Open letter to the Government of Denmark
from Non-Governmental Organizations
calling for a change in the objectives and policy of financing projects in the area of waste management in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Africa

For more than ten years now, the Government of Denmark has been earmarking large funds for projects relating to municipal and hazardous waste treatment in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Africa.

Those projects are meant to lead to environmental improvement and, at the same time, create foundations for waste management systems in the above mentioned regions.

Unfortunately, according to the undersigned non-governmental organizations, a vast majority of the projects carried out until now can be deemed a total mistake and failure.

Firstly, those projects give priority to waste incineration. In both regions there are still many opportunities that need to be used for changing production and energy generation processes so that they are cleaner and result in less waste. In the countries of CEE and Africa, waste collection and recycling systems are just being set up. The building of waste incineration plants - without a well-developed infrastructure of municipal services and adequate systems of hazardous waste monitoring - can only contribute to the giving up of actions aimed at waste reduction at source, while hampering proper development of services connected with the recovery of secondary raw materials. Moreover, waste incineration technologies will not contribute to environmental improvement, as they themselves are a big source of emissions of persistent organic pollutants and other toxic substances.

Secondly, public participation in the projects pursued until now has been minimal or none. We do not know of any cases of wide public consultations with non-governmental organizations and local communities being conducted at the stage of preparing project assumptions and implementing the concepts adopted. Public participation was limited to just expressing opposition to the solutions proposed. As a result, most of the hitherto projects have not been completed.
The above problems can be illustrated with examples from recent months; they concern proposals for pesticide incineration in Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland and Mozambique.

Thus, the non-governmental organizations listed below appeal to the Government of Denmark to review the objectives and policy of financing projects relating to waste management in CEE and African countries, and in particular, to put an emphasis on:

- **supporting projects aimed at preventing waste generation at source, in line with the generally accepted waste management hierarchy**;
- **supporting development of the market for secondary raw materials recovery and recycling**;
- **using those waste treatment technologies which are environmentally safe and can be an alternative to incineration**;
- **taking account – as a precondition – of the participation of non-governmental organizations and local communities at all stages of project planning and implementation**.

We believe that your taking account of our postulates will contribute to the efficient use of Danish taxpayers’ money and to environmental improvement in CEE and African countries.

Paweł Głuszyński  
Waste Prevention Association "3R"  
ul. Zbydniowicka 12, 31-869 Kraków, Poland  
(+48 12) 654 99 86  
office@otzo.most.org.pl  
http://www.most.org.pl/otzo

Krzysztof Rytel  
Social Ecological Institute  
ul. Raszyńska 32/44, 02-026 Warszawa, Poland  
(+48 22) 668 97 92  
rytel@poczta.onet.pl  
http://www.most.org.pl/sie/

Roger Jackowski  
Citizens Environmental League  
ul. Zbyszka z Bogdańca 56, 80-419 Gdańsk, Poland  
(+48 58) 520 10 20  
trojmiasto@fz.most.org.pl  
http://www.most.org.pl/ole

Petko Kovatchev  
Centre for Environmental Information & Education  
compl. "Ilinden", bl. 9 (G1), entr. 3, 1309 Sofia, Bulgaria  
(+359 2) 920 13 41  
ceie@iterra.net

Piotr Rymarowicz  
Association For the Earth  
ul. Zamkowa 8/10, 32-600, Oświęcim, Poland  
(+48 33) 844 19 34  
office@tnz.most.org.pl  
http://www.most.org.pl/tnz

Jindřich Petrlík  
Children of the Earth  
Chlumova 17, Praha 3, 130 00, Czech Republic  
(+ 420) 22 78 00 52  
jindrich.petrlik@ecn.cz  
http://www.detizeme.cz
Ravi Agarwal
Toxics Link India
H 2 Jungpura, New Delhi 110 014, India
(+91 11) 432 07 11, 432 80 06
vig@del6.vsnl.net.in
http://www.toxicslink.org

