



Brussels, 16 July 2024

To: Members of the European Parliament

Subject: Protecting people's health against climate, environmental threats and reducing health economic cost

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) congratulates you on your election to the European Parliament and looks to your leadership to protect people's health in the next five years.

HEAL is the leading non-governmental alliance working for better health through a healthier environment, bringing together over 80 member organisations from the health sector, including doctors, asthma, allergy and cancer patients, public health institutes and not-for-profit health insurers.

Across the European Union, people's health is under threat like never before from the triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Twenty percent of early death and disease in Europe are due to pollution. The health of children, the elderly, those living with disease, and those experiencing socio-economic hardships and health inequalities is particularly at risk.

The scientific evidence on how pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss impact people's health and the economy has steadily increased and underlines the need for urgent action, to prevent further suffering and health economic cost.

In the past legislature, the European Parliament has shown leadership in strengthening the protection of Europeans against this triple crisis, through upping the ambition of key legislative proposals including on clean air, hazardous chemicals and climate mitigation.

HEAL looks to you, as the elected representative of people across the European Union, to

commit to protecting health against climate, environmental threats in the next five years, in your positions on legislative proposals as well as in all budgetary and financial decisions.

Such a health protective approach reflects the concerns of Europeans, as more than four in five (84%) agree that EU legislation is necessary to protect the environment in their country.

We consider your support key for the following ten pathways for better health 2024-29 - [HEAL's Prescription for better health](#):

1. Protect the health of the most vulnerable
2. Recognise and act on the unhealthy connection between social inequalities and pollution
3. Invest in better health, not pollution
4. Place health at the center of climate action
5. Stop burning fossil fuels for our health
6. Achieve clean air everywhere, for everyone's health
7. Ramp up measures for a non-toxic environment
8. Accelerate the reform of EU chemicals law REACH to safeguard health
9. Step up action for a pesticide-free EU, for healthy food and healthy people
10. Step up on healthy mobility

We count on your leadership and are available for any further information.

Regards,



Genon K. Jensen
Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL's over 80 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.

HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96