



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT

The Director - General

Brussels,
ENV.B2/EM/

Thomas Jakl, HBM4EU Ambassador

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Dear Mr Jakl,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 21 August 2020 concerning the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

As you are probably aware, the strategy has been adopted on 14 October 2020. We are confident that the strategy defines an ambitious vision for a toxic-free environment and a concrete plan of actions to achieve this vision.

First of all I would like to thank you for the very important results achieved through HBM4EU, which has been a key cornerstone for advancing our knowledge on chemicals. We agree with the key messages in your letter, that in order to attain zero pollution, we need to advance further in our understanding of how chemicals affect human health and the environment. As stressed in the strategy, we need to continue and further reinforce the efforts put in place to improve the scientific understanding of the impacts of chemicals on health and the environment. Monitoring the presence of chemicals in humans and ecosystems is and will be key to improve the understanding of their impact and the strategy stresses that this should be further promoted.

The strategy announces that, in partnership with Member States, the Commission will continue to foster research and (bio-)monitoring to understand and prevent chemicals-related risks and drive innovation in chemical risk assessment and regulatory science through its future framework programme for research and innovation. In particular, the strategy announces that the Commission will provide further financial support for EU-wide human and environmental (bio-)monitoring capacities, complementing ecosystem monitoring initiatives. Furthermore, the strategy will promote the regulatory uptake of research findings, including through the development of an EU early warning and action system for chemicals. This shall ensure that EU policies address emerging chemical risks as soon as they are identified by monitoring and research.

We are confident that the strategy will be a decisive key step for moving towards a healthy planet and a more sustainable economy and society. However, the strategy will be fully successful only through a joint effort of all relevant stakeholders and actors. We fully count on your support for supporting the ambition and objectives of the strategy in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Florika FINK-HOOIJER