

June 18th 2020

To the attention of:

Ms. Stella Kyriakides

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200

B – 1049 Brussels

SUBJECT: Support for a Global Panel on the Chemical Pollution of the Environment

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

We would like to hereby congratulate you on your appointment as the new European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety and we sincerely wish you significant achievements in the fulfilment of your mandate, especially in the wake of the covid-19 pandemia.

We welcome the commitment to the protection of consumers' health throughout Europe expressed during your term of office and to the European Green Deal. With this letter, we would like to draw your attention to recent developments regarding the establishment of the Global Panel on the Chemical Pollution in the Environment (GPCPE).

Currently, tens of thousands of naturally or synthetically produced chemicals are available on the world market. Increase in their use, in terms of volume and structural diversity, is a result of rapid global economic growth in the past decades. Poor regulation and inadequate risk assessment and management strategies have led to widespread contamination that directly impacts ecosystems and public health.

The ever-changing diversity of contaminant mixtures encompassing marketed chemicals and their metabolic and degradation products pose an analytical challenge and makes cause-effect analysis in affected ecosystems difficult. However, there is growing evidence of detrimental activity in contaminated ecosystems including genotoxicity, endocrine disruption, immune system effects and antimicrobial resistance amongst other effects. According to the WHO several million human deaths annually are estimated to result from environmental degradation.

Despite technological innovation and global campaigns leading to regulation of some of the most notorious chemicals (e.g. freons or POPs), the problem of chemical pollution remains largely ignored. Pollution knows no physical, geographical, regulatory or political boundaries as evidenced by the impact of chemicals on the world' s most remote regions. This global problem requires global solutions.

With the support of the Michelin Foundation, the French National Water Academy has worked to launch an international campaign for the creation of this "Global Panel on the Chemical Pollution of the Environment"/ Groupe international d'étude de la pollution chimique de l'environnement (GPCPE).

Its ambition is to create a platform for sharing, educating and influencing, with a view to shaping actions that will tackle pollution issues globally. We aim to have representatives on each continent, in each country and region to enable global mapping of chemicals. We will provide open, independent,

rigorous and balanced information to the public and decision-makers about the type and the extent of exposure that is both region driven and of global importance. GPCPE' s ultimate goal is to provide a platform for comprehensive evaluation of environmental and public health risks.

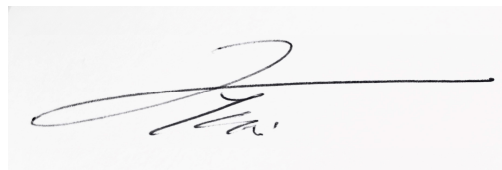
Such a platform currently does not exist, but if interconnected with an effective mitigation and risk management system, it will reduce the environmental pollution burden and contribute to environmental sustainability globally. The scientists who constitute this body will have to be supported by supranational bodies outside the influence of lobbies. Contacts have been established with partners of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management of the United Nations.

The Scientists will provide regular update reports and guidance documents summarising the international knowledge on the state of the chemical pollution of the environment: water, air, soils and biota (the living organisms) in terms of levels of contamination, geographical diversity, priority areas, calculation of discharged flows, list of priority molecules, as well as the ways and means available (analytical laboratories, international research programs, new molecules, standardized methods, international policies, youth training, results of accidental or voluntary pollutions, sanitation facilities....).

We would greatly appreciate it if you could publicly express your support on this issue, which is important for protecting the health of all European consumers and to take decisive action. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you to further discuss this important issue and discuss possible actions. We remain available for further questions that you might have on this topic.

Please follow the following link for further information: <http://gpcpe.org/>

Thank you very much for your time and attention, Yours Sincerely,



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