

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Mr. Maroš Šefčovič

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal

Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius

Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

12 September 2023

Subject: Commitment u-turn on export of hazardous chemicals banned in the EU

Dear President von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Šefčovič, and Commissioner Sinkevičius,

We are alarmed and disappointed to learn that the European Commission plans to renege on its commitment to deliver on its announcement under the [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#) to lead by example and, in line with international commitments, ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the European Union are not produced for export.

We strongly urge you to reconsider, and to adopt an ambitious legislative proposal by March 2024 at the latest.

More than 326 civil society organisations from across the globe, institutions and trade unions delivered a [Joint Statement](#) to the European Commission in December 2022 demanding a ban on the export of hazardous chemicals that are forbidden in the EU. Furthermore, 267,000 people have now signed an export ban petition to Commissioner Sinkevičius, and more than 2,400 EU citizens also contributed feedback to the public consultation earlier this year.

These dangerous chemicals have been banned in the EU to protect human health and the environment. They are currently produced and exported by EU countries to third countries, taking advantage of weaker regulations, and have devastating impacts on local communities.

Not only do these hazardous chemicals harm people and ecosystems outside the EU, but they also end up in Europe, in the form of residues in food imports.

We remain at your disposal for a meeting to further exchange on this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

- ❖ Elizabeth Bravo, Researcher, Acción Ecológica
- ❖ Deidre May, Communications coordinator, African Centre for Biodiversity

- ❖ Maxime Combes, Economist, AITEC
- ❖ Donald Ikenna Ofoegbu, Lead Coordinator, Alliance for Action on Pesticide in Nigeria (AAPN)
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- ❖ Helen Lynn, Co-ordinator, Alliance for cancer Prevention
- ❖ Karolina Brabcova, Toxics expert and consumer campaigns coordinator, Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme
- ❖ Najoua Bouraoui, Head, Association APEDDUB
- ❖ Mange Ram Adhana, President, Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
- ❖ Christian Russau, Board Member, Association of Ethical Shareholders, Germany
- ❖ Repon Chowdhury, Executive Director, Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE foundation)
- ❖ Vanessa Black, Advocacy, policy & research Coordinator, Biowatch South Africa
- ❖ Suzy Serneels, Policy officer food systems, Broederlijk Delen
- ❖ Lorine Azoulay, Food Sovereignty Advocacy Officer, CCFD-Terre Solidaire
- ❖ David Azoulay, Managing Attorney, Geneva Office; Director, Environmental Health Program, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- ❖ Suzanne Astic, Policy and Advocacy Adviser, Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
- ❖ David Joseph Allieu, National Coordinator, Civil Society Advocacy Network on Climate Change and the Environment Sierra Leone (CAN-SL)
- ❖ Anaïs Berthier, Head of Brussels Office, ClientEarth
- ❖ Ganeli NKONGOLO, Conseiller technique, Conseil pour la Défense Environnementale par la Légalité et la Traçabilité
- ❖ Jan Pehrke, Vorstandsmitglied, Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren
- ❖ Joao Camargo, Campaigner and Researcher on Agribusiness, Corporate Europe Observatory
- ❖ Isabelle Schützenberger, Advocacy, DKA Austria
- ❖ Emmanuel Odjam-Akumatey, Executive Director, Ecological Restorations
- ❖ Koldo Hernández, Chemical Policy Officer, Ecologistas en Acción
- ❖ Helena Paul, Co-Director, EcoNexus
- ❖ Eoin Dubsky, Senior campaign manager, Ekō
- ❖ Francesca Monteverdi, Advocacy officer, Entraide & Fraternité
- ❖ Florian Schulze, Managing Director, EnvMed Network - European Network for Environmental Medicine
- ❖ Marilyn Eessalu, Executive Director, Estonian Green Movement
- ❖ Diederick Sprangers, Scientific Coordinator, European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER)
- ❖ Philip Bankole, Director of Projects/Member of BOT, Evergreening Network for Forest and Land Restoration (ENFOLAR)
- ❖ Virginia Enssle, Manager, Fair Trade Advocacy Office
- ❖ Sophie Aujean, Director Global Advocacy, Fairtrade International
- ❖ Sérgio Poletto, Segundo secretário, Fetar RS
- ❖ Joerg Rohwedder, International Executive Director, foodwatch international

