

To:

Mr. Stéphane Séjourné
Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
European Commission

Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Séjourné,

On behalf of CropLife Europe, I extend my warm congratulations on your appointment to the College of Commissioners. Your role comes at a critical time, as Europe seeks 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 a more competitive and sustainable agricultural sector 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. Our shared vision aligns closely with the EU's ambitions, particularly under the European Biotech Act, Clean Industrial Strategy and Chemicals Industry Package.

The new mandate of the Commission offers a unique opportunity to accelerate innovation and sustainability in agriculture. In keeping with the Draghi report, our sector has the potential for huge growth should innovation be enabled and encouraged. However, reaching greater levels of productivity, competitiveness and sustainability is reliant on providing farmers with the necessary tools and regulatory framework.

With your work on the European Biotech Act, Clean Industrial Strategy and Chemicals Industry Package, your portfolio is of vital importance to the future success of European agriculture. Your leadership on initiatives like the European Biotech Act and the Clean Industrial Strategy will play a pivotal role in enabling the agricultural sector to thrive sustainably. We welcome the opportunity to contribute our technical expertise and insights to ensure that policy frameworks are effective, efficient, and aligned with the needs of the agricultural community.

As part of our commitment to supporting Europe's economic and environmental ambitions, we launched our 2030 Commitments in 2021, centred around three priorities: fostering innovation and investment, advancing the circular economy, and protecting people and the environment. These Commitments focus on three main priorities: fostering Innovation and Investment, advancing the Circular Economy and protecting People and the Environment.

I am pleased to share the following updates on our progress:

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.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment. We would be delighted to meet with you and your team to discuss how our sector can support Europe's shared objectives for a sustainable and prosperous future.

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

Yours sincerely,



Olivier de Matos
Director General

Cc.

Bertrand L'Huiller, Head of Cabinet.
Estelle Goeger, Deputy Head of Cabinet.