

To: Members of the REACH Committee

Brussels, 19 April 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

We, the undersigned NGOs and companies, are writing regarding the REACH Committee meeting due to take place on 26th and 27th of April 2023.

At this meeting the European Commission will propose a discussion followed by a vote on the Draft Commission Regulation (EU) amending Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 as regards **microplastics**.

We ask the Committee to support this draft decision after so many months of negotiation and years of discussions on this file. Additional years of delay will only mean more pollution.

We are in favour of a strict ban, to be applicable as soon as possible. This is the only way to prevent the release of 42,000 tonnes of intentionally used microplastics to the environment every year, preventing [severe](#) environmental and health impacts. That is why we do not support the long transition periods in the current proposal, as we have repeatedly mentioned in previous letters to the Committee.

The various transition times proposed for microplastics used in cosmetics are exceedingly long, in particular for make up products (12 years). Cosmetic companies have [stated](#) that sustainable and effective alternatives are widely available on the market, hence there is no justification for further delay.

Additionally, while we agree that banning the marketing of microplastics for use in sport pitches is the most effective, enforceable and cheapest [risk management option](#), proposing its entry into force eight years after the adoption of the restriction sounds unreasonable given the extent of the pollution stemming from that source. Organic alternatives as well as infill free sport pitches are already in use in all EU regions, for all sport categories and in the long term, at lower costs and health risks than using granules from toxic tyre residues.

Finally, we are also concerned with the definitions of soluble and biodegradable polymers as they may allow the continued use of hazardous microplastics. This has been raised by ECOS in its recent letter to this Committee, which we fully support.

Therefore, **while asking the members of the REACH Committee to adopt the current text, we call on you, as national authorities, to use your power to implement additional measures in your respective countries to prevent and reduce emissions of microplastics**, for example, by ensuring their swift substitution, informing consumers and downstream users on their environmental and health impacts and of available alternatives, implementing additional measures to reduce releases from sport pitches during the transitional period, banning their use in public procurement and/or adopting measures to detoxify tyres, among many others.

Yours faithfully,