- ❖ Michelle De Baene, policy officer, FOS
- ❖ Caroline Lewis, Director, Friends of the Irish Environment
- ❖ François VEILLERETTE, Spokeperson, Générations Futures
- ❖ Dr. Waltraud Novak, Senior Expert Pesticides and Chemicals, GLOBAL 2000, Friends of the Earth Austria
- ❖ Sandile Johannes Ndawonde, Coordinator, Green Community Network SA
- ❖ Sandile Johannes Ndawonde, Chairperson, Green Network SA
- ❖ Rico Euripidou, Campaigns Coordinator, groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa
- ❖ Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
- ❖ Arianna Gamba, Director of Programmes, Heath Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe
- ❖ Donald ikenna, Program Manager, Heinrich Boell Stiftung Abuja Nigeria
- ❖ Ángel Tuninetti, Researcher, Heñói Centro de Estudios
- ❖ Jonas Jaccard, Policy officer, Humundi
- ❖ György Szabó, Zero Waste Program Manager/Vice President, Humusz Szövetség
- ❖ Alice Jandrain, Advocacy officer, Iles de Paix
- ❖ Annette Brox, Director, Informationsstelle Peru
- ❖ Ghebremedhin Belay, Executive Director, Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
- ❖ Natasha Dokovska, program director, Journalists for Human Rights
- ❖ Andrea Nakova, Youth coordinator, Journalists for human rights
- ❖ Corinne Lepage, Attorney / Chair of Justice Pesticides, Justice Pesticides
- ❖ Simphiwe Dada, Director, Khanyisa Education and Development Trust
- ❖ Prof. Ellen Hertz
- ❖ Fobi Miterand Asoh, Founding President, Nanny Africa
- ❖ Sidney FLAMENT ORTUN, President, Neo-Agri
- ❖ Ingvild Jenssen, Director, NGO Shipbreaking Platform
- ❖ Joseph DENOUGBETO, President, ONG La Grande Puissance de Dieu
- ❖ Susan Haffmans, Senior Adviser, PAN Germany
- ❖ Angeliki Lysimachou, Head of Science and Policy, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe
- ❖ Margriet Mantingh, Chair, Pesticide Action Network Netherlands
- ❖ Bela Loto Hiffler, President, Point de M.I.R
- ❖ Laurent Gaberell, Food and agriculture expert, Public Eye
- ❖ Kim Schoppink, Advocacy Lead, Nature, Rainforest Alliance
- ❖ Fernando Bejarano, Director, Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y Alternativas en Mexico (RAPAM)
- ❖ Phuong Hai, Project Coordinator, Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED)
- ❖ Fobi Miterand Asoh, 1st Vice President Human Health ROOHCAM, Reseau OSC One Health Cameroon (ROOHCAM)
- ❖ Lennon Ying-Dah Wong, Director, Dept. of Policies on Migrant Workers, Serve the People Association
- ❖ Kwon Young Eun, representative, SHARPS (Supporters for the Health and Rights of Workers in the Semiconductor Industry)
- ❖ Piotr Rymarowicz, President, Society for Earth (Poland)
- ❖ Barbara Caracciolo, International Cooperation Coordinator, SOLIDAR

- ❖ Fahmi Panimbang, Project Manager, Solidar Suisse
- ❖ Francisco Palma Saidane, Programme Officer - Work & Economy, Solidar Suisse
- ❖ Konrad Rehling, Managing Director, Südwind, Austria
- ❖ Frank Alétru, Président, Syndicat National d'Apiculture
- ❖ Davide Carbonai, Professor, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
- ❖ Ahmad Mahdavi, Ahmad Mahdavi, professor emeritus at University of Tehran, Ph.D., entomologist/ ecotoxicologist/ ICT for agriculture and environment, Focal point for Mountain Partnership in the University of Tehran, CMS preventing poisoning group, RAMSAR, SWS, WWN,, University of Tehran/ and Sustainable agriculture and environment.
- ❖ Mathilde Dupré, Co-director, Veblen Institute
- ❖ Nicky Gabriëls, Policy and campaign officer, Viva Salud
- ❖ Anne Isakowitsch, Senior campaigner, WeMove Europe
- ❖ Kate Metcalf, Co-Director, Wen (Women's Environmental Network)
- ❖ Simon Mwamba, Lead-Partnerships and Advocacy Program Officer, Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN)
- ❖ Pedro Horta, Policy Officer, ZERO - associação sistema terrestre sustentável