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Conclusions



Who we are

Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL)

an international not-for-profit, non governmental network that aims to improve health through EU public policy that promotes a cleaner environment and sustainable development



- *Created in 2003 by members of the European Public Health Alliance, thus the former name **EPHA Environment Network (EEN)***

Green 10 (see www.green10.org)



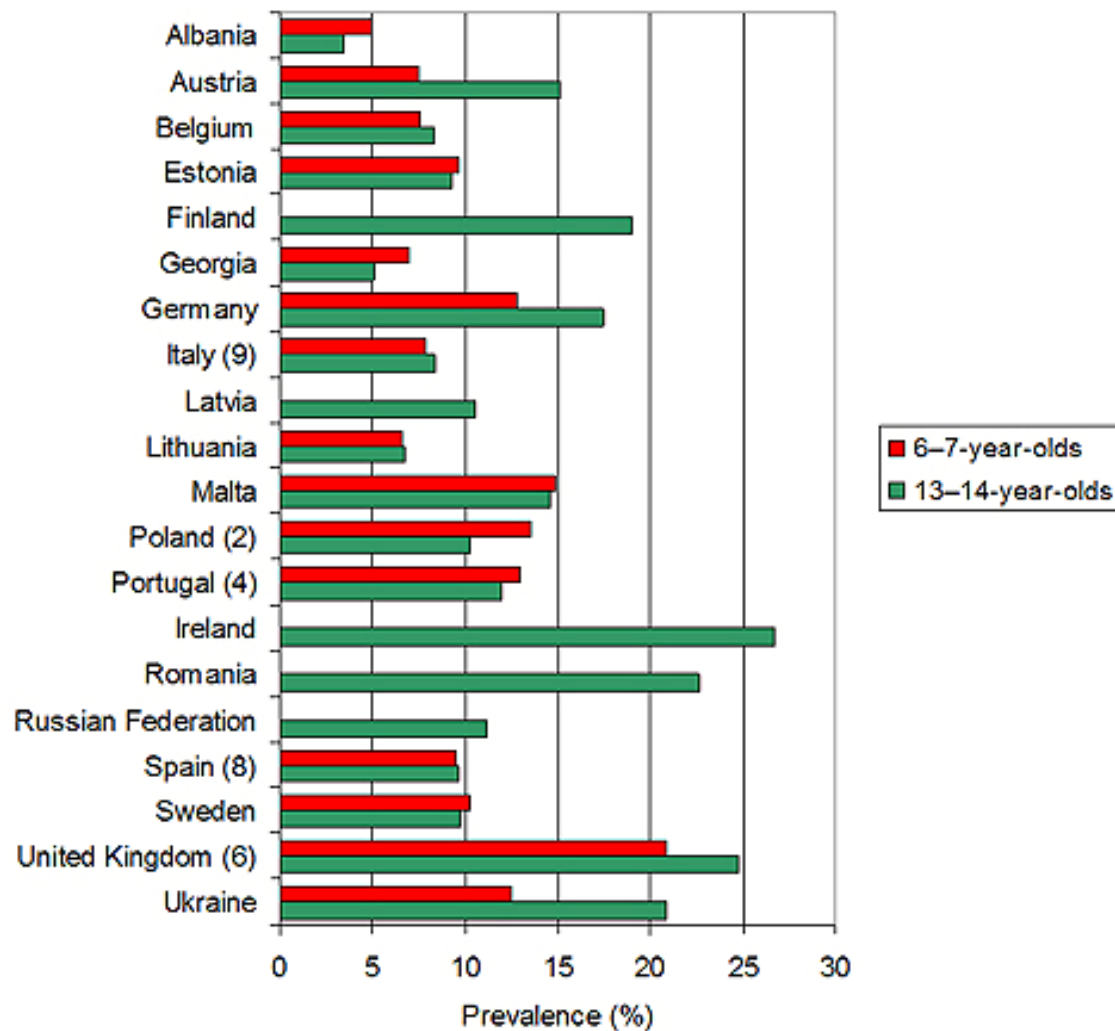
LEVITICUS Chapter 14

43 If the mildew breaks out again in the house after the stones have been removed and the house has been scraped and plastered, 44 the priest shall go and look. If it has spread, the house is unclean. 45 It must be torn down, and its stones, its wood, and all its plaster must be carried out of the city to an unclean place.

