

To:

Ms. Roxana Mînzatu
Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness
European Commission

Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Mînzatu,

On behalf of CropLife Europe, I extend my warm congratulations on your appointment to the College of Commissioners. Today, the EU requires both vision and a clear framework to address the challenges and opportunities outlined in the Draghi report. 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 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.

Boosting digital skills in rural areas within the EU will be a crucial aspect of supporting innovation within the agri-food sector but also for ensuring social inclusivity, generational renewal, and climate resilience in rural communities. To deliver an agricultural sector that is more competitive and sustainable, we fully support ensuring skill gaps and trying to address the challenge of generational renewal that may hold the sector back are overcome. We hope our expertise and resources can contribute meaningfully to a productive partnership with the European Commission in enabling farmers to have the necessary tools required for transitioning to more sustainable and competitive agricultural practices.

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: protecting People and the Environment, fostering Innovation and Investment and advancing the Circular Economy, all of which directly contribute to the EU's goals for climate resilience, resource efficiency, and sustainable food systems.

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

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.

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 and supporting Europe's transition to a circular economy.

Beyond these achievements, we support the core recommendations from the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture and the Draghi report. We are eager to collaborate to advance solutions that align with the EU's broader objectives of sustainability, competitiveness, and inclusivity, contributing to a thriving and resilient European agricultural sector.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you and your team to explore opportunities for collaboration and share further insights into how our sector can support Europe's environmental ambitions.

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

Yours sincerely,



Olivier de Matos
Director General

Cc.

Alina-Stefania Ujupan, Head of Cabinet.

Max Uebe, Deputy Head of Cabinet.