

Thanks Elena ,

We are fully committed to solve and do this fast. However we keep running in circles as not all interests are aligned and information and facts are being used selectively by some. Rest assured of our commitment. Warm regards. Paul

T: @PaulPolman

On 2 Oct 2015, at 13:53, Elena Lymberidi <elena.lymberidi@eeb.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Polman,

Thank you very much for your prompt response.

We are following the correspondence as sent to you by Mrs. Ismawati and the other Award grantees and plan on carefully reviewing any response.

As you know, mercury release and exposure is a serious concern that has resulted in 128 governments signing on to the Minamata Convention. As such, we would fully expect Unilever reexamine what transpire in light of the evidence presented and work cooperatively and responsibly with the local community to resolve the issues in question.

Thank you in advance for considering our concerns,

Sincerely,

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo and Michael Bender
ZMWG International coordinators

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo
Project Manager 'Zero Mercury Campaign', European Environmental Bureau (aisbl)
International Co-coordinator, Zero Mercury Working Group

From: Polman, Paul [<mailto:Paul.Polman@unilever.com>]

Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2015 2:36 PM

To: Elena Lymberidi

Cc: Mercurypolicy@aol.com

Subject: RE: Champion of the Earth Award and Responsible Actions to Create a Brighter Future

Dear Ms Lymberidi

Thank you for your email and for the opportunity to respond to your concerns. I see that you are copied on the note from Mrs Ismawati, and may already have received my response. In case not, I attach a copy.

With warm regards
Paul



Paul Polman, Chief Executive

Unilever, 100 Victoria Embankment, Blackfriars, London, EC4Y 0DY
Paul.Polman@Unilever.com | Phone: +44 20 7822 5874 | Twitter: @PaulPolman

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www.unilever.com | www.facebook.com/unilever

From: Elena Lymberidi [<mailto:elena.lymberidi@eeb.org>]
Sent: 25 September 2015 13:47
To: Polman, Paul
Cc: Mercurypolicy@aol.com; Elena Lymberidi
Subject: Champion of the Earth Award and Responsible Actions to Create a Brighter Future

To: Paul Polman

Chief Executive Officer

Unilever Plc

25 September, 2015

Dear Mr. Polman,

The Zero Mercury Working Group*, would like to extend its greetings and good wishes to you on your nomination for UNEP's Champion of the Earth Award.

We are aware of your vocal advocacy on the issues of climate change, sustainable development goals and fair treatment of communities, workers and the environment. The UNEP award too is a recognition of your words and actions.

We are sure, though, that you are aware of how the professed commitments of Unilever to justice and environmental sustainability are contrasted by your subsidiary's handling of the mercury legacy issue in Kodaikanal, India.

In 2001, environmental regulators in Tamil Nadu, India, shut down a polluting mercury thermometer factory in Kodaikanal operated by Hindustan Lever, a Unilever subsidiary, now renamed Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL). Between 1992 and 1999, the company admits to having sold 43.6 tonnes of mercury-laced broken thermometers containing more than half a tonne of mercury to a number of buyers

including informal scrap merchants. It also admits to having discharged more than 2 tonnes of mercury into Kodaikanal's environment.

Workers in the factory say they were kept in the dark about mercury's ill-effects. They allege that the company thwarted all attempts to have independent and comprehensive medical examination done to verify their concerns about ill-health due to mercury exposure. A 2011 Government of India report that investigated worker claims concluded that workers had been exposed to mercury and many showed effects of mercury poisoning.

Till date, the management at Hindustan Unilever has failed to show serious intent to resolve the issues in Kodaikanal. Workers remain uncompensated, children and communities are suffering and the environment polluted. Minamata tragedy repeated in Kodaikanal.

We hear a lot about your passion for saving forests, and of your appreciation of the ecological services provided by forests. The Kodaikanal factory is located within and surrounded by valuable and endangered tropical sub-montane evergreen forests. These forests serve as watersheds for millions of people downstream and in Kodaikanal.

Your subsidiary is insisting on a clean-up that will leave more than a third of the mercury in the soil even after the remediation is completed. This mercury will leak out of the factory site into the air, the lakes and the waterbodies that lie around the factory site in Kodaikanal. The clean-up standard proposed for Kodaikanal, India, is 250 times weaker than the levels protective of sensitive ecosystems. This would not be allowed in the UK or any other Northern nation.

We are aware of your commitment to fairness and equal treatment of all people regardless of nationality or race. But Hindustan Unilever's proposal is a clear case of environmental double standards.

At a time when the United Nations is trying to build global confidence to tackle the Minamata Convention on reduction and elimination on sources of mercury emissions, the actions of your company come under added scrutiny.

We are very hopeful that you will bring your Indian subsidiary in line with the values the award is promoting, as we are sure that you are aware of the onerous responsibility that such an award brings with it.

We urge you to personally intervene to ensure that an honourable settlement is offered to workers, and that the contaminated environment is cleaned up to international standards that are protective of the sensitive ecosystems that surround the factory site.

Sincerely,

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo (EEB) and Michael Bender (MPP)
International Coordinators
Zero Mercury Working Group

* The [Zero Mercury Working Group](#) (ZMWG) is an international coalition of over 95 public interest environmental and health non-governmental organizations from more than 50 countries from around the world formed in 2005 by the [European Environmental Bureau](#) and the [Mercury Policy Project](#).

ZMWG strives for zero supply, demand, and emissions of mercury from all anthropogenic sources, with the goal of reducing mercury in the global environment to a minimum. Our mission is to advocate and support the adoption and implementation of a legally binding instrument which contains mandatory obligations to eliminate where feasible, and otherwise minimize, the global supply and trade of mercury, the global demand for mercury, anthropogenic releases of mercury to the environment, and human and wildlife exposure to mercury.

Elena Lymberidi-Settimo
Project Manager 'Zero Mercury Campaign', European Environmental Bureau (aisbl)
International Co-coordinator, Zero Mercury Working Group
34, Boulevard de Waterloo
B-1000, Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 2 2891301
F: +32 2 2891099
elena.lymberidi@eeb.org
skype: eeb_elena
www.zeromercury.org , www.eeb.org