Based on given answers, we learn that consumers are not informed on materials toys are made. Taking into account also the people who do not care about toys' materials, then we reach the conclusion that information on toy materials and contents is insufficient, even for people selling them, public authorities, private subjects or consumers.

Noticing answers to question 3, the Albanian consumer, even though has no knowledge on materials toys are made, when selecting what to buy knows how to make the difference, only by looking, touching or identifying wood and plastic. While for materials which might dissolve later on, he does not have any information and does not make a choice based on this element.

Lack of information regarding toys and the risks they present, is clearly described from the answers to question 4, which reveals the fact that even though toys have certification related to production standards, only a small part of people can "translate" it to risk for children.

The idea of a disoriented consumer, such as not knowing what to chose, also is revealed in answers to question 5 and 6 , where only a few of them have information regarding hazardous toys in the market. Desire for information is still strong. Cases of buying hazardous or non hazardous toys are left to coincidence since there is a huge lack on information regarding materials and/or certification signs.

Referring to questions 7 and 8, we learn that Albanian consumers tend to be careful only when receiving information on toys security they do not ask for, but they notice when coming close to the toy.

The idea that Albanian consumers do not search for information and have the tendency of getting random information, is also noticed in question 9, where the majority of the questioned consumers does not know where to report a hazardous toy that may harm his child.

Analysing answers of question 10, we understand that the Albanian consumer has the tendency to be randomly selective regarding toys, based only on appearances or functioning, without taking into consideration price, which in itself is also an indicator of quality of toys materials, always assuming that their production is certified.

As regards answers to question 11, we notice that the consumer tends to have a certain amount of safety when selecting toys, and this is shown by the selection of sale place, which, without taking into consideration price or material of toys, ensures some sort of security.

While answers to the last question, once more show the indifferent character of the Albanian consumer, who, being irresponsible about materials, focuses his purchase choice only on toys', without stopping to think about dangers that toy materials might bring, dangers probably he is not even aware of.

