



November 14, 2005

## REACH

### LAST CHANCE TO PROTECT US FROM HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

This week you will vote on the REACH regulation. With REACH, the EU could address serious health and environmental problems related to our increasing exposure to a wide range of man-made chemicals.

The Standing Committee of European Doctors states: *“It has now been scientifically demonstrated that there is indeed a link between chemical products and the appearance of diseases, such as cancers, infertility, degenerative diseases of the central nervous system and allergies. Doctors have stated that the current proliferation of a number of diseases is a consequence of environmental degradation and that chemical pollution poses a serious threat to children and to the human race.”*<sup>1</sup>

#### **Authorisation – controls on identified hazardous chemicals**

The REACH proposal of the European Commission is too weak to address the health and environmental problems related to hazardous chemicals. It would allow the continued use of chemicals of very high concern even when safer alternatives are available. **To avoid this irresponsible situation, we call on you to:**

- **vote for** the compromise package on the ‘authorisation’ procedure for the most harmful chemicals (tabled by PSE, ALDE, and other groups) including the priority amendments 217, 232 and 235; and
- **vote against** all other authorisation approaches.

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<sup>1</sup> Standing Committee of European Doctors, policy on Health and Environment (REACH), adopted at its board meeting on September 3, 2005. **CPME/AD/Brd/030905/100/EN**

## Registration – provision of safety information

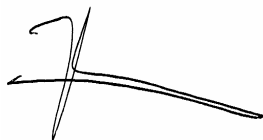
We are very concerned that the compromise packages put forward by a) Schulz/Poettering/Nassauer, b) Nassauer/Oomen-Ruijten and c) ITRE committee would severely weaken safety testing obligations for human health and the environment. We therefore ask you to reject these packages and support the already weak compromise by Greens/GUE.

**Without improved controls on authorisation and with the severe weakening of registration obligations, REACH will be widely seen as a failure:** it will fail to protect human health and the environment, fail to improve on the existing legislative system, and fail to establish Europe as a leader in responsible chemicals management.

Please vote for better health and environmental protection. Please reject compromises to weaken registration requirements, and vote for an improved authorisation procedure.

Later this week, we hope to send you more detailed voting recommendations.

Yours Sincerely,



John Hontelez  
Secretary General  
European Environmental Bureau

*On behalf of:*

Paul de Clerck, Acting Director, Friends of the Earth Europe.

Jorgo Riss, Director, Greenpeace EPO office.

Génon K. Jensen, Director, European Public Health Alliance -Environment Network.

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