

To:
Mr. Wopke Hoekstra
Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth
European Commission

Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Commissioner Hoekstra,

On behalf of CropLife Europe, I extend my warm congratulations on your appointment to the College of Commissioners. 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 particularly aligned with your mission to achieve a net-zero, climate-resilient Europe and are committed to supporting these goals through sustainable innovation in agriculture. We are excited to introduce CropLife Europe as a partner 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 sustainable 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. We also aim to play a role in supporting the EU's climate goals by driving reductions in agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and enabling carbon-efficient farming practices.

We are committed to working towards a transition to more sustainable, resilient and competitive agricultural practices. The sector is particularly vulnerable to climate risks. Farmers require solutions grounded in innovative and holistic thinking in order to both meet this challenge while becoming more competitive. We believe our expertise and resources can contribute meaningfully to a productive partnership with the European Commission in driving this transformation.

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:

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.

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. These investments namely aim to support farmers in adopting climate-smart agriculture, including practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and enhance resilience to climate change impacts.

We support the core recommendations from the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture as well as the Draghi and Letta reports. We are eager to continue working towards solutions that can support the transition to a more sustainable and competitive EU. Additionally, we look forward to contributing to the EU's global leadership in climate-smart agricultural technologies.

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 confident that together, we can drive a transition that benefits both the environment and the competitiveness of European agriculture.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Olivier de Matos', written over a circular scribble.

Olivier de Matos
Director General

Cc.

Johannes Ten Broeke, Head of Cabinet.
Astrid Dentler, Deputy Head of Cabinet.