



a toxics-free future

26 April 2017

IPEN Intervention on Waste

Given by Jitka Straková

Thank you President,

I speak on behalf of the International POPs Elimination Network, a global coalition of more than 700 non-governmental organizations. Many of these organizations witness severe damage of the environment and negative impacts on human health across the world where wastes containing POPs are not handled properly. One recent IPEN study revealed POPs containing wastes polluting the recycling chain resulting in contamination of toys and common products use in homes. A second study exposed many cases of incineration fly ash contaminating the food chain due to weak Low POPs Content Levels.

The use of weak Low POPs Content Levels means we are losing control over large amounts of POPs, including approximately 7 kg of dioxins deposited every year in waste incineration fly ash. Weak limits also allow more exports of these dangerous residues from developed to developing countries because these are not considered POPs wastes. The international trade in POPs contaminated wastes is facilitated by weak Low POPs Content Levels, especially for dioxin. This dangerous trade should be made illegal by adopting much stricter LPCL. Right now we have the

opposite situation where weak limits permit this damaging trade. We should not solve illegal traffic by making it legal through weak threshold limits.

To protect human health and the environment from POPs we recommend The Basel POPs waste guidelines should include stricter Low POPs Content Levels for POPs waste including:

1ppb for dioxins, 100 ppm for hexabromocyclododecane, and 50 ppm for the sum of all PBDEs.

The Technical guidelines should not promote waste incineration and cement kiln co-incineration technologies for POPs waste destruction as they generate UPOPs. More emphasis should be placed on non-combustion alternatives such as Gas Phase Chemical Reduction (GPCR) or Base Catalyzed Decomposition (BCD) which have been proven to destroy many POPs waste. New non-combustion technologies should be added to General Technical Guidelines on POPs wastes.

Thank you Mr President.