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[REDACTED]
Chief, Special Procedures Branch
Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your communication of 18 September 2023 concerning legislative initiatives in the chemicals area and the revision of the Regulation EC/1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH).

The revision of this important piece of legislation requires thorough preparation and consultation, to ensure that it is developed in a way that achieves higher protection for human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and supports the EU's competitiveness.

With over 90% of the commitments made in the 2019 Political Guidelines delivered, including most of the actions announced in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and just a few months left until the 2024 European elections, the 2024 Commission's Work Programme focuses on a limited set of new initiatives.

In 2024, the Commission will dedicate particular attention to finding an agreement with the European Parliament and Council on the outstanding proposals. This will ensure that Europe's citizens and businesses can take full advantage of EU policy actions.

The revision of the REACH Regulation is a very important initiative, which needs sufficient time to be prepared and discussed, by continuing to engage with all relevant parties. Therefore, the Commission came to the conclusion that such initiative should not be presented at the end of a Commission mandate.

Please rest assured that the Commission keeps its commitment to protect human health and the environment through the continuous implementation of the existing REACH regulation, including restrictions on the use of PFAS and other harmful substances.

Through its aim to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for the assessment of hazards of substances, the REACH Regulation can be a supportive tool to international human rights law.

Yours sincerely,

