



INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2006

ChemSec

CHEMICAL SECRETARIAT

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# Introduction

Chemical contamination does not only threaten the environment. We are all exposed to chemicals from our air, food, water, everyday household and workplace items, and personal products. The costs to society of exposure to man-made hazardous chemicals have largely been ignored. Little research is being done into the causes of diseases. Allergies, asthma, behavioural problems, increases in various male reproductive problems, such as falling sperm counts, are all of great concern, but chemicals are rarely studied or considered to be the culprit.

Chemical policies around the world have not been designed to deal with the complexity and magnitude of today's toxic threats. Existing policies were primarily designed to protect workers from the effects of a small number of well known chemicals. The European Union has taken an important lead in this context, a new policy on Chemicals, called REACH was agreed upon at the end of 2006 and will enter into force 2007. REACH is a step in the right direction, but in many aspects it did not live up to the expectations of an efficient system for chemical management.

The overall objective of the International Chemical Secretariat (ChemSec) is an environment free from toxic chemicals. We are striving to reach broad acceptance and participation in society for Precaution, Substitution, Polluter Pays, and Right-to-know as leading principles towards the goal. Our work spans seminars and workshops, booklets and talks, all geared towards informing and enlightening public debate on the necessary steps towards a toxic free environment. Many stakeholders have recognised our work. The Swedish Minister of Environment, Mr Carlgren stated in the budget proposal with regard to ChemSec's work the previous years that "a long-term financial support for the work of the secretariat is important".

REACH was a major engagement for ChemSec during 2006. Our work continued to strengthen the proposal during the political process in the European Parliament and Council. ChemSec conducted a study for the European Parliament investigating the effects the implementation of REACH will have on developing countries.

ChemSec promotes the active engagement of forward-looking businesses to substitute their use of hazardous chemicals. This year, we arranged a seminar in the European Parliament with representatives of multinational companies active in different sectors. The companies expressed their wish to prevent hazardous substances and products from reaching their work-force or customers through a strong chemical regulation. Both the business work and the European policy work are strongly related.

These two issues made up the bulk of ChemSec's work in 2006. Further work has involved:

- **Global Strategies** – following the development of SAICM and Stockholm convention. We participated in various international political meetings to promote the guiding principles, and to act as a watchdog on implementation.
- **Strengthening NGO capacity** – ChemSec supported the work of environmental organisations in Eastern Europe. Additionally a workshop between European and US environmental organisations was arranged to strengthen the network and ongoing collaboration.
- **Precaution** – Through meetings arranged in Eastern Europe we advocated the use of Precaution in chemical legislations.
- **GHS** – ChemSec has been involved in the first part of the process of implementing the GHS (Globally Harmonized System for the Labelling and Classification of Chemicals) into EU regulation.

*Gothenburg, Sweden March 2007*

*The Board of the International Chemical Secretariat*

## Projects 2006

### ●PROJECT 1: "MAKING THE EU A FORERUNNER"

*In 2006, REACH entered the Second Reading of the decision-making process, which meant a second round in both the European Parliament and the Council. With the room for change now greatly reduced, ChemSec focused on steering the debate back to the basic principles behind the regulation, such as industry responsibility, increased information in the supply chain and substitution of the most hazardous substances, rather than discussions on details in different provisions. In addition, ChemSec continued to work on improving the public debate and understanding of the regulation with numerous important contributions.*

The REACH regulation has been a long time in the making, with the European Commission having issued the initial 'White Paper proposal in 2001. All along environmental, health and other civil society NGOs, have been campaigning for an effective reform. Despite a strong backlash from the chemical manufacturing industry, the basic framework and principles for the REACH proposal remained mostly intact in the final act agreed upon by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers in December 2006.

Although we have come a long way in making the part of industry that stands to gain from a stricter chemicals regulation more vocal, the chemicals industry continued to resist the proposal in the name of the entire European industry. To a large extent, the debate continued to be influenced by the critical voice of large European and other chemicals manufacturers.