54 These are the laws about dreaded skin diseases; 55-56 sores, boils, or inflammations; and about mildew in clothes or houses. 57 These laws determine when something is unclean and when it is clean.

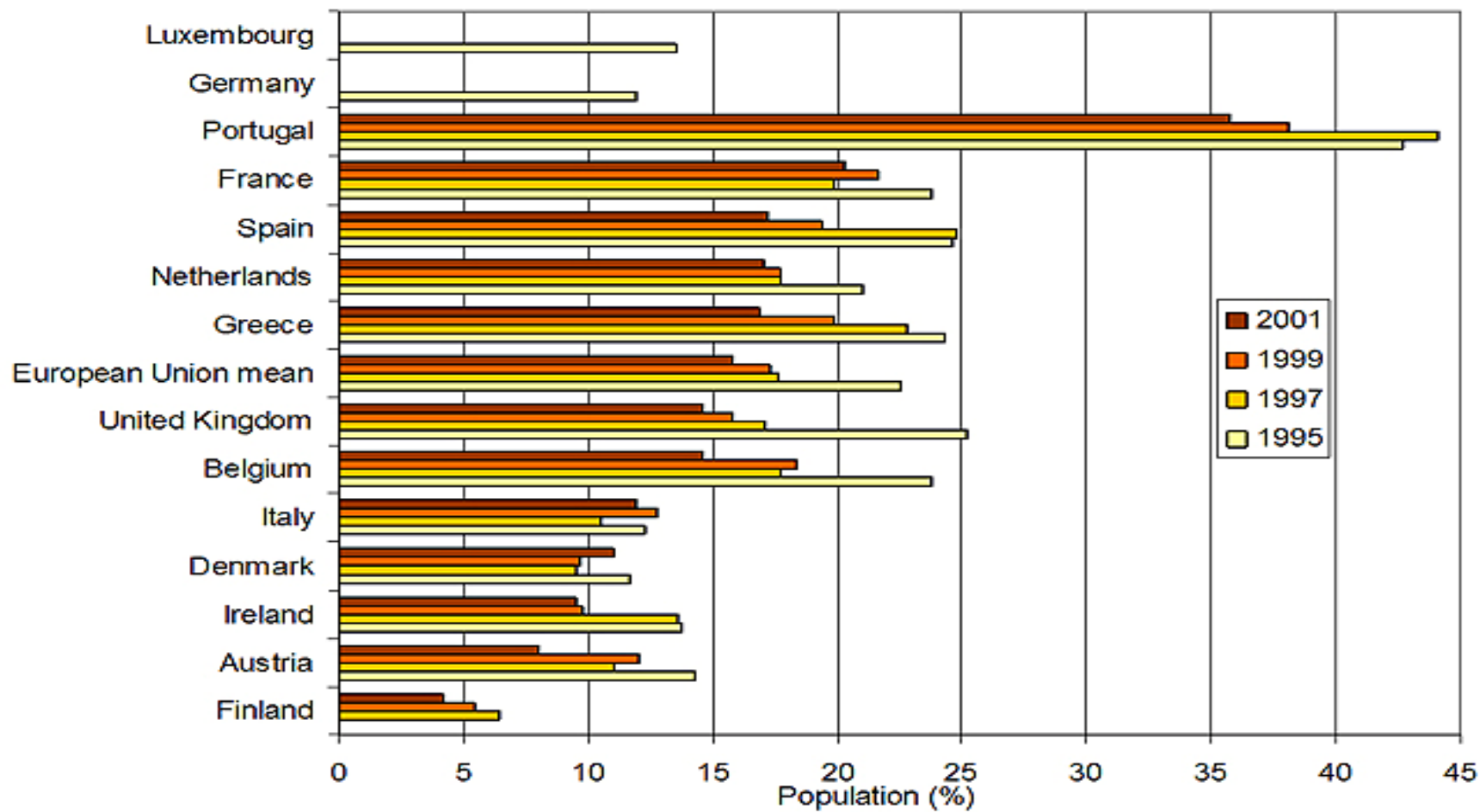


Prevalence of Asthma Symptoms



Source: ENHIS May 2007

Proportion of population living in homes with damp



Source: ENHIS May 2007

With the added problem....

