



**Minister for
Environment**



**Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Fisheries**

Pernille Haagen Larsen, Pernille@rgo.dk
Claus Jørgensen, cj@fbr.dk
Claudia Sick, cs@plasticchange.org

6 December 2023

Dear Pernille Haagen Larsen, Claus Jørgensen, and Claudia Sick,

Thank you for your letter dated 8 November 2023. We share your regret that a number of key proposals from the Green Deal will not be presented by the current Commission.

A revision of REACH is a cornerstone in greening the chemicals legislation following the Green Deal by achieving EU's ambition to increase sustainability and competitiveness across sectors. At the same time, a revision is paramount to increase the level of protection of human health and the environment and facilitate the transition to safer alternatives as described in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. A sound management of sustainable chemicals is essential to strengthen the interplay between the green and digital transition. We believe that it is time to stand up for the green transition and move forward by investing in long-term sustainable actions. To this end, the REACH revision plays a crucial role. We share your concern regarding the indefinite delay of REACH and Denmark has on several occasions urged the Commission to proceed with the planned revision of REACH and not leave it to the next Commission to deliver on it. Denmark will continue to push for the revision of REACH and furthermore encourage the Commission to deliver on its own ambitions outlined in the Green Deal, the Zero Pollution Ambition, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and other initiatives to maintain global leadership in the sound management of chemicals.

The proposals on animal welfare are long overdue, and Denmark has therefore continuously asked the Commission to present them. Currently, we expect the Commission to table the proposal on transport of animals in the beginning of December 2023, while the proposals on the keeping of animals, slaughtering and an animal welfare label will most likely not be presented within the current Commission's term. This is a big disappointment, but Denmark will continue to push for the presentation of all proposals.

Regarding the Farm to Fork Strategy, you mention the legislative proposal for a framework for Sustainable Food Systems. This proposal was foreseen as a key element in the Farm to Fork strategy, but regrettably it seems that it will not be presented by the Commission. We continue to support the initiative as it could improve the functioning of the internal market, in a manner that enables the systemic changes needed by all actors for the transition to a more resilient and sustainable EU food system.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your commitment and ensure you that we continue to push for ambitious regulation to support a green transition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Magnus Heunicke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'e'.

Magnus Heunicke

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacob Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'n'.

Jacob Jensen