



Mr Janez Potočnik
European Commissioner for
the Environment
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

EPA Network Secretariat
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Copenhagen
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18th June 2013

Dear Mr Potočnik

The members of the European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA Network) welcome the European Commission's work on improving the implementation of environmental law. Consistent application of the Environment Acquis is needed to reach the goals set by environment policy and to create a better environment for all as well as supporting green growth and the creation of a level playing field for industry across the European Union.

The Network focuses on the exchange of knowledge and experience between organisations with different perspectives working within a forum based on mutual trust. Through our work we support consistent implementation of the Environment Acquis and assist member organisations in overcoming challenges or difficulties in implementing the requirements of EU environment legislation.

The recent consultation on options for strengthening the EU level framework for environmental inspections is of great importance to the Network. We welcome the views expressed in the consultation support document that inspection is 'one tool among others, but is a key one'. Inspections are certainly important but we believe should be seen as one tool in a wider suite of interventions within the compliance promotion and enforcement chain. We believe it is important to focus on the right outcomes for people, businesses and the environment and then choose the approach and interventions accordingly.

We welcome the Commission's proposals on strengthening the support and use of professional networks in improving consistency of implementation of the EU Environment Acquis. We agree that networks have an important role to play in facilitating voluntary approaches for peer reviews, best practice and capacity building.

We would like to invite the Commission to participate in the next joint meeting between the EPA Network's Better Regulation Interest Group and the IMPEL Network that we are planning for September in Brussels to discuss this and related matters. We would particularly welcome discussions on the following topics:

- Lessons to be learnt from the diverse approaches currently used by the members of the Network;
- Implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive;
- The role of public participation;
- Rights to information and access to justice;
- Monitoring and reporting requirements;
- Application of Smart Regulation principles.

We believe that the combined expertise and experience of our members can make an important contribution to developing and improving inspection systems for better implementation of the Environment Acquis. We look forward to engaging with the Commission further on these important topics.

Yours sincerely,



Jochen Flasbarth
Troika member
President of UBA Germany



Paul Leinster
Chair of the Better Regulation
Interest Group
Chief Executive - Environment
Agency (England)

This letter is supported by the members of the EPA Network. Further details are available on the Network website: <http://epanet.ew.eea.europa.eu/>