Accordingly, much of our work continued in focusing on strengthening the voice of progressive business in the debate. As described more in detail under Project 2: "Progressive Business Leading the Way", ChemSec held on-going discussions with multi-national companies on issues such as how to

prepare for REACH, how to be progressive and go beyond the coming regulation, how to strengthen the proposal, and the weaknesses in the proposal.

Furthermore, an important part of the debate on REACH focused on the effects of the regulation on countries trading with the EU. An argument often heard was that REACH would have devastating effects on the already vulnerable industries of developing countries. As an example, new requirements on minerals and ores were said to have adverse affects on these countries. On behalf of the European Parliament ChemSec, together with researchers in France, South Africa and USA conducted a study regarding implications of REACH for the developing countries. The report concluded that the implications of REACH on these countries will be minor, and the costs of new requirements will largely fall on large multinational corporations operating in these countries. Further, in order for these countries to reap the benefits of the new regulation, assistance should be provided in to assist developing countries in creating domestic systems for sound chemicals management.

ChemSec presented the findings at several events and meetings, e.g. at the EU-ACP Assembly in Vienna in May 2006, at an EEB NGO-workshop in Brussels and at a hearing in the European Parliament, on 21 March 2006.

In addition to REACH, the future GHS-regulation (Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling) came up as an important issue in EU. A public Internet Consultation took place at the second half of 2006 which will form the basis of the proposal put forward by the Commission. ChemSec prepared an answer for the consultation, which we shared with other relevant NGOs. We further hired a consultant to contact other environmental, health and consumer organisations to engage them to reply on the internet hearing.

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OTHER WORK DURING 2006 INCLUDED:

- *Meetings on REACH with Members of the European Parliament, discussing the most urgent issues, and strategies to strengthen the proposal, especially focusing on Authorisation and Information in the Supply chain.*
- *Contacts with various European companies discussing REACH and development of positions regarding the legislation.*
- *Fact sheets on key topics in parliamentary debates, circulated to decision-makers.*
- *Lectures on REACH at various events*

## ○PROJECT 2: "PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS LEADING THE WAY"

*As consumer awareness increases, and sharp competition forces manufacturers of consumer goods to find new ways to distinguish themselves, an increasing number of companies are beginning to look at how to manage the chemicals used in their production. Much of this work is still done on an individual level, and companies are still cautious in raising their voices publicly in support for stricter chemicals regulation. The goal of this project is to transform the perspective that industry only stand to lose from reform and to promote the active engagement of business leaders in supporting progressive measures to eliminate the use of toxic chemicals.*

Much of the work in this project prior to 2006 has been oriented to facilitating participation of industry stakeholders in the public debate on REACH. Three years of project work resulted in numerous large companies and associations taking active part in defending REACH. This has caused a significant change in how industry is perceived in relation to REACH. In addition to the short term-goal of getting business engaged in strengthening REACH, the project supports the long term-goal of assisting the companies in phasing out hazardous chemicals from their production lines.

Building upon the groundwork laid down in 2005, ChemSec had two sets of activities. Firstly a Seminar in the European Parliament with company speakers on the most contested issue in the second reading of REACH, Secondly, continuing outreach and development work for our progressive businesses network.

On 12 September 2006, ChemSec held a seminar entitled "Authorisation and REACH: Substitution from a company perspective". The debate on authorisation concerned the different routes by which companies obtain permission to produce/ use chemicals of very high concern, or are denied permission because of the existence of substitute chemicals or technologies.

Three Members of Parliament from the three main political groupings (liberal, conservative and socialist) hosted the seminar: Lena Ek, Anders Wijkman, and Dorette Corbey who have all been very important actors under the REACH process.

The main speakers were representatives from Dell, the US based computer-hardware corporation; the Swedish based multinational construction and development corporation, Skanska; and the UK pharmacy chain 'Boots the Chemists'. The speakers discussed the ways in which their companies use chemicals, and how they attempt to identify which chemicals not to use, and the needs they have for information about the chemicals they receive in the products they use. They explained the particularities of their business sector and the policies their companies had in order to safeguard their products and reputation. Also, the ChemSec director Per Rosander gave a presentation on the differences between the Parliament and Council proposals on the authorisation procedure, by which companies obtain or are denied permission to use a specific chemical for selected applications. Material generated from the seminar, such as a fact-sheet on substitution, Power Point presentations etc received high download scores on our website and were widely referred to by the audience members.

