

To:

Ms. Teresa Ribera Rodríguez
Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition
European Commission

Brussels, 20 January 2025

Dear Executive Vice-President Ribera,

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 partners in building competitive, 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 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.

The agri-food sector has a major role to play in driving Europe's environmental and economic progress. We believe our sector can contribute meaningfully to a productive partnership with the European Commission, supporting its vision for a clean, just, and competitive transition. Our mission aligns with the core recommendations of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture, particularly the focus on fostering innovation to ensure a sustainable and resilient food system. The transition will require high levels of expertise, innovation and investment to ensure farmers are not faced with a choice between economic well-being and the provision of a healthy environment. We hope to be able to offer our support in identifying solutions for a more sustainable, inclusive and competitive agri-food sector.

Additionally, 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: advancing the Circular Economy, fostering Innovation and Investment 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. These efforts contribute to cleaner production systems and align with Europe's circular economy goals.

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 are transforming farming practices, improving efficiency, and reducing environmental impact. This demonstrates our commitment to fostering a competitive, innovative, and sustainable agricultural sector.

Protecting People & the Environment

We have reached 69% of our goal to train 1 million advisors, trainers, and farmers in best management practices, empowering rural communities with the skills needed for the transition. 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. These initiatives align with the commitment to ensuring a just transition.

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 agricultural and environmental ambitions. Together, we can advance toward a cleaner, fairer, resilient and more competitive future.

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

Yours sincerely,



Olivier de Matos
Director General

Cc.

Miguel Gil Tertre, Head of Cabinet.
Alina Nedea, Deputy Head of Cabinet.