- "The construction sector is a major downstream user of chemicals and chemical-containing articles and is one of the sectors exposed to the highest risks regarding dangerous substances," it said. Research shows nearly **90 per cent of firms breach toxicological risk prevention regulations**, it reported.



**Fédération
de l'Industrie Européenne
de la Construction**



A history lesson

As Dr Seifert explains in a recent paper examining the relation between science and policy (reproduced in its entirety as Appendix 2), scientists have a tendency to hide behind the mantra: “more research is needed”. He concludes with a message to his fellow IAQ experts: “it is time for us to look for better ways to convey our messages to the outside world, as incomplete as the facts may be.” Perhaps the tide of opinion is turning.

In the particular case of indoor pollution, a review of its brief history as an area of study suggests that research and knowledge will *not* progress significantly and speedily unless legislative proceedings are initiated.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Directorate General for Research

WORKING PAPER

INDOOR POLLUTION

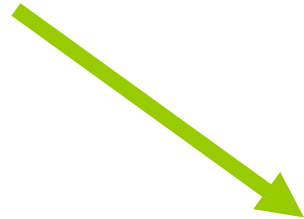
- AN OVERVIEW -

1997

Environmental, Public Health and Consumer Protection Series

W - 21

7.1997



2007

SCHER Opinion

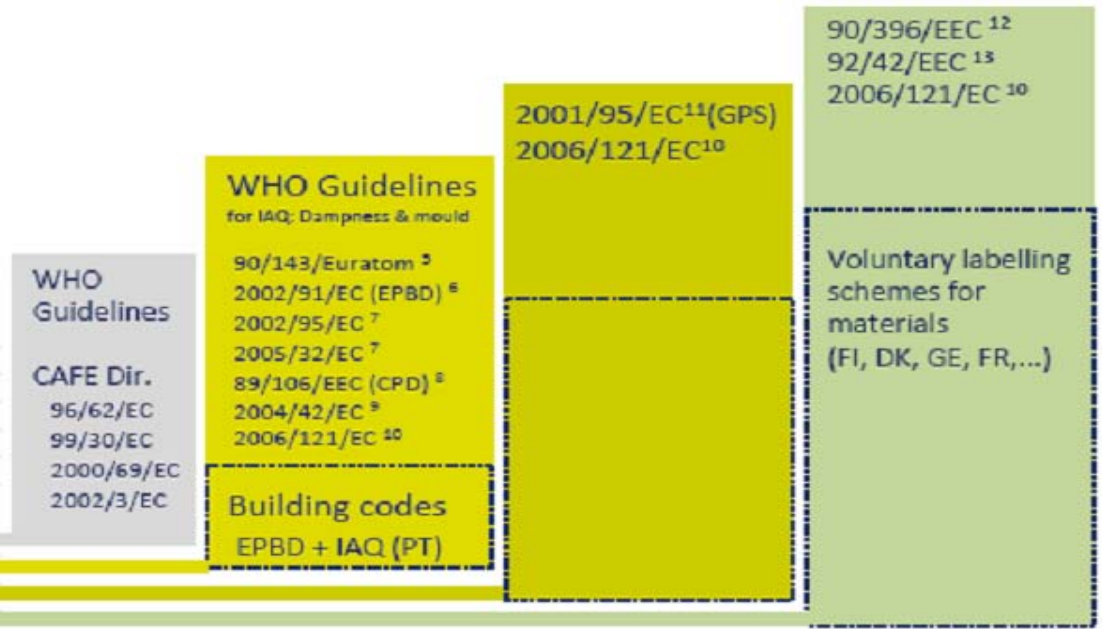
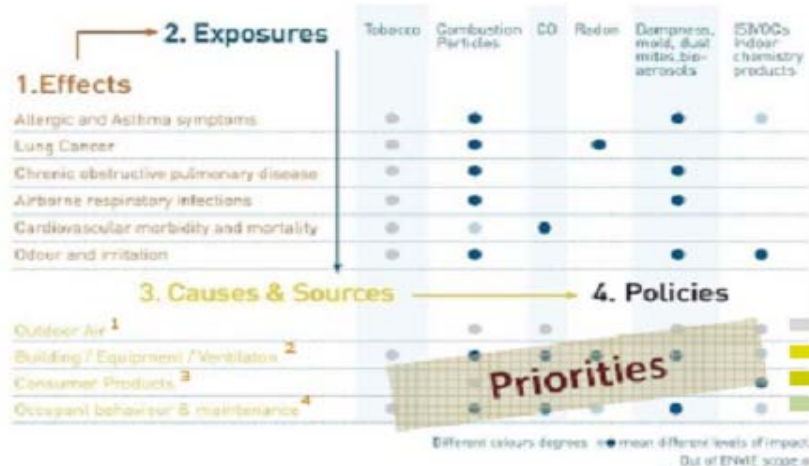
Since it is not feasible to regulate all possible scenarios, prevention from possible health effects and protection of sensitive populations is best achieved by reducing exposure. **As a consequence the SCHER recommends that all relevant sources that are known to contribute should be evaluated.**



