

BRUSSELS, 7 JUNE 2018

Dear President Juncker,
Dear Vice-Presidents Timmermans and Katainen,
Dear Commissioners Vella, Thyssen and Bieńkowska,

Under the seventh Environmental Action Plan (7th EAP), the European Commission is [committed](#) to the development of a Union's strategy for a non-toxic environment by the end of 2018.

According to the [Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#), **keeping that promise will be a game changer**. Not only will it address accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss, contamination of air, soil, water, animals and humans with health-harming chemicals, but it will also satisfy the public and industry demands for non-toxic circular production and safe products. Moreover, it will ensure the use of the latest scientific knowledge about chemicals and what their effects may be in promoting less wasteful, more efficient and cleaner consumption.

The delivery of the plastics strategy, the development of an efficient chemicals products/waste interface, and the advancement of a circular economy have been raising numerous policy and public debates over the last months, all highlighting the **need for a coordinated approach and an overarching framework for optimal health and environmental protection**. This could be provided by an ambitious strategy for a non-toxic environment.

At the time of writing however, **only six months remain before the deadline set to develop such a strategy expires**. In order to help the EU meet its own objective, HEAL has prepared the attached report, in which we present 12 priority actions that we believe could form the basis of a future European strategy for a non-toxic environment.

According to HEAL, such a strategy must at a minimum:

- prioritise eliminating people's exposure to toxic chemicals and reducing the linked health impacts by 2030, with clear timeline and indicators;
- commit to addressing chemicals of particular concern, such as endocrine disruptors, flame retardants, fluorinated compounds, and pesticides;
- establish a mechanism to ensure coordination and consistency across the various pieces of European chemicals legislations in the most health protective way;
- commit to securing funds for improved research and testing methods;
- develop coordinated European-wide public information and awareness-raising campaigns.

As the 7th EAP deadline and the end of this European Commission's and Parliament's term are nearing, citizens, industries, scientists, and health professionals alike are expecting you to come forward with a vision to achieve a transition towards a non-toxic economy and environment. We therefore call on you to answer those calls, including clearly communicating on your plans, timeline and options on the table.

We look forward to your response and remain available for any question that you might have about the proposed principles for action.

Yours sincerely,



Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

Contact:



Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL's over 70 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.

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