



## **Declaration on Environmental Health**

The International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) has been actively involved in the process leading up to London '99, the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Europe and the resultant Ministerial Declaration.

IFEH is a non-governmental world-wide organisation, run on a voluntary basis, of national organisations of environmental health or environment and health protection professionals. IFEH represents those who are professionally involved on an everyday basis in the implementation and enforcement of environment and health legislation, the promotion of health and the protection of the environment. Environmental Health Professionals are the interface between the politicians and the public and need to keep a delicate balance between individual and public needs and requirements.

The professional handling and management of environmental health matters are key factors for success in implementing the London '99 Declaration on Environment and Health in Europe as well as national and local legislation and regulations. IFEH strongly supports the process of bringing together environment and health issues.

IFEH endorses the Ministerial Declaration and the Water Protocol but calls for more commitment to financial contributions and action. IFEH finds that important areas are not addressed in the Declaration and wants a broader agenda to be considered during the coming years including food safety, chemicals in the environment and the special needs and problems of elderly people.

IFEH believes that the needs of the individual and the development of a sustainable society for all must be given highest priority. IFEH emphasises the need for broad public participation and community involvement built on full access to information and access to justice in handling environment and health issues.

IFEH subscribes to the Precautionary Principle, the Subsidiarity Principle and the Polluter Pays Principle and believes that Best Available Technique should be used when possible.

IFEH relies on co-operation, networking and partnership and calls upon other professionals to join forces with the Federation in working towards sustainable development.

IFEH stresses the need for a transparent legal, regulatory and administrative system that supports these aims and those aims laid down in the Ministerial Declaration.

IFEH calls upon governments to recognise the need to have Environmental Health Professionals with relevant training and ample resources, who can work independently of illegitimate pressures, as a necessary basis for implementing policies and enforcing legislation.

IFEH strongly recommends that governments should support the environmental health profession as a tool to protect the environment and implement sustainable development.

IFEH invites governments, inter-governmental and international organisations to take advantage of its network, currently representing approximately 60,000 environmental health professionals and its accumulated experience and expertise in the field of environment and health protection.

IFEH commits itself to the further development of the outcomes of the London '99 Ministerial Conference, the resultant processes and the move towards achieving sustainable development.

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**THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**