



Utrecht/Brussels 12 December 2006

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On the eve of the plenary vote on the EU chemicals policy, REACH, we are writing you on behalf of Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) two large NGO networks representing environmental, women's groups and health advocates in the EU.

Just two weeks ago your colleagues agreed on your behalf to a second reading deal which covers some of the most important features of a new chemicals policy in Europe. Although we are aware of the political difficulties and circumstances under which the deal was drawn up, we are nevertheless deeply disappointed by this second reading agreement.

The deal unfortunately contains too many loopholes which we believe will cause chemicals-related illnesses in the EU to continue to rise. It is unacceptable to us that chemicals that cause cancer, miscarriages, birth defects, change DNA and interfere with the human hormone system can stay on the market. European citizens and especially future generations will continue to be exposed to such chemicals from every day consumer products, including toys, baby wipes and baby changing tables.

Therefore, we ask you to vote for the Greens/GUE package at the plenary vote taking place tomorrow. The Greens/GUE package offers an alternative because it puts the amendments adopted by the Environment Committee of 10 October up for your support.

Sincerely,

Sascha Gabizon
Executive Director
Women in Europe for a Common Future

Genon Jensen
Executive Director
Health and Environment Alliance