To Solutions



Existing policies/legislation



EC Policies/Legislation
Member States Policies/Legislation

- 1) Taken as granted. Out of EnVIE scope.
- 2) Building materials; paints; HVAC systems;...
- 3) Furniture; mattresses; upholstery; candles; incense; air 'fresheners';...
- 4) Cooking; fireplaces; cleaning products; air cleaners; varnishes; waxes;...
- 5) Radon
- 6) Energy Buildings Performance Directive
- 7) Electrical appliances
- 8) Construction Products Directive (E. Req. #3)
- 9) Paints & varnishes
- 10) REACH
- 11) General Products Safety Directive
- 12) Burning appliances
- 13) Boilers

Proposed policies

- Directive on IAQ (!)
- REACH + CPD + EPBD (incl. IAQ) implementation
- Harmonised voluntary labelling schemes
- Consumer products labelling
- Monitoring systems & schemes trough EU

Update

EP Resolution – Strong on IAQ

- 8. Calls for special attention to be given to vulnerable groups, who are the most susceptible to pollutants, by introducing measures to reduce exposure to indoor environmental contaminants in healthcare facilities and schools through the adoption of sound indoor air quality management practices;
- 14. Calls once again upon the Commission to come forward as soon as possible with concrete measures on indoor air quality which would ensure a high level of protection of health and safety indoors to be established, in particular when revising Council Directive 89/106/EEC of 21 December 1988 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products⁽⁷⁾, and to propose measures to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and the safety and the harmlessness of chemical compounds used in equipment and furnishings;
- 15. Recommends that, in order to reduce damaging effects of the environment on health, the Commission should call upon Member States, by means of tax concessions and/or other economic incentives, to interest market operators in improving the quality of indoor air
- 16. Recommends that the Commission draft appropriate minimum requirements to guarantee the quality of indoor air in buildings to be newly built;
- 17. Recommends that, in awarding individual European Union support, the Commission bear in mind its impact on the quality of indoor air,
- 19. Points out that certain Member States have successfully introduced mobile analysis laboratories (or "green ambulances") to enable habitat pollution in public and private places to be diagnosed swiftly and reliably; considers that the Commission could promote such a practice within the Member States which have not yet acquired such a means of direct intervention at a polluted site;



Conclusions

- GOOD REPORT – NICE METHOD
- CLIMATE CHANGE v HEALTH - HOLISTIC
- WHO GUIDELINES TO EU LIMIT VALUES
- HOW LONG IS YOUR LIST OF CHEMICALS
- REACH – EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT
- GREEN PAPER IS ESSENTIAL – TIMING IS THE KEY (CPD & EBPD).
- AWARENESS RAISING – PRESS RELEASE
- WHO IS GOING TO THIS –TRAGIC COMEDY



So in conclusion

The truly sustainable solution to housing design and rehabilitation will not be found in the Energy Efficient Building it will be found in the **Affordable Healthy Energy Efficient Eco-Building**



The ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH solution considers those most vulnerable, children, the elderly, those suffering from disease and the poor as the starting point in research, design, policy and standards.



Thank you all

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