



KIMO RESOLUTION 2/97

PESTICIDES

Synthetic chemical pesticides have been in use for nearly half a century in the control of agricultural, public health and structural pests and diseases. Pesticides are the only group of chemicals which are designed to be toxic to living organisms and are intentionally dispersed in the environment. The result of their extensive use over the years has been manifested in many ways including the reduction of farmland bio diversity, the contamination of fresh and marine waters and accumulation of persistent pesticides in the bodies of higher animals around the world.

Although awareness of the potential hazards associated with pesticides has existed since the early 1960's, and much has been done to control the trade and use of pesticides, their use has not diminished. Moreover, while some of the health and environmental problems associated with pesticides have been addressed in the developed world, many of these serious problems continue to plague the people and the environments of the developing world. Previously unknown problems are also emerging such as the endocrine disrupting properties of many pesticides which mimic hormones.

Pesticide use in Europe continues to be among the most intensive in the world. Efforts by international development agencies including the European Commission and the national agencies of European and North Sea States are frequently targeted at reducing pesticide use in agricultural projects which they support in developing countries. However, little effort is targeted at reducing pesticide use in European agriculture.

European Policy

The need to minimise pesticide use and reduce environmental contamination from pesticides has been addressed by many fora including:

- The PARCOM process which aims to regulate discharges of hazardous substances to the North Sea;
- The post-UNCED Local Agenda 21 process;
- DGXI's Fifth European Environmental Action Programme aims at reducing pesticide use and reducing discharges to oceans, rivers and other water sources;

- The European Sustainable Cities Programme and the need to provide a healthy environment for urban dwellers;
- The proposed Biocides Directive which aims to regulate and reduce the use of chemical pesticides in non-agricultural situations;
- The Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, under the auspices of DGVI and DGXI which aims to prevent overuse of pesticides in agriculture.

KIMO

In recognition of the need to reduce and ultimately eliminate the hazards to health and to the environment from pesticides:

- 1. KIMO members will review their own use of pesticides and adopt policies aimed at reducing pesticide use and the hazards associated with their use.**
- 2. Calls upon signatories to the PARCOM Convention to increase efforts to meet the targets set for the reduction in outputs of pesticides into the marine environment.**
- 3. Calls upon Northern Sea States and the European Commission to adopt strategies aimed at reducing pesticide use in agriculture by the implementation of policies expanding the support of low input agricultural production systems.**