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19 December 2024

## Benefit from EU Methane Mitigation in Agriculture for Climate Protection and Clean Air

Dear Commissioner Christophe Hansen,

We as members of the of the [Methane Matters Coalition](#) - a coalition of non-profit organisations working on methane mitigation - would like to express our sincere congratulations on your appointment as EU Commissioner. We hope that you will make a valuable contribution to shaping European agriculture and food policy with your commitment and expertise.

Following the commitment to develop a vision for the future of agricultural and food policy in the first 100 days of office, we would like to raise the urgent need to address agricultural methane emissions as a central part of this vision. A powerful super pollutant, methane warms the planet over 80 times more than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year period. More than half of global methane emissions are caused by human activity and have already contributed to a gross temperature increase of 0.5°C. In addition, methane is a precursor of ground-level ozone harming human health and the environment, already contributing to significant crop losses in Europe and a risk to food security. Agriculture is a sector that is responsible for more than half of the EU's methane emissions.

At the same time, the sector offers enormous potential for reducing these emissions by supporting agroecological farming and moving away from industrial animal agriculture practices. Shifting toward agroecological practices is an opportunity to harness several co-benefits for soil health, water and land use efficiency, reducing reliance on fertiliser and importantly, represents a chance to reinvest in the wellbeing of rural communities that benefit directly from the local impacts of agroecological and social farming practices.<sup>1</sup> Increasing the efficiency of use of natural resources within the EU, reducing crop damage from ground-level ozone and promoting local resilience are all critical in securing a future for the EU that is adaptive to the climate crisis. It is also central to

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<sup>1</sup> [Mitigating Methane from Food and Agriculture a Global Health Strategy. The Global Climate & Health Alliance](#)

achieving strategic autonomy of our food systems by eliminating dependency on livestock feed imports which defines existing intensive livestock production.<sup>2</sup> An increasing number of farmers are adopting agroecological practices, and it is time the Commission prioritises its development through policies that support uptake.

Together with our partners across Europe, we are engaged to support the full implementation of the Global Methane Pledge and reconcile agriculture and food policy. The Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU sets out that while technical solutions can help to mitigate some methane emissions from livestock within the existing system, the evidence is clear that transformative change of the food system to reduce overall livestock numbers and produce a more diverse range of food at the farm level must be prioritised to sufficiently reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, and support smaller producers and local communities.

We would be very pleased to have the opportunity to present our concrete ideas and to jointly discuss effective instruments that can tackle the challenges of methane emissions.

Yours sincerely,



Jürgen Resch, CEO

On behalf of the Methane Matters Coalition:

Changing Market Foundation, Caitlin Smith, Senior Campaigner



Environmental Investigation Agency, Jack Corscadden, Climate Campaigner



European Environmental Bureau, Patrick Ten Brink, Secretary General



Zero Waste Europe, Janek Vahk, Zero Pollution Policy Manger



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<sup>2</sup> [Reducing dependence on feed imports is part of the larger transformation of the EU food system, including a shift towards more plant-based diets and ensuring a more resilient and autonomous food system.](#)