



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

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Dear Dr Fatta-Kassinou,
Dear Prof Lévi,

Thank you for your letter of 18 June addressed to Commissioner Kyriakides, who forwarded it to me since the international chemicals policy falls in my competence.

The European Commission adopted in December 2019 the European Green Deal, which is our roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable. The Green Deal contains a long list of actions that aim at achieving various objectives, including a zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment. Creating a toxic-free environment requires more action to prevent pollution from being generated as well as measures to clean and remedy it. Amongst others, the zero pollution ambition will also address pollution caused by chemicals.

In addition, the Green Deal announces the development of a chemicals strategy for sustainability, which is of utmost importance to ensure a toxic-free environment. That strategy will contain actions to strengthen the chemical science-policy interface in order to

improve the scientific understanding of the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment.

At the international level, the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management launched a process to prepare recommendations on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 to be considered at ICCM5. Strengthening the science-policy interface is one of the issues addressed in those discussions since many participants are of the view that more robust scientific information is needed as basis for decision-making on chemicals management. At the moment, discussions show broad support for the objective to strengthen the science-policy interface, but views are still diverging on the best approach to achieve that objective.

The European Commission very much supports the strengthening of the science-policy interface as an important basis for the shaping of policies and for regulatory decision-making, allowing us to put in place control measures but also to prevent risks or otherwise take action in view of scientific uncertainties. Strong scientific knowledge is in particular needed for global challenges such as the threats caused by chemicals to human health and the environment. Therefore, I would like to thank you for the offer to provide a platform for comprehensive evaluation of environmental and public health risks.

Yours sincerely,



Virginijus Sinkevičius