

10 June, 2026

To: EU Environment Ministers and EU Health Ministers

REACH revision postponed, health concerns remain

Dear Minister,

The European Commission has announced that the long-expected revision of REACH via ordinary legislative procedure will not be undertaken during this mandate, but some specific measures may be foreseen with various objectives.

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), an alliance of over 70 member organisations working for better health through a healthier environment, represents doctors and medical professionals, patients, health insurers and public health experts. We wish to stress that while the revision of REACH is postponed, the health concerns underpinning the key commitments of the 2020 Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability remain significant, with serious socio-economic implications.

Diseases linked to chemicals pollution include cancer, neurological, metabolic and endocrine disorders, fertility problems, allergies and other acute and chronic health effects. In line with latest scientific recommendations, the protection of current and future generations from harmful chemicals needs to be enhanced with no further delay instead of suffering the consequences of the ongoing deregulation drive.

The health and societal costs linked to chemical exposure are staggering: exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), not adequately identified and controlled with REACH at the moment, can contribute to premature puberty, obesity, fertility problems, lower IQ, and autism. Experts estimate the health costs of exposure to EDCs at €163 billion a year or 1.28% of EU Gross Domestic Productⁱ. The EU is a leader on science to policy research on EDCs, and can build on these project results, from the €50 million [EURION](#) and €35 million [ENKORE](#) EU EDC research clusters.

A 2025 HEAL report titled '[Chemical pollution and men's health: a hidden crisis in Europe](#)' brings forward a robust body of evidence on men's health and chemical pollution, such as prostate, testicular cancer and infertility. The health impacts of male reproductive disorders related to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) come with associated costs estimated to be nearly €15 billion each year in the European Unionⁱⁱ.

The 2026 European Commission study on the costs of PFAS pollution to our society estimates the current annual health costs of only four PFAS chemicals to be €40 billion, adding up to €360 billion in health costs by 2050 under the business-as-usualⁱⁱⁱ❏.

The 2023 WHO Budapest Ministerial Declaration and roadmap adopted by 53 environment and health ministers commits to “developing and implementing preventive regulation of chemicals, their mixtures and waste at the national and regional level” to protect health and wellbeing.

HEAL and its members call on your leadership to ensure that potential measures to modernise REACH and its implementation will also contribute to improving its effectiveness to better protect peoples’ health and advance the transition towards a clean circular economy.

We would like to inform you that this letter will be made public.

Yours sincerely,

Genon K. Jensen (She/her)
Founder and Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

ⁱ [Burden of disease and costs of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in the European Union: an updated analysis - PubMed](#)

ⁱⁱ Hauser R, Skakkebaek NE, Hass U, et al. Male reproductive disorders, diseases, and costs of exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the European Union. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2015 Apr;100(4):1267-77. doi: 10.1210/jc.2014-4325. Epub 2015 Mar 5. PMID: 25742517; PMCID: PMC4399287

ⁱⁱⁱ [New study confirms huge and growing costs of PFAS pollution - Environment](#)

Health and Environment Alliance aisbl

We are the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how our environment affects health in the European Union and beyond. Supported by over 70 member organisations, HEAL brings independent and expert scientific evidence from the health community to European and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention strategies. HEAL'S EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96

Rue de la Charité 18-28, 1210 Brussels, Belgium | info@env-health.org