



Brussels, 12 January 2026

To: President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

CC: Vice-President Teresa Ribera, Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, Commissioner Jessika Roswall, Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis

Subject: REACH revision to deliver on preventing diseases and reducing health costs

Dear European Commission President,

As the European Commission is still in the process of preparing its proposal for the targeted revision of the REACH Regulation with the view to publish it in early 2026, our organisations representing doctors and medical professionals, patients, health insurers and public health experts, call on you and your team to ensure that this revision will deliver the long-awaited improvement of human health protection from harmful chemicals.

The expected revision of the REACH Regulation presents the opportunity to finally improve the effectiveness of REACH to better protect peoples' health from exposure to harmful chemicals with simple and effective measures, minimising future costs for the remediation of environmental pollution and its health impacts.

Diseases associated with exposure to hazardous substances include cancer, neurological, metabolic and endocrine disorders, allergies and other acute and chronic health effects.

The health and societal costs associated with chemical exposure are staggering: Exposure to endocrine disruptors, not adequately identified and controlled with REACH at the moment, can contribute to premature puberty, obesity, fertility problems, lower IQ, and autism. Experts estimate the health costs of endocrine disruptors at €163 billion a year or 1.28% of EU Gross Domestic Product ¹. The EU is at the forefront of science to policy research on EDCs, and can build on these project results from the €50 million [EURION](#) and €35 million [ENKORE](#) EU EDC research clusters.

A new HEAL report titled 'Chemical pollution and men's health: a hidden crisis in Europe' brings forward a robust body of evidence on men's health and chemical pollution, with the economic burden of male reproductive disorders such as prostate, testicular cancer and infertility associated with chemical exposure estimated to be nearly €15 billion each year in the European Union².

Health-related costs for PFAS exposure, the forever chemicals, are estimated to reach up to € 84 billion annually in the EU³.

A health-centred REACH revision would align with the commitments of the EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the European Cardiovascular Health Plan. It is urgent to ensure the EU chemicals policy fully encompasses the latest scientific recommendations and reflects real-world exposure.

For a detailed account of HEAL's demands for a health-protective REACH revision, see the briefing [here](#). These priorities are focused on ensuring that in a nutshell, the updated the legal framework will:

- effectively address chemical mixtures ⁴,
- ensure a fast restriction of the most hazardous chemicals while finding and promoting safer alternatives,
- enable a mapping of the polymer universe and an efficient authorisation process.

This modernisation will not only safeguard the health of European citizens and the environment for generations to come, but also significantly reduce pollution remediation and healthcare costs and advance the transition towards a circular economy.

We call on your support and leadership to ensure that the upcoming revisions of EU chemical legislation will prioritise the protection of health and the environment, safeguarding current and future generations.

HEAL, its Executive Committee and its expert members and partners from the health community request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further and collaborate with your team on actionable solutions for the REACH revision.

We would like to inform you that this letter will be made public.

Yours sincerely,



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Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

On behalf of:

HEAL members:

Aéma Groupe, France
Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
Canopea, Belgium
Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
France Nature Environnement, France
Génération Futures, France
Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport), Germany
Institute for Health and Environment, Slovenia
International Network on Children's Health, Environment & Safety (INCHES)
ISDE Austria/Ärztinnen und Ärzte für eine gesunde Umwelt
ISDE, International Society of Doctors for Environment Italy
Kom op tegen Kanker, Belgium
Mutualités Libres – Onafhankelijke Ziekenfondsen, Belgium
Salud por Derecho, Spain
Stichting Tegengif, Netherlands
Women Engage for a Common Future

HEAL partner:

Bundesärztekammer - German Medical Association

HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96 www.env-health.org

¹ [Burden of disease and costs of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in the European Union: an updated analysis - PubMed](#)

² Hauser R, Skakkebaek NE, Hass U, et al. Male reproductive disorders, diseases, and costs of exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the European Union. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2015 Apr;100(4):1267-77. doi: 10.1210/jc.2014-4325. Epub 2015 Mar 5. PMID: 25742517; PMCID: PMC4399287

³ <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/cost-inaction-0>

⁴ [European researchers unite behind call for stronger chemical mixture regulation in REACH - Department of Environmental Science](#)