ChemSec staff continued to conduct outreach and development work for our progressive businesses network. In the fall, we participated in a stakeholder meeting with a company in Germany which laid the basis for further cooperation. We also conducted ongoing discussions with Greenpeace Netherlands on their business work and possibilities for future cooperation.

Subsequent to the seminar, ChemSec facilitated a joint public letter issued by Skanska and Eureau on REACH, which was sent on October 25 to all

Members of the European Parliament, and to all EU ministers for industry, trade and environment.

Further, we assisted a number of Swedish companies, led by the Swedish Drinking Water and Waste Water Operator, to contribute in the final stages of the public debate on REACH. These contributions, published on the web forum Europaportalen, urged the Swedish government to act for strong provisions on hazardous chemicals in the European Council of Ministers.

### PROJECT 3: "GLOBAL STRATEGIES"

*Sweden aims at achieving a toxic free environment by 2020, but this is not possible without international cooperation. Through the adoption of SAICM, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in February 2006 there is now a global commitment to the WSSD goal: By 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The adoption of SAICM was an important recognition of the hazards of chemicals and a step in the right direction. However, ChemSec, like many other NGOs, believes that the agreement is only as good as its implementation, and much work remains to be done. Therefore ChemSec believe it is important to work together with and support NGOs globally in order to achieve real and lasting change.*

#### SAICM – THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

The purpose of SAICM is to provide an overarching framework for global action on chemical hazards and enable governments and other stakeholders to collaborate more effectively on reducing toxic risks. ChemSec participated in the SAICM high-level conference, which took place in Dubai, Arab Emirates, February 4-6, 2006. At the conference Governments, Intergovernmental organisations and NGOs negotiated the adoption of SAICM. The final result included far-reaching compromises, but an international agreement could finally be adopted. ChemSec

monitored the negotiations and informed NGOs in Europe and USA about the process.

ChemSec is a member of IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network), which gives us access to a wide network of more than 400 NGOs active on chemicals safety. During 2006 ChemSec's former director Per Rosander was a member of the steering committee of IPEN. A ChemSec delegation participated in the IPEN international meeting in Budapest, September 2006, and engaged in discussing global strategies for chemical control with other member NGOs.

#### INTERNATIONAL NGO WORKSHOP, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.

European NGOs have worked intensively over recent years to make the REACH legislation as strong as possible. But when REACH during 2006 was approaching finalization it was important for NGOs in Europe and other parts of the world to meet and lay down strategies for the road ahead.

Therefore, ChemSec gathered twenty five high-level NGO representatives in a workshop in Sweden May 26-28, to share experiences of toxic campaigning in the EU, US and Global South and to discuss how NGO cooperation can develop in 2007 and beyond. The participants got the opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge on a wide range of chemicals-related environment and health topics. Agreed action points were compiled in a written report summarising discussions and the way forward.

### A TOXIC FREE EUROPE

In 2005 ChemSec was provided funding from the Swedish EPA for the project A toxic free Europe. The project intended to contribute to SAICM objective of a Toxics Free Future, support capacity building and activities related to chemicals safety and improved chemicals legislation in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. This project stretched until early 2006 when new funding was approved and the project was extended in to a second part.

Surveys on existing chemicals legislation in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia were conducted by our partner organisations FRI, Mama-86 and EcoAccord and publicised in March 2006. The survey includes import, export and production of chemicals and articles as well as implementation, follow up and possible legal measures or sanctions in case of non-compliance. Recommendations for improved chemicals management and strengthened chemicals legislation gathered by researchers, NGO-representatives and other stakeholders at stakeholder meetings were also included. The reports were translated to English. A compiled report of the surveys from all three countries were printed and disseminated at the IFCS meeting in Budapest in September 2006.

