



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

The Director-General

Brussels,

Dear Mr Wates,

Thank you for your joint open letter of 21 March 2022 concerning the Commission's planned revision of the Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive (SUD).

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine grossly violates international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermines European and global security and stability. The Commission is doing its utmost to provide all possible assistance to Ukraine and also assisting Member States and other international partners and stakeholders in doing the same.

I appreciate your support for the Commission's ambition to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides, as outlined in the Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan and Chemicals Strategy. I understand your disappointment that the adoption of the Commission's proposal to revise the SUD has been subject to a short delay from the planned adoption date of 23 March 2022 to before the summer of 2022 (final adoption date to be confirmed). You should not interpret this short delay as implying any diminution of the Commission's ambitions to protect health, the environment and biodiversity. Once the Commission adopts its proposal, we count on the engagement and commitment of the European Parliament and Council to deliver a final legislative agreement that addresses EU citizens' significant concerns on the use and risk of pesticides by all EU users, including farmers, while ensuring a just transition.

I would be grateful if you could pass my response to the other signatories of your joint open letter.

Yours sincerely,

*(e-signed)*

Sandra GALLINA

c.c.: Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President

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Secretary General  
European Environmental Bureau  
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Ms Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries