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**Mr Jeremy Wates,
Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau;
Mrs Genon Jensen,
Executive Director of HEAL;
Mr Michael Warhurst,
Executive Director of CHEM Trust;
Mr Franois Veillerette,
President of the Board of Pesticide Action Network**

Brussels, 22 01. 2016
ARES(2016)

Dear Mr Wates, Mrs Jensen, Mr Warhurst and Mr Veillerette,

Subject: Your open letter regarding the ECJ ruling on EDC criteria

I would like to thank you for your letter sent on 8 January 2016 to President Jean-Claude Juncker who has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Let me first reassure you that the Commission has every intention to comply with the law: we are working intensively and transparently to deliver within the shortest possible timeframe scientific criteria for defining endocrine disruptors, as required by the Plant Protection Products Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 and the Biocidal Products Regulation (EU) 528/2012.

The decision to launch in 2013 an impact assessment was justified by the scientific complexity of the issue, the potentially significant impacts of the Commission decision on several areas, the need to make a well informed decision and the fact that this will be a pioneer work.

The work on the impact assessment on criteria to identify endocrine disruptors is already well advanced. In response to the judgement of the General Court, the Commission is accelerating the process as much as feasible, in order to propose the draft legal acts establishing the criteria as soon as possible this year.

In the meantime, protective interim criteria for defining endocrine disruptors set in the plant protection and biocidal products legislation remain legally binding and applicable, so that there is no legal gap.

As Commissioner for Health, I am fully committed to ensuring a high level of protection of human health and of the environment and this commitment will guide me in my decision on the criteria to be proposed.

Yours sincerely,

