



To:
President Ursula von der Leyen
First Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

European Commission, Rue de la Loi 200, Brussels

9 December 2019

Re: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS TOGETHER FOR EUROPE: THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL MUST REVITALISE EU CHEMICALS POLICY TO PROTECT EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND ENVIRONMENT

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

We, the European Consumers Organisation (BEUC), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), representing the voice of consumers, workers and the environment, have come together to call on you to **build a Europe that protects people and ecosystems against chemical pollution**.

On 4 December, the European Environment Agency (EEA) released the 2020 State of the Environment Report highlighting that Europe faces environmental challenges of an unprecedented scale and urgency. The report documents that ongoing exposure to chemical pollution continues to negatively affect human health and the environment. Latent and irreversible damage to human health is of particular concern.

The European Green Deal presents a unique opportunity to radically scale up and speed up actions to protect its citizens and ecosystems. EU decision-makers must seize this opportunity to set Europe on the road to a non-toxic economy and a healthy future.

Please find attached to this letter our joint recommendations for the European Green Deal that could revitalise EU chemicals policy to better protect EU citizens and the environment. If these recommendations are integrated into an EU chemicals strategy to 2030, the Zero Pollution Ambition outlined in President von der Leyen's political guidelines can be achieved as far as chemicals policy is concerned and will support the credibility of the European Green Deal as a transformative agenda that helps establish a new social contract for Europe.

We thank you for consideration of this important matter. We are looking forward to further discussing it with you.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens,

Director General of the European
Consumers Organisation (BEUC)

Per Hilmersson,

Deputy General Secretary of the
European Trade Union
Confederation (ETUC)

Jeremy Wates,

Secretary General of the European
Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Cc:

Mr Thierry Breton – Commissioner for Internal Market

Ms Stella Kyriakides - Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Mr Didier Reynders – Commissioner for Justice

Mr Nicolas Schmit – Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius – Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

In view of the public interest in this matter, we intend to make this letter publicly available.