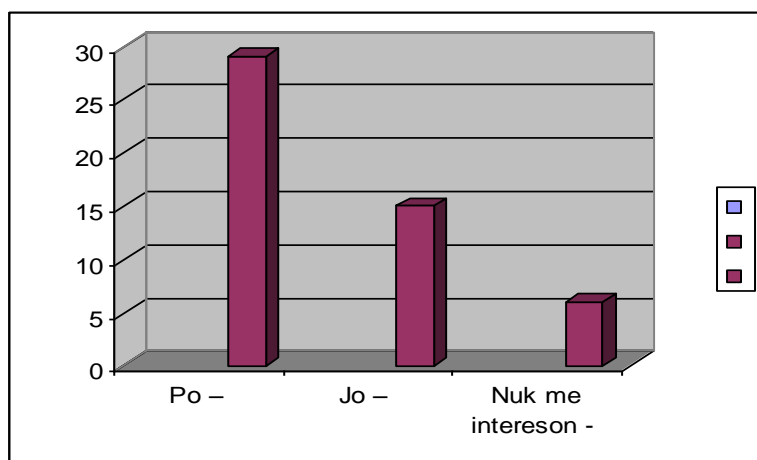
11.1 ANALYSING

1. Are you aware of materials toys are made?

Yes – 29

No – 15

Not interested - 6

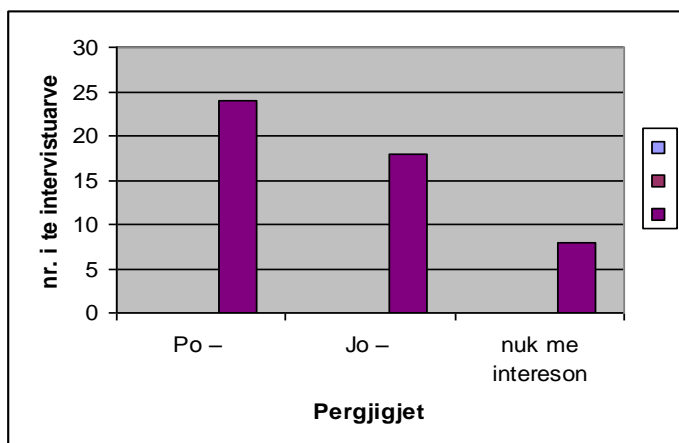


2. Do you choose toys based on the material they are made of?

Yes – 24

No – 18

Not interested - 8

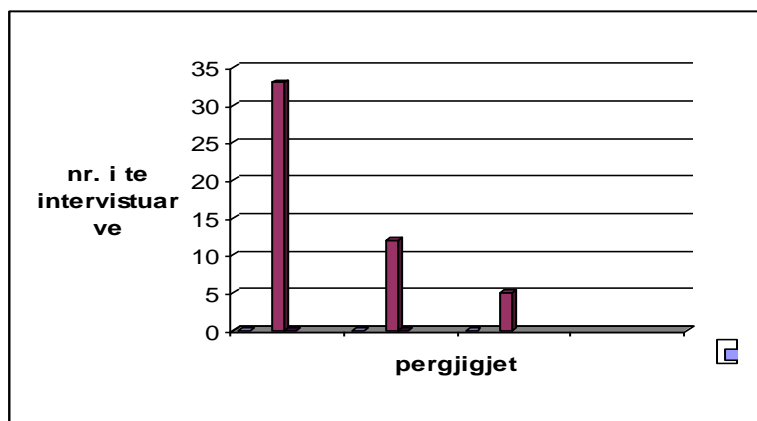


3. Do you choose toys based on their brand or just on their appearances or functioning?

Yes: 33 (brand)

No: 12 (not brand, functioning)

Not interested: 5

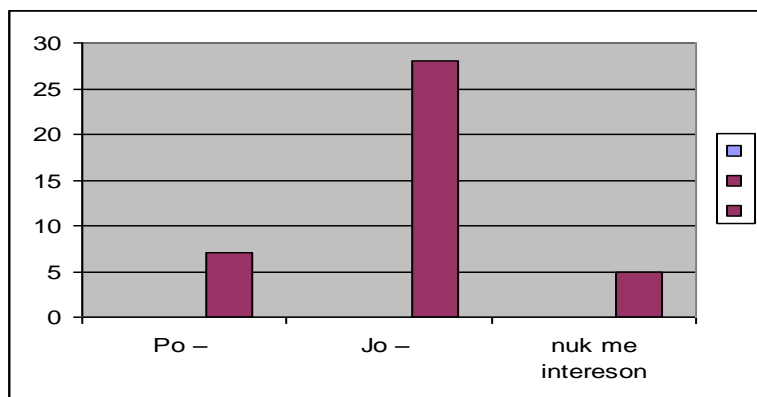


4. Are you aware of signs certifying toys' safety?

Yes – 7

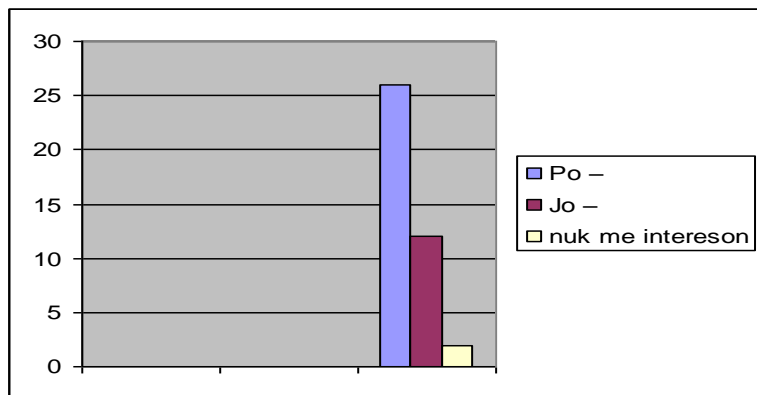
No – 28

Not interested - 5



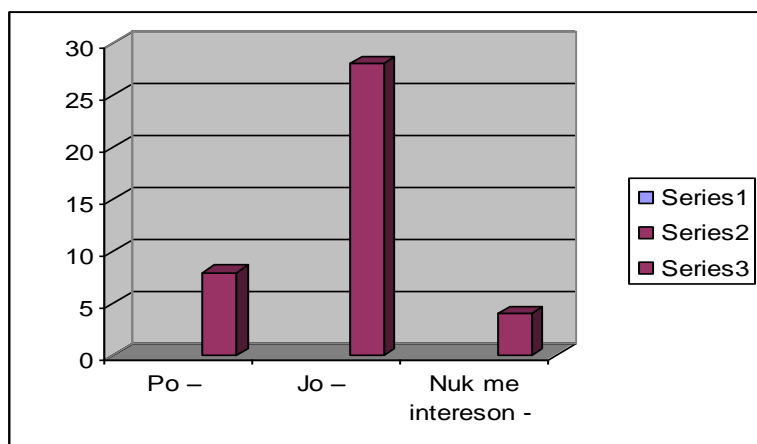
5. Have you ever heard of toys made of hazardous materials?

