

14. April, 2024

Mme Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Mr Nicolas Schmit
Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Cc:

Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union
Permanent Representation of Denmark to the European Union

Dear President,
Dear Commissioner,

Occupational safety and health is at the hearts and minds of our political groups in the European Parliament.

We are especially concerned with the protection of workers against dangerous substances in the workplace, which includes the many industries that are at the forefront of Europe's green transition.

This Commission, together with the co-legislators and the social partners, has boldly advanced the European OSH acquis by setting new binding occupational limit values for several dangerous substances. Binding limit values is one of the most obvious and concrete added values of the European Union. They have a direct impact in the workplaces for millions of workers and they can mean the difference between life and death or between sickness and health.

But there is still much to be done. According to a report by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment sent to DG EMPL in 2022, there are approximately 1.400 substances for which there are national limit values, yet no current or planned European limit values. It concerns carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic and other harmful chemical substances.

We, the undersigned MEPs, therefore echo the urgent call that was addressed on 5 March 2024 to the Commissioner for Jobs and Social rights by 14 Member States to accelerate the process of setting limit values at European level.

You can count on the European Parliament to be ambitious and cooperative - and to take responsibility and action in order to protect lives and to meet the ambitions in the EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 as well as the obligations stemming from the Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic Substances Directive (CMRD). This especially concerns new limit values for the substances in the next and sixth revision of CMRD, including Cobalt; and the obligations in Article 18a of CMRD, including paragraph 9 on endocrine

disruptors, as well as the Commission's action plan to achieve new or revised occupational exposure limits values for at least 25 substances, groups of substances or process-generated substances.

We therefore urge the Commission to increase substantially the capacity of preparing scientific opinions for dangerous substances, including by allocating adequate resources for all relevant actors and bodies in the legislative process of setting occupational limit values.

The upcoming European elections is an excellent opportunity to be ambitious and to reaffirm that Europe works for people. We therefore address this letter to you not only as President of the European Commission and as Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, but we also address this call to you as *Spitzenkandidaten* for your respective political parties.

Yours sincerely,

Cindy Franssen, Shadow rapporteur for Directive (EU) 2024/869 on limit values for Lead and Diisocyanates, EPP, Belgium

Ilan de Basso, Shadow rapporteur for Directive (EU) 2024/869 on limit values for Lead and Diisocyanates, S&D, Sweden

Catherine Amalric, Shadow rapporteur for Directive (EU) 2024/869 on limit values for Lead and Diisocyanates, Renew, France

Sara Matthieu, Shadow rapporteur for Directive (EU) 2024/869 on limit values for Lead and Diisocyanates, Greens, Belgium

Nikolaj Villumsen, Rapporteur for Directive (EU) 2024/869 on limit values for Lead and Diisocyanates, Left, Denmark