### A TOXIC FREE EUROPE 2

The project aimed at informing national and local authorities, industry, NGOs, academia, and press in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine about environmentally sound and economically feasible technologies in chemical management. The information compiled and assessed by an Expert Panel was made available through a database (software and online version).

The prepared data base consists of the description of 72 non-combustion technological processes on waste management including the destruction of POPs in waste and good practice examples of sustainable chemicals management.

The database is free to use, and being the first time such a database has been developed in the Russian language it will become a useful tool for different stakeholders in countries of the EECCA region (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia). The database information will allow interested producers and consumers to get information on all tested or promising technologies. The database can be found on a website created for this purpose on <http://www.noburntech.info>

The database was presented in early 2007 at three national round tables organized in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine with broad participation of local authorities, NGOs, chemical industry, and scientists. Initiating a new project to support NGO work in developing countries on toxic industrial chemicals and chemicals in products

The project is a joint effort together with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). On October 2-3 a planning workshop was held in Stockholm to set priorities and objectives for the new project. The workshop included participants from ChemSec, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and IPEN. A first network-support was provided to IPEN in the end of 2006 which enables IPEN participation in several international meetings, as well as initiating an NGO assessment project. The project will be further developed in 2007 and finalized 2008.

## PROJECT 4: "PRECAUTION"

*ChemSec started this project in 2005 to increase the awareness of the precautionary principle, and to motivate decision-makers to incorporate the principle into legislation at both the European and the global level. The project is also designed to communicate to politicians, industry and the scientific community the results of the interdisciplinary Swedish research programme "A new strategy for the risk management of chemicals" (NewS), on toxicology and risk assessment issues.*

In spring 2005, Chemsec started collaboration with the research project NewS. The programme, founded by the Mistra Foundation in Stockholm, aims to develop new strategies for risk assessment and management of chemicals. NewS has, since its start in 1999, engaged researchers from a variety of academic disciplines. The purpose of the collaboration between NewS and ChemSec is to improve communication between the science community and decision makers.

In order to reach out directly to selected decision-makers, scientists and environmental organisations in Belarus and Ukraine ChemSec actively participated in seminars, which we also financially supported. The aim of the workshops was to bring together different stakeholders in these countries to discuss chemical legislations and to advocate Precaution in chemical management. 2-day seminars were

arranged in Belarus and Ukraine in early 2006 (another seminar was held in Russia in late 2005). The meetings were arranged locally by our partner organisations in the project. In Ukraine Mama-86 arranged a seminar in Kiev and in Belarus the organisation Foundation for Realisation of Ideas arranged a seminar in Minsk. At each seminar staff from ChemSec took an active role and contributed with lectures about the precautionary principle, REACH and the role of NGOs when striving for improved chemicals legislation. During the first day of the seminar representatives from authorities, agencies, universities were present apart from environmental organisations. The second day was dedicated to environmental organisations and the participants were given the opportunity to discuss and put forward recommendations for improvement of chemicals legislation and chemicals management.

The seminars successfully fulfilled the objective to create a forum for environmental organisations, scientists and decision-makers to discuss issues related to chemicals management, chemicals legislation and the precautionary principle. As a result of the seminar in Belarus a network of NGOs working for a toxic free environment were created.

In addition ChemSec kept a speech at "The First National Conference on Precaution" in Baltimore, USA. The conference brought together different stakeholders working with precaution in US. ChemSec held a speech about how precaution and substitution are used in European legislation.



# ChemSec Participation in Meetings 2006

Examples of ChemSec participation in and presentations at meetings during 2006

24-25 Jan	Chemsec/Mama-86 Workshop	Kiev, Ukraine
27-28 Jan	Chemsec/FRI Workshop	Minsk, Belarus
27 Jan	Speaking at Swedish Chemical Agency Anniversery	Stockholm, Sweden
3-6 Feb	ICCM negotiation and adoption of SAICM	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
27 Feb	Hosting business meeting	London, United Kingdom
15 Feb	Lecture at Apoteket	Stockholm, Sweden
22 March	Presentation of the REACH implementation study for the European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium
6 April	Lecture, Swedish Association of Environmental Managers	Stockholm, Sweden
12 May	Presentation of the REACH implementation study at the EEB REACH Seminar	Brussels, Belgium
20 May	Presentation of the REACH implementation study for African, Caribbean, Pacific and European politicians	Vienna, Austria
22 May	Annual meeting of ChemSec 2006	Stockholm, Sweden
26-28 May	ChemSec hosts NGO workshop for post REACH coordination	Stockholm, Sweden
29-31 May	Lecture, CleanMed conference	Stockholm, Sweden