Yes – 26
 No – 12
 Not interested - 2



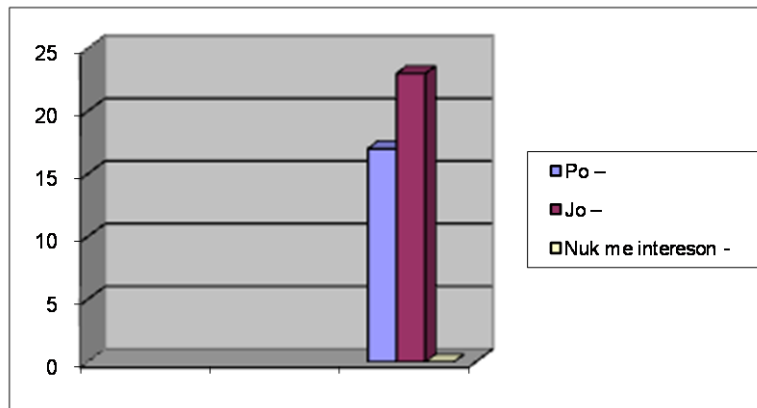
6. Have you ever bought such toys?

Yes – 8
 No – 28
 Not interested - 4



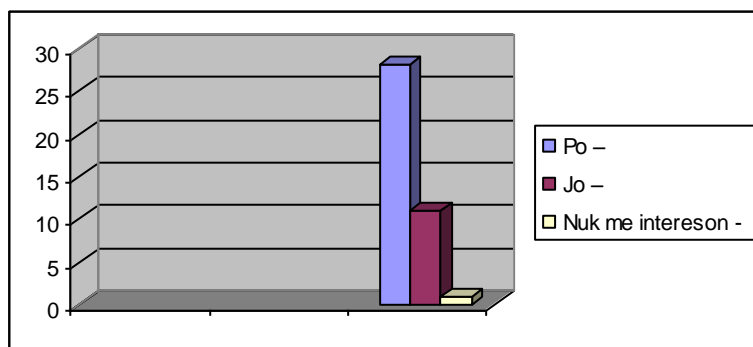
7. Have you ever heard of various blockings of hazardous toys in the market made by the responsible authorities?

Yes – 17
 No – 23
 Not interested - 0



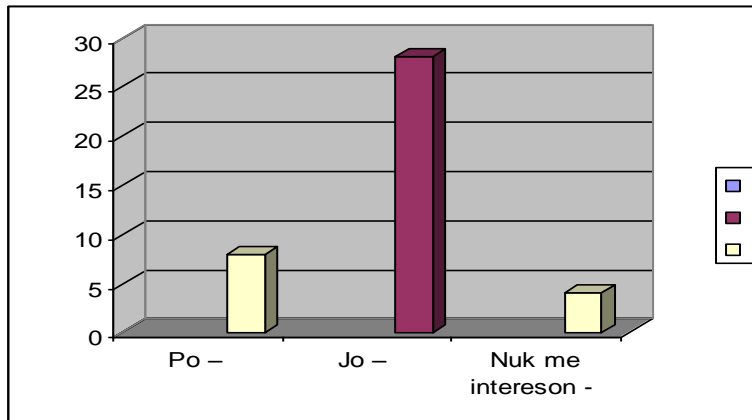
8. If you have information regarding hazardous toys, have you been selective when choosing them?

Yes – 28
 No – 11
 Not interested - 1



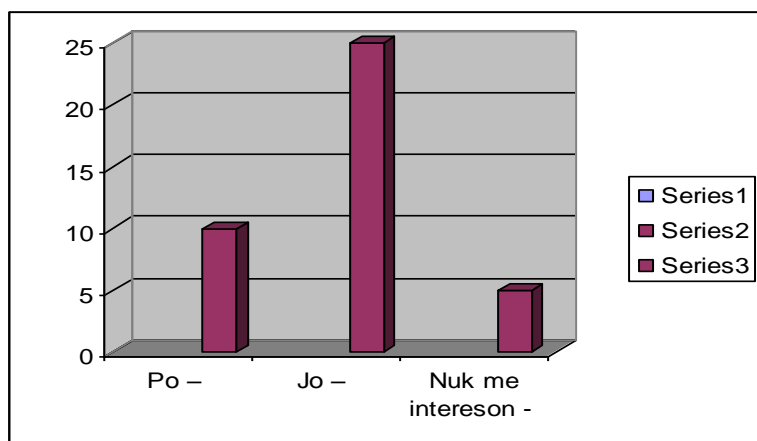
9. Do you have any information about the competent authority which controls markets regarding toys' safety?

