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Urgent information about the threat of PCB contamination in Eastern Europe and Asia by the company ENVIO AG

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a Member of Parliament in Germany and I would like to inform you of the most recent activities of a certain company called ENVIO, which is responsible for the worst PCB catastrophe known in Germany for decades. ENVIO is based in Dortmund and as my constituency is also in this city I feel obliged to warn authorities and experts about further activities of ENVIO abroad. The authorities in Dortmund closed down the site of ENVIO in Dortmund this year after it became evident that this company emitted an enormous amount of PCB in the last four years. There are indications which have to be taken seriously that ENVIO is moving its hazardous activities from Germany to other countries. Please let me therefore point out my concerns:

Early this year the provincial environment authority (the so-called "Landesumweltamt") found an alarming amount of PCB contamination within the ENVIO premises and the surrounding neighbourhood. It soon became clear, that the ENVIO employees are also contaminated with PCB, PER and dioxins. A medical examination of the current workforce produced shocking results. One worker even has an estimated 25,000 x load of PCB pollution present in his blood. The ENVIO company was then ordered to close awaiting an investigation by the criminal police and the prosecuting attorney's office.

The PCB pollution was first noticed in the area around 2006. Due to witness testimonies, one can almost certainly assume that this is not an industrial accident but rather a disregard for normal procedures in the disposal of PCB trafo's with illegal means over a number of years.

The ENVIO group originated through a management buyout in the ABB group back in 2004 and



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was transformed to a joint-stock company on the Stock Exchange in 2007. The company was regarded as one of the leading worldwide firms in recycling transformers and condensers containing PCP or PCB material. This took place with the use of the so-called LTR- process (Low Temperature Rinsing and Re-Use/Recovery).

This process is also being promoted in areas where no suitable infrastructure is in place to treat PCB waste. Even with this background, the company is still co-operating with others, one being the Federal Ministry for Industrial Co-operation.

The details of my knowledge up to this point, indicate that the so-called LTR process has not been used in an orderly fashion. At least in Dortmund this would be the case. For years the employees were under great threat of contamination due to the companies continual policy of ignoring normal procedures and control methods.

Since 2004 the ENVIO AG has built up business contacts worldwide. They have realized that South East Europe, amongst others, is a lucrative area for their business. They plan to build a disposal plant for transformers with PCB in East Europe. We also reckon that in Kasaschstan a subsidiary of ENVIO AG (ENVIO Kasaschstan GmbH) will also build a similar plant and we also have knowledge of similar services being offered to Kasaschstans neighbours.

This leads to an nearly uncontrolled transport with highly toxic transformers and insufficiently cleaned scrap metal. I fear that ENVIO will continue its business with contaminated waste, under a guise of unsuspecting new names and companies.

Therefore I am appealing to you to investigate and maybe prevent the activities of this company. I hope that this information is made public and reaches the right hands.

160 states have signed an agreement, The Stockholm Convention, in which they oblige to use only the best possible technology in environment protection practices; to ensure that one of the world's most dangerous materials - PCB - is permanently safe. In my opinion ENVIO does not apply with any of these obligations but do the opposite, they are partially responsible for the uncontrolled spread of PCB.

I hope that this appeal reaches responsible people and institutions.

Yours faithfully

Markus Kurth MdB