

Commissioner Karmenu Vella
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

EPA Network Secretariat
Kongens Nytorv 6
1050 Copenhagen
Denmark

29 of May 2017

Dear Commissioner Vella,

As a group of members¹ of the European Network of Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA-Network)² we write to you regarding the recently published “Roadmap on the EU Plastics Strategy”³.

We are sending the attached discussion paper “Recommendations toward the EU Plastics Strategy from a group of members of the EPA Network” to you, in which seven relevant issues are addressed:

1. Prevention of plastic waste;
2. Individual quotas for different states;
3. Promotion of green public procurement;
4. Awarding a mandate to CEN to expedite standardization work;
5. Increasing recycling rates;
6. Promoting deposit systems;
7. Applying a mindful approach when it comes to the use of bioplastics.

We appreciate that there is an ongoing debate on the need for a new approach in dealing with plastics and plastic waste as well as the proposed purpose and priorities of the Roadmap. Our goal is to contribute to the shaping of the EU Plastic Strategy by providing a perspective from organizations that are implementing EU environmental policy and legislation in different countries. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the points raised in this paper with you,

¹ This letter and enclosed paper are supported by a number of EPA Network members, namely: German Environment Agency (UBA), Environment Agency Austria, Environmental Protection Agency Denmark, Estonian Environment Protection Agency, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Environment Agency of Iceland, Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre, Netherlands Environment Assessment Agency PBL, Norwegian Environment Agency, Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), Romanian National Environmental Protection Agency, Slovak Environment Agency, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN.

² The Network is an informal grouping bringing together the heads of environment protection agencies and similar bodies across Europe to exchange views and experiences on issues of common interest to organisations involved in the practical day-to-day implementation of environmental policy.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/plan_2016_39_plastic_strategy_en.pdf

and propose that a small delegation of representatives from the EPA Network meet with you in Brussels at your convenience.

We look forward to hearing your response to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maria Krautzberger'. The script is cursive and fluid.

Maria Krautzberger
President, German Environment Agency (UBA)

Enclosure

Recommendations towards the EU Plastics Strategy – Discussion paper from the Interest Group Plastics of the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA Network)

Further recipients:

Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV);

Lowri Evans, Director-General, European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW);

Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation;

CC:

Hugo Maria Schally, Head of Unit Sustainable Production, Products & Consumption (DG ENV, B 1);

Werner Bosmans, Policy Officer – Circular Economy, DG ENV B1;

Loiusa Prista, Head of Unit Chemicals, DG GROW, D2;

ENVI Committee, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety;

ITRE Committee Industry, Research and Energy;