

Dear Commissioner Dimas,



This letter on behalf of the Green 10 stems from our urgent concerns about the current status and future challenges in implementing the EU Action Plan on Environment and Health.



We appreciate DG Environment's work on this file, reaching across other DGs to map out the information sources, the technical expertise and research results. The identified gaps have crystallised actual needs and who must address them in order to mark tangible progress on reducing the environment's impact on our health and strengthen the policy-making process.



The Sustainable Development Strategy reiterates the synergistic links between environment and health policy in providing better environment and health protection to European citizens. The Commission's *Working Paper on the Review and Implementation Plan of Environment and Health information*, which will be adopted shortly, provides a roadmap for the next priorities in this file - impact assessments, publicly accessible information mapping systems and biomonitoring.



As the only mechanism to carry out some of these actions, the current draft of the *LIFE: Multi-Annual Strategic Plan 2007-2012* and *Annex* makes no specific mention of the implementation of the Action Plan. As a consequence, this omission will impede any further allocation of funds or policy work on the Action Plan.



Friends of the Earth Europe

Political backing to the Action Plan has been unequivocal. The European Parliament has given its clear-cut support throughout to the Commission's original LIFE+ proposal, accentuating the need for a specific budget line. The Parliament's Resolution on the Action Plan also specifically calls for such funding.



We urge you, Commissioner Dimas, to correct this by adding a principal objective for the Implementation of the Action Plan on Environment and Health in the Annex. Some activities under the Action Plan remain within the remit of DG Environment, and as such need to be substantiated by ensuring a funding line. If deprived of the legal base for financial resources in the MAP, we fear that the EU Action Plan will simply drop off DG Environment's agenda. Such an outcome would run against the spirit of such key documents as the Sixth Environmental Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Strategy.



Recent surveys continue to confirm that European citizens are seriously concerned about the environmental risks affecting their personal health, with SIX out of TEN considering it "very" or "fairly likely" that environmental pollution will damage their health<sup>1</sup>. The Action Plan is an excellent vehicle to respond to this growing public concern through properly implemented Community environmental legislation.



<sup>1</sup> Eurostat, DG Health and Consumer Protection as well as the European Food Safety Authority and coordinated by DG Press and Communication, Special Eurobarometer 238/Wave 64.1 – TNS Opinion & Social.

We would be happy to provide a further brief on this issue, and look forward to your positive commitment in addressing this serious inconsistency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Genon Jensen', with a large, stylized loop at the bottom.

Genon Jensen  
Executive Director  
EPHA Environment Network (EEN)

c.c.: Peter Carl, DG Environment  
Member States Representatives  
Rapporteurs on Environment and Health, the European Parliament