*NGO Seminar on chemicals legislation, Minsk, Belarus, January 2006*

*Business seminar on REACH, European Parliament, Brussels, September 2006*



9-11 June	Speaking at the Precaution conference	Baltimore, USA
9 Sept	Lecture for Swedish Association for Environmental Managers (NMC)	Stockholm
12 Sept	ChemSec hosts seminar in the European Parliament	Brussels, Belgium
20-23 Sept	Speaking at IPEN General Assembly	Budapest, Hungary
2-3 Oct	ChemSec/SSNC/IPEN workshop	Stockholm, Sweden
9 Nov	Participating at the ARTAC meeting	Paris, France
20-22 Nov	SAICM regional meeting	Barcelona, Spain
29 Nov	Speaking for the Doctors for the Environment	Göteborg, Sweden
13 Dec	Monitoring the REACH plenary vote	Strasbourg, France

*International NGO-workshop,  
Almåså, Stockholm, May 2006*

*Seminar "Implications of REACH for developing countries",  
Budapest, Hungary, September 2006*



# Publications and Communication

Our publications and communications are widely used and appreciated. Our high quality texts, attractive graphics, and trenchant arguments have ensured that our materials have earned an

excellent reputation. Members of the European Parliament also make good use of our website, using it as a real fact finder on the legislative texts.

## OUR PRINTED PUBLICATIONS THIS YEAR:

- *“Implications of REACH for developing countries” (April 2006) English, French*
- *“Compiled report on chemicals management in Eastern Europe” (Belarus, Ukraine and Russia), (August 2006), English*
- *Fact sheet : “Substitution from a company perspective”, 1 double-sided page (English)*
- *REACH text: the Council common position, as of 9 March 2006 (English)*

## OUR ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS INCLUDED:

- *“Survey on Existing Chemicals Legislation in Belarus”, March 2006, English*
- *“Chemicals management policy of the Russian Federation”, March 2006, English*
- *“Policies and laws on Chemicals’ management in Ukraine”, March 2006, English*
- *“Compiled report on chemicals management in Eastern Europe” (Belarus, Ukraine and Russia), English*
- *“Implications of REACH for developing countries” (April 2006) English, French*
- *Various information materials from the “Substitution from a company perspective” seminar in Brussels*
- *The REACH text as of 18 December 2006*

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## OUR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDED:

- *Newsletter. Five issues were distributed during 2006. We send the newsletter to around 150 contacts within NGOs, industry, and governments.*
- *Webpage bulletins. Under the section News & Events, we posted incisive REACH political updates and legislative analysis pertaining to the Parliament & Council debates, proposals and votes.*

## DOWNLOAD STATISTICS

Within a period of one month during the autumn the following statistics showed the interest for ChemSec’s material accessible on the website:

<b>Document/Publication</b>	<b>Event/context</b>	<b>Downloads</b>
<i>ChemSec presentation</i>	<i>Substitution seminar</i>	120
<i>Substitution from a company perspective</i>	<i>Substitution seminar</i>	46
<i>Boots presentation</i>	<i>Substitution seminar</i>	26
<i>Dell presentation</i>	<i>Substitution seminar</i>	25
<i>Skanska presentation</i>	<i>Substitution seminar</i>	22
<i>Summary Substitution seminar</i>	<i>Substitution seminar</i>	17
<i>REACH text</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	50
<i>ChemSec analysis ENVI vote</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	40
<i>ENVI recommendations</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	24
<i>REACH Open Letter</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	42
<i>GHS internet response</i>	<i>GHS internet consultation</i>	17
<i>Implications of REACH for developing countries</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	27
<i>Surviving REACH</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	21
<i>What we need from REACH</i>	<i>REACH process</i>	16
<i>Principles for a toxic free environment</i>	<i>Basic facts</i>	23

