



FRANS TIMMERMANS
Executive Vice-President

Brussels, 22/04/2020

Dear Mr Jensen,

Thank you for your letter addressed to President Ursula von der Leyen and myself warmly congratulating us on our appointments, for your continuous engagement to improve the health of European citizens, and for regularly providing valuable concrete proposals on our policies. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying.

We share your view that health protection is a very important element of a sustainable, clean and healthy Europe. Healthy ecosystems make a crucial contribution to our health. Citizens express a very strong interest in the environmental factors affecting their health and expect Europe to act forcefully in this area.

The European Green Deal fully recognises the strong interlinkages between health and environmental degradation. In order to achieve a toxic free environment, it proposes solutions ranging from more action preventing the generation of pollution, to measures to clean and restore ecosystems.

On 4 March 2020, the Commission put forward a proposal for a European 'Climate Law', enshrining the 2050 climate neutrality objective into law. On 11 March 2020, the Commission presented the new Circular Economy Action Plan. Furthermore, the Commission will soon present a new Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Farm to Fork Strategy and a Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, which will all provide a crucial contribution to a toxic-free environment. To address the interlinked challenges related to pollution across legislation, the Commission will also adopt in 2021 a zero pollution action plan for air, water and soil, and will propose to revise air quality standards and review measures addressing pollution from large industrial installations.

Finally, an 8th Environment Action Programme is in preparation focussing on the implementation of the existing acquis and the above-mentioned instruments.

We are looking forward to continued good cooperation with you on our ambitious Agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Frans Timmermans

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