



## Stop toxic inheritance!

There is a constant flood of studies finding chemicals in our bodies. Below just some examples from the last months:

- September 2005: A TNO study commissioned by Greenpeace and WWF analysed samples of maternal and umbilical blood for the presence of eight chemical groups. The research concludes that hazardous chemicals are common contaminants in both maternal and umbilical cord blood, indicating that these chemicals can pass from the mother to the baby across the placenta<sup>1</sup>.
- August 2005: A study published in Environmental Health Perspectives of phthalate metabolites in prenatal urine showed that prenatal phthalate exposure at environmental levels can adversely affect male reproductive development in humans<sup>2</sup>.
- July 2005: A study conducted by the Environmental Working Group detected 287 commercial chemicals, pesticides, and pollutants in the umbilical cord blood from 10 newborn infants<sup>3</sup>.
- June 2005: A study by Friends of the Earth Germany found over 300 chemical substances in mother milk<sup>4</sup>.

These studies illustrate that wherever one looks in our bodies - blood, urine, mother milk - one will find numerous hazardous chemicals, Many of these chemicals are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic. In REACH, these substances, as well as substances that are carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction and those that are very persistent and very bioaccumulative are considered as substances of very high concern that will fall under authorisation.

**Authorisation should be an effective regulatory procedure to phase out these chemicals, especially when safer alternatives are available. Authorisation should only be given if there are no safer alternatives, if risks are adequately controlled and if socio-economic benefits outweigh the risks. Authorisation should always be time-limited, and should only be given when a substitution plan is submitted.**

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<sup>1</sup> A present for life, WWF and Greenpeace, 2005

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/umbilicalcordreport.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Decrease in Anogenital Distance among Male Infants with Prenatal Phthalate Exposure, Environmental Health Perspectives, Volume 113, Number 8, August 2005, <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2005/8100/abstract.html>

<sup>3</sup> Body Burden, the pollution in newborns, Jane Houlihan, Timothy Kropp, Richard Wiles, Sean Gray, Chris Campbell, July 2005, [http://www.ewg.org/reports\\_content/bodyburden2/pdf/bodyburden2\\_final-r2.pdf](http://www.ewg.org/reports_content/bodyburden2/pdf/bodyburden2_final-r2.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Über 300 Schadstoffe in der Muttermilch, BUND, 2005, [http://www.bund.net/lab/reddot2/pdf/studie\\_muttermilch.pdf](http://www.bund.net/lab/reddot2/pdf/studie_muttermilch.pdf)