Mageswari Sangaralingam
Consumers Association of Penang
228, Macalister Road, 10400 Penang, Malaysia
(+60 4) 229 3511, 229 8106
magesling@hotmail.com
http://www.capside.org.sg/

Erja Heino
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Kotkankatu 9, 00510 Helsinki, Finland
(+358 9) 228 08 204, 228 08 200
erja.heino@sll.fi

Iza Kruszewska
Clean Production Action
P.O. Box 12201, London SW17 9ZL, United Kingdom
(+44 181) 672 34 54
iza@cpa-iza.u-net.com
http://www.most.org.pl/cpa

Siobhan Dowling
Organisation for Ecologically Sustainable Waste Management
Rathpatrick, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny, Via Waterford, Ireland
siobhan.dowling@oceanfree.net

Bill Love
Foyle Basin Council (LA21 NGO)
10 Clarendon Street, Derry, BT48 7ET, N. Ireland
fbc@sustainableireland.org

Prof. Themistokles Kouimtzis
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Chemistry
Environmental Pollution Control Laboratory, 540 06 Thessaloniki, Greece
(+30 31) 997 761, 997 747
kouimtz@chem.auth.gr
http://users.x-treme.gr/section4/eerp/

Juan Lopez de Uralde
Greenpeace Toxic Campaign
Keizersgracht 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, The Netherlands
(+34 91) 447 15 98
juralde@diala.greenpeace.org
http://www.greenpeace.org

Jacob Hartmann
Greenpeace Nordic
Bredgade 20 - bagh. 4, 1260 Copenhagen K, Denmark
(+45 3393) 8660, 5399
jh@nordic.greenpeace.org
http://www.greenpeace.org

François Veillerette
Mouvement pour les Droits et le Respect des Générations Futures
7 rue principale, 60380, StDeniscourt, France
(00 33) 03 44 82 70 37
courrier@mdrgf.org
http://www.mdrgf.org

Ralph Ryder
Communities Against Toxics
P.O. Box 29, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH66 3TX, United Kingdom
(+44 151) 339 5473
ralph@recycle-it.org.uk

Jeffer Castelo Branco, Presidente
Associação de Consciência e Prevenção Ocupacional
Júlio de Mesquita, 148 conjunto 304 sala B - Vila Mathias, 11075-220 Santos, SP, Brasil
(+55 13) 3234 6679
acpo94@uol.com.br
http://sites.uol.com.br/acpo94
Fernando Bejarano
Red de Accion sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en Mexico
Amado Nervo 22, Col. San Juanito, Texcoco,
Estado de Mexico CP 56121, Mexico
(+1 595) 477 44
rapam@prodigy.net.mx

Jim Puckett
Basel Action Network
1827 39th Ave. E., Seattle, Washington
98112, USA
(+ 1 206) 720 6426
apex@seanet.com
http://www.ban.org

Neil Tangri
Essential Action
P.O. Box 19405, Washington, DC 20036, USA
(+1 202) 387 8030
ntangri@essential.org
http://www.essential.org

Erik Jansson
Planet Earth
701 E Street, SE, Suite 200, Washington, DC
20003, USA
planetearth@erols.com

Joe Parrish
US Environmental Watch
300 E. 56th Street, New York, NY 10022,
USA
JoeParrish@compuserve.com

Peter Montague
Environmental Research Foundation
612 Third Street, Suite 2A, Annapolis, MD
21403, USA
(+ 1 410) 263 8944
erf@rachel.org
http://www.rachel.org

Jack Weinberg
Global Environmental Health and Chemicals Project, Environmental Health Fund
407 South Dearborn, Suite 1775, Chicago, IL
60605, USA
(+ 1 312) 566 9314, 408 0682
jackwein@uic.edu

Alan Muller
Green Delaware
P.O. Box 69, Port Penn, DE 19731 USA
(+1 302) 834 3466, 836 3005
greendel@dca.net
http://www.greendel.org

Manna Jo Greene
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
112 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, USA
(+1 845) 454 7673 113, 454 7953
mannajo@mail.clearwater.org