## Board and Office

The board has met four times and has consisted of four persons, one from each member organisation:

### BOARD, 1 JAN – 22 MAY, 2006:

- Lasse Gustavsson, *WWF Sweden (Chairman)*
- Mona Blomdin-Persson, *Swedish Society for Nature Conservation*
- Karl Krook, *Friends of the Earth Sweden*
- Maria Brandt, *Fältbiologerna (Nature and Youth Sweden)*

### SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

- Lars Kristoferson, *WWF Sweden*
- Mikael Karlsson, *Swedish Society for Nature Conservation*
- Martina Löfstedt, *Friends of the Earth Sweden*
- Emma Persson, *Fältbiologerna (Nature and Youth Sweden)*

### BOARD, 25 MAY - 31 DEC, 2005:

- Mikael Karlsson, *Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Chairman)*
- Lasse Gustavsson, *WWF Sweden*
- Karl Krook, *Friends of the Earth Sweden*
- Jonas Forsberg, *Fältbiologerna (Nature and Youth Sweden)*

### SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS:

- Hans Berglund, *WWF Sweden*
- Maria Brandt, *Fältbiologerna (Nature and Youth Sweden)*
- Martina Löfstedt, *Friends of the Earth Sweden*

Per Rosander resigned as director and Anne-Sofie Andersson was appointed as acting director.

# Financial Report

Our revenues during 2006 amounted to approximately 3,9 million SEK (416 250 Euro). The main funding

source came from a 2,5 million SEK grant from the Swedish Government.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	2006	2005
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>		
Swedish Government, Sweden	2.518.847	2.000.000
Phanta Rhea	108.530	
The Marisla Foundation	217.142	
The European Parliament	440.880	
John Merck Fund	107.887	228.610
Swedish Environment Protection Agency	350.000	485.000
Bidrag Mistra/NewS	121.000	
Other reimbursement (publications, lectures etc)	48.477	98.799
UBA, Germany		169.697
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.912.763</b>	<b>3.187.004</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and other staff costs	-2.484.448	-1.885.970
Travel costs/meals and accommodation	-239.860	-330.144
Conferences/ Events	-118.038	
Consultants	-517.174	
Grants to partner organisations	-339.488	
Publications	-111.029	-207.239
Premises (rent, telephone, Internet etc)	-173.569	-129.159
Other external costs	-104.449	-856.243
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-4.088.055</b>	<b>-3.408.845</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>-175.292</b>	<b>- 221.841</b>
Income of interest	46	177
Other financial income	21.403	20.523
Cost of interest	-1.932	-65
Other financial costs	-477	-9.609
<b>STATEMENT AFTER FINANCIAL INCOME AND COSTS</b>	<b>-156.252</b>	<b>- 210.815</b>
<b>RESULT OF CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>-156.252</b>	<b>- 210.815</b>

BALANCE SHEET	31 Dec 2006	31 Dec 2005
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Possessions	49.144	24.057
Cash and bank	294.522	191.167
Accounts receivable	1.276	0
Other claims	23.220	53.234
Interim claims	15.536	9.513
Interest bearing account	716.156	724.754
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1.099.854</b>	<b>1.002.725</b>
<b>DEBTS AND ASSETS</b>		
Balanced profit/loss	83.5775	407.334
Result from previous year	-210.815	428.441
Current year result	-156.252	-210.815
<b>SHORT TERM DEBTS</b>		
Debts to suppliers	25.965	195.775
Accrued expenses	440.910	87.768
Tax at source of employees	36.407	33.035
Accrued social security charges	31.116	51.358
Accrued special salary tax	96.748	
Other short-term debts	0	9.829
<b>TOTAL DEBTS AND ASSETS</b>	<b>1.099.854</b>	<b>1.002.725</b>

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