

To:

Mr. Maroš Šefčovič
Commissioner for Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations
and Transparency
European Commission

Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Commissioner Šefčovič,

On behalf of CropLife Europe, I extend my warm congratulations on your appointment to the College of Commissioners. The agricultural sector today 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 a partner in building resilient, 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.

The agri-food sector relies upon strong international trade partnerships to produce a secure supply of goods for domestic and international markets. We are proud signatories of the EU Business Joint Declaration that champions open and rule-based trade. We hope that through these collaborations we can support in identifying solutions that deliver secure and fair outcomes for EU farmers and consumers. We are also committed to supporting customs officials to prevent the spread of dangerous counterfeit pesticides in the EU and collaborating with public institutions such as Europol through Operation Silver Axe.

In addition to combating counterfeit pesticides, CropLife Europe is committed to upholding transparency and regulatory compliance across the crop protection sector. By fostering open dialogue with regulatory bodies and implementing robust monitoring systems, we ensure that the highest standards are met, protecting both public health and the environment.

Additionally, we recognise the importance of ensuring resilient supply chains for critical goods within the EU. By leveraging advanced technologies and fostering collaboration with key international partners, CropLife Europe aims to contribute to the security and sustainability of Europe's agricultural supply chains. This aligns with the EU's goals of safeguarding economic security while maintaining a competitive global position.

I would also 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 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.

Our investment in digital and precision agricultural technologies not only supports farmers but also contributes to the EU's broader digital transformation goals. By integrating data-driven solutions into agricultural practices, we aim to enhance productivity, resource efficiency, and long-term food security in Europe.

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.

Beyond these achievements, we are committed to supporting the overall recommendations of the Draghi report, the Letta report and the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture. Their visions align with CropLife Europe's values and goals, and we believe our expertise and resources can contribute meaningfully to a productive partnership with the European Commission in driving the transformation.

We also value the role of interinstitutional collaboration in achieving shared goals. CropLife Europe is ready to engage with EU institutions, Member States, and other stakeholders to facilitate a coordinated approach toward sustainable agricultural development and trade. We can ensure policy coherence and deliver transparent solutions that benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment by working together.

We are confident that fostering strong partnerships between the European Commission, industry stakeholders and Member States will allow us to address Europe's most pressing challenges in trade, sustainability, and economic security. We look forward to collaborating closely with your team to develop innovative, transparent and impactful solutions for Europe's future.

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 economic and environmental ambitions.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working together.

Yours sincerely,



Olivier de Matos
Director General

Cc.

Bernd Biervert, Head of Cabinet.

Sofia Asteriadi, Deputy Head of Cabinet.