

To: Ursula Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Re: Invitation to receive testimonies from chemical pollution victims

Brussels, 2 October 2023

Dear President von der Leyen,

On 11 October, victims of chemical pollution will visit Brussels to give testimony of how toxic chemicals such as PFAS or highly hazardous pesticides have wrecked their future. We kindly ask you to receive them so they can hand over to you letters and testimonies from their communities.

Mothers from the Veneto region (Italy) as well as citizens from other PFAS polluted sites in Europe would like to provide you with first hand evidence of how the PFAS industry has polluted soils, food and water in their communities, hijacking their livelihoods, and exposing them to extremely high levels of pollution that threaten their health.

We would also like to hand over letters from 200 scholars from Benin, asking you to stop the exports of highly hazardous pesticides that are banned in the EU but continue to be manufactured for export to the Global South. The EU is poisoning countries, like Benin, that don't have capacity to manage such high risks, causing millions of victims, especially among children in the poorest communities.

These are only two examples of the urgent need to deliver on the Green Deal's ambition for a Toxic Free Future, and urgently put forward the remaining legislative proposals to tackle chemical pollution, such as the REACH revision or the export ban.

We will be at the Commission's entrance at 09:00 on the 11th of October and would appreciate if you could find some minutes to receive the testimony from victims of chemical pollution.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick ten Brink
Secretary General, EEB

European Environmental Bureau

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