



Brussels, 5th of March 2024

Re: Vote for toxic-free toys

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

In the March plenary session, you will vote on the revision of the Toys Safety legislation. Health, environment and human rights stakeholders from all over Europe are calling on you to vote for a regulation that guarantees the highest level of health protection for all children.

The current Toys Safety Directive does not adequately protect children from the most harmful chemicals in toys – this was made very clear by the European Commission’s evaluation in 2020.¹ You too have recognised this failure in 2022 and asked the Commission to fix it.²

The Environment committee voted almost unanimously for a reform that protects children’s health. It is essential that these improvements are part of the final report to be

¹ European Commission, [evaluation of the Toy Safety Directive](#) (19 Nov. 2020)

² European Parliament, [resolution - Implementation of the Toy Safety Directive](#) (16 Feb. 2022)

adopted at the March Plenary. We call on you to support this position and to particularly ensure that the new regulation:

- Restricts the 'forever chemicals', PFAS, and bisphenols in toys
- Broadens the scope for restricting other harmful chemicals, such as those that are bioaccumulative, persistent and mobile

Children are particularly vulnerable to harmful chemicals and have higher probabilities of adverse health effects, some of which can have a lifelong impact. These substances are linked to certain types of cancer, and can impair the immune and endocrine systems - they can have adverse impacts even at very low doses. PFAS chemicals, known as 'forever chemicals' because they take generations to break down, can accumulate inside children's bodies.³ It is only normal for EU lawmakers to guarantee that children are given the adequate care and attention based on all the scientific evidence available.

Providing protection against exposure to the most harmful chemicals, such as PFAS and bisphenols is essential for the EU to respect the rights of children to health, education, play and physical integrity. These rights are enshrined in UN and EU binding agreements. To uphold them, the EU must guarantee the highest level of toy safety through the current revision process.

Our community of NGOs, consumers, medical and parents associations is counting on your support to vote for children's health, rights and safety!

We are available for further exchanges and would also like to inform you that this letter will be made public.

Best regards,

Stefan Scheuer, Chief EU Policy advocate at CHEM Trust, on behalf of the following organisations:

1. Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme
2. Bond Beter Leefmilieu
3. Canopea
4. Cantine sans plastique
5. Center for International Environmental Law
6. CHEM Trust
7. ChemSec
8. Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
9. ClientEarth
10. Corporate Europe Observatory
11. Ecologistas en Acción

³ European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology, [statement - The Detrimental Impact of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances on Children](#) (9 Nov. 2023)

12. ECOS
13. European Environmental Bureau
14. Générations Futures
15. Health and Environment Alliance
16. Health and Environment Justice Support
17. Hogar sin Tóxicos
18. International Society of Doctors for Environment
19. Mutualités Libres/Onafhankelijke Ziekenfondsen
20. Réseau Environnement Santé
21. Tegengif
22. Wen (Women's Environmental Network)
23. Women Engage for a Common Future
24. ZERO