



*Brussels, 15 January 2020*

To: Mr Thierry Breton, *European Commissioner for the Internal Market*  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1000 Brussels

Cc: Mr Frans Timmermans, *European Commission Vice-president  
in charge of the European Green Deal*

Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, *European Commissioner for the Environment,  
Oceans and Fisheries*

**Ref: Request for a meeting on the protection of the Environment & the Single Market**

Dear Commissioner Breton,

Let me first of all congratulate you for your position as Commissioner for the Internal Market and wish you all the best in this new year 2020.

I am writing to you on behalf of EuPC, the European Plastics Converters industry association, that represents 50.000 companies converting all kind of plastics products in Europe, including packaging and single use plastics items. Our sector employs more than 1.600.000 people in the EU.

The past European Commission has been very active on the plastics dossier and we have positively appreciated the Plastics Strategy and related actions to improve some of the prominent issues related with our material and its waste management treatment. At the same time, EuPC has been very critical of the Single Use Plastics Directive and the risks of blindly prohibiting certain products without a proper Life Cycle Assessments of alternative options.

Single use plastics items serve many important functions in terms of health, hygiene, preservation and life extension of food products. Their ban and reduction by the European Authorities and consequently national authorities and brand owners & retailers, carried out quickly and superficially, are now negatively affecting the Environment, as decisions to switch away from plastics are made without considering the





environmental impact of the substitute material chosen or whether there is an adequate collection and treatment infrastructure in place.

Therefore, in the light of the coming work under the EU Green Deal, **I would like to officially request a meeting with you and your Cabinet** to evaluate the best options on how to fruitfully cooperate and on the way forward for a sustainable European Industry. The occasion would be to introduce you to the European Plastics world and what it can do to deliver your Commission's objectives set in the Green deal.

The alternative materials now being placed on the market to replace single use plastics are damaging for the environment and in particular climate change. The Green deal will be looking to existing EU legislation that affects climate change. If the EU wants to take the lead on climate change and reduce its carbon footprint, all consideration should be made when changing to packaging materials.

For this reason, the SUP Directive is actually working clearly against the objectives of the Green deal and is killing employment in the EU. We estimate already a reduction of 6% in our employment in the EU and the transition has just started. If we add the so- called plastics Brexit tax (MFF) to this damage in a few years our sector is estimated to lose 15% employment in the EU (240.000 job losses).

Moreover, making a [statement](#) as European Commissioner that the EU will ban plastics packaging will have tremendous consequences for the environment, for jobs and people's health in Europe. Can the EU afford the kill jobs in a sector which has been world leader in technology and at the same time increase the CO2 emission so not working towards the high ambition under the Green deal?

Our industry is also very keen to continue to work under the Circular Plastics Alliance to create a circular economy for the plastics industry. The SUP directive implementation is slowly making it impossible to reach these targets unfortunately.

EuPC remains at your disposal to answer any questions you might have. I look forward to hearing from your Cabinet on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alexandre Dangis', enclosed in a blue scribbled box.

Alexandre Dangis  
EuPC Managing Director

Annex:

1. Green Alliance, *Plastic promises What the grocery sector is really doing about packaging*, January 2020 [available [here](#)].





About EuPC:

European Plastics Converters (EuPC) is the leading EU-level trade association, based in Brussels, representing European plastics converting companies. Plastics converters use plastics raw materials and recycled polymers to manufacture new products. EuPC totals about 45 national as well as European plastics converting industry associations and represents more than 50,000 companies, producing over 50 million tons of plastic products every year. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.6 million people are working in EU converting companies (mainly SMEs) to create a turnover in excess of € 260 billion per year.

