

**To:**  
Mr. Raffaele Fitto  
Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms  
European Commission

Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Fitto,

On behalf of CropLife Europe, I extend my warm congratulations on your appointment to the College of Commissioners. We are committed to supporting the implementation of key EU strategies and initiatives to strengthen regional cohesion as outlined in your mission letter. The EU requires both vision and a clear framework to address the challenges and opportunities outlined in the Draghi report and the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture. We are excited to introduce CropLife Europe as partners in the transition to sustainable and innovative food systems for Europe.

As the European organisation that represents the crop protection sector, we advocate for an outcome-focused approach that leverages a full toolbox of solutions for farmers. Our members are 25 global companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and 32 national associations operating in conventional pesticides, biopesticides, plant biotechnology, and digital and precision agriculture.

In the transition to more sustainable agricultural practices, it is crucial that rural areas are not left behind economically and farming remains a viable path for the EU's food producers. To deliver an agricultural sector that is more competitive and sustainable, we fully support ensuring the infrastructure in rural areas does not prohibit the agricultural sector from benefiting from innovative technology. We wish to be of assistance in identifying solutions that support farming as a way of life while protecting nature.

Also, I would like to take the opportunity of this letter to highlight the work on our 2030 Commitments launched in 2021. These Commitments focus on three main priorities: fostering Innovation and Investment, advancing the Circular Economy and protecting People and the Environment.

This year, we are proud to share substantial progress across these areas:

#### **Innovation & Investment**

Our members have committed to invest €10 billion in Digital and Precision Agricultural technologies and an additional €4 billion in biopesticides by 2030. We have already made substantial progress, with €3.8 billion allocated to digital agronomy and €2.4 billion to biopesticides. This represents 38% and 60% of our respective targets.

### **Circular Economy**

Our dedication to resource efficiency is central to our packaging recovery and recycling efforts. In 2023, we achieved a 71.8% collection rate for plastic packaging, with an ambitious target of reaching a 75% collection rate across all EU countries by 2025. Notably, 89% of the collected plastic was successfully processed for recycling, underscoring our focus on turning waste into valuable resources.

### **Protecting People & the Environment**

We have reached 69% of our goal to train 1 million advisors, trainers, and farmers in best management practices. Additionally, we are on track to make Closed Transfer Systems available to all European farmers and operators by 2030, significantly reducing exposure risks during product handling. Our initiatives also align with the EU's biodiversity goals, aiming to reduce the environmental impact of crop protection products and promote integrated pest management practices.

We support the core recommendations from the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture and the Draghi report and are eager to continue working towards solutions that can support the transition to a more sustainable and competitive EU. We believe our expertise and resources can contribute meaningfully to a productive partnership with the European Commission in driving this transformation.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you and your team to explore avenues for collaboration and share further insights into how our sector can support Europe's environmental ambitions. We are eager to support the European Commission in addressing regulatory challenges, particularly by providing insights and solutions to help the agricultural sector meet environmental standards while maintaining competitiveness.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working together. We believe our expertise, resources, and commitment to innovation can contribute meaningfully to achieving the objectives outlined in your mission letter. We look forward to collaborating with you to drive sustainable development, strengthen regional cohesion, and support Europe's agricultural and environmental ambitions.

Yours sincerely,



Olivier de Matos  
Director General

Cc.

Vincenzo Matano, Head of Cabinet.  
Felicia Stanescu, Deputy Head of Cabinet.