

It is necessary to take action

Modern man is exposed to a growing variety of environmental burden. There is growing evidence that many of these are causally involved in the development of illnesses. Health injuries caused by pollutants increase. As a result of this there is an increase of suffering and a diminishing of quality of life. Health systems can no longer be financed. Today's state of knowledge is sufficient to justify and demand political activity.

Utmost goal: World wide effective prevention by broad avoiding of pollutants. The welfare of today's and future's generation is at stake.

Politics must create the legal framework for this prevention.

1) Politics must open in an unprejudiced way for the abundance of knowledge about the effects of pollutant. Only by comprehensively considering these facts - together with political will - a sufficient global legal ruling for effective prevention of pollutants, effective protection of the environment and sufficient health protection can be successful.

2) The knowledge of experts is the basis for political action. That is why responsible politicians must receive their knowledge about the coherences between noxious substances and illness by experts independent from the industry.

3) The protection of the environment and the protection of the people must be seen as a unit and a central task. This conception must be made clear in political implementation. Effective political action must be resort overlapping. For this concentration of competence **one** strong resort is absolutely necessary.

4) More money must be invested in research of the role of noxious substances in the course of illnesses.

5) The knowledge about adverse health effects of noxious substances must be collected systematically and be published.

6) Today's maximum permissible value does not correspond with the current state of knowledge. Evaluation of risks is mostly seen as the risk of single noxious materials and not as health damaging potential of complex, often extremely synergistically acting mixtures of pollutants. Politics must adapt the laws to these insights.

7) Politics is asked to create transparency and to inform. Citizens can only be moved to a responsible consumer behavior and a healthier lifestyle if they are informed about the brisance of the knowledge already found out concerning their health.

8) Politics is asked neither to trivialize illnesses caused by noxious substances nor to psychologize and to act vehemently against any attempt and to punish it.

9) Political laws must guarantee that the knowledge about illnesses caused by pollutants and the possibilities to avoid them can be found in clinical and daily routine of doctors.

10) Politics is asked to create a broad consensus in medicine and in society for a reversal: Away from a medicine of reparation to a medicine of prevention in the sense of reducing noxious materials.

Ingrid Scherrmann

Fuchsfeldstr. 50, D-88416 Ochsenhausen Tel.: (0)7352- 940529

web: www.safer-world.org, email: Scherrmann@safer-world.org

SAFER WORLD is a private independent internet-information-network