Yes – 8
 No – 28
 Not interested - 4



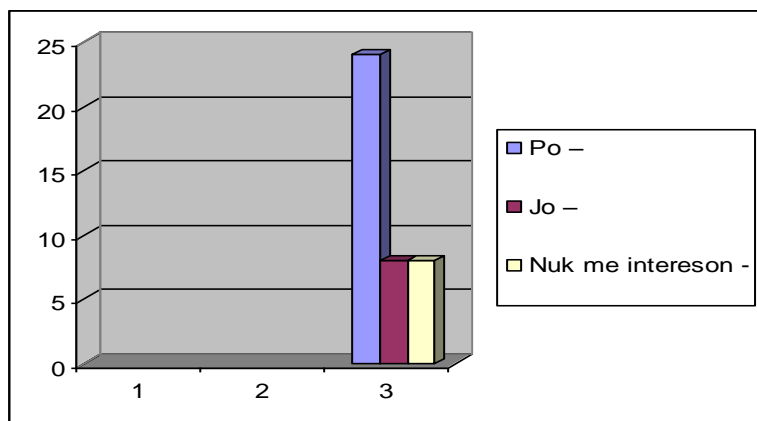
10. Do you believe in toys' quality based on their price?

Yes – 10
 No – 25
 Not interested - 5



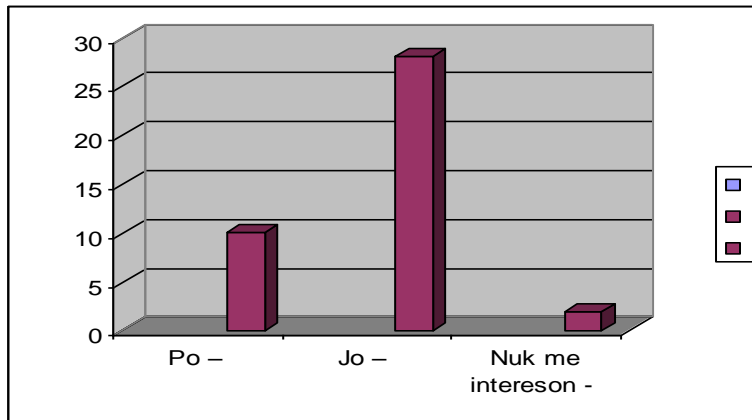
11. Where do you prefer to buy your toys?

- in ordinary shops; 24
- in toy stores; 8
- open markets? 8



12. Have you ever heard of smelly toys and are you aware of the effects they have on children?

- Yes - 10
- No - 28
- Not interested - 2



QUESTIONNAIRE

- This questionnaire respects the anonymity, therefore we kindly ask you to answer sincerely to our questions
- This questionnaire's goal is measuring buyers' level of awareness regarding chemicals in toys
- Questions are asked to 40 buyers after they have left children toy stores.

Questions

1- Are you regular buyers of children toys?

- a) Yes, I buy regularly
- b) No, only occasionally

2- Do you have information regarding the materials toys are made of?

- a) Yes, I am informed
- b) No, I am not informed

3- Does the toys' material affect your choice?

- a) Yes
- b) Sometimes
- c) No

4- Do you choose toys based on their brand or on their functioning?

- a) Brand
- b) Functioning

5- Are you aware of the signs certifying toy security?

- a) Yes, I am aware
- b) No, I am not aware

6- Have you ever heard of toys made of some materials harmful to children?

- a) Yes, I have
- b) No, I have not

7- Have you ever heard of smelly toys and are you aware of the effects they have on children?

- a) Yes, I have
- b) No, I have not

8- Have you ever heard of various blockings of hazardous toys in the market made by the responsible authorities?

- a) Yes, I have
- c) No, I have not

9- If yes, have you been selective regarding the toy choice?

- a) Yes
- b) No

10- Do you have any information about the competent authority which controls markets regarding toys' safety?

- a) Yes, I do
- b) No, I don't

11- If yes, have you ever submitted a complaint regarding the toys you have purchased?

- a) Yes, I have
- b) No, I have not

12- Do you believe in toys' quality based on their price?

- a) Yes, price depends on quality
- b) Sometimes price justifies quality
- c) No, price does not justify quality

13- Where do you prefer to buy your toys?

- a) In ordinary shops;
- b) In toy stores;
- c) Open markets?

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Annex II (Legislation)

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- Law Nr.9010, dated 13.02.2003 ‘On Environmental Administration of Solid Waste’
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- Law Nr.8531, dated 23.09.1999 “On Control of Chemical Fertilisers”
- CM Decision Nr. 888, dated 19.12.2007, “On defining basic requirements and Conformity Assessment in Toys”
- CM Decision Nr.824, dated 11.12.2003 “On classification, packaging, labeling and safe storage of hazardous preparations and chemical substances”

Annex III (Web-site)

<http://lajme.shqiperia.com>

<http://al.westernbalkansenvironment.net>



The project is supplemented by LGZHI



The project is lead by WECF



“This publication was produced with financial assistance of the European Union. The content of this publication are the sole responsibility of Woman’s Movement for Integral Development (LGZHI) and in no way reflect the views of the European Union”