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June 13, 2013

DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NOBIS
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUIT

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President José Manuel Barroso

**Cc: Vice-President Antonio Tajani, EU
Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship
Cc: Commissioner Janez Potočnik, EU
Commissioner for Environment
Cc: Commissioner Tonio Borg, EU Commissioner
for Health and Consumer Policy**

Dear President Barroso,
Dear Commissioners Tajani, Potočnik, and Borg,

The impending decisions regarding EU Chemicals Policy, specifically with regard to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), have raised serious concerns in the international scientific community.

Europeans are exposed to EDCs, both natural and synthetic, to an extent that is causing adverse health effects. They include serious conditions like testicular, breast and prostate cancers, decline in sperm counts, pregnancy loss, puberty abnormalities, reproductive organ deformities, neurological problems, diabetes and obesity. Recent research suggests that the EDC effects can even be transmitted to future generations.

The Collegium Ramazzini, an international academy of 180 scientists from 35 countries, experts in environmental and occupational health, has released a statement calling for new ways to test chemicals and to revise current approaches to risk management. In regard to the REACH authorization, the Collegium Ramazzini recommends improved test protocols and expanded test requirements to allow identification of EDCs, for which a safe threshold cannot be determined at present. Thus, the scope of REACH art 60(3) should be extended by default to all EDCs as substances of very high concern. Stringent hazard based cut-off criteria must be used for EDCs.



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In this process, GLP studies should not be considered the only basis for risk assessment, which must consider all academic research of high quality. Only in this way can the EU satisfy the requirement for a precautionary approach that will protect the general population and workers against these serious hazards.

The statement is attached to this letter and may also be downloaded from the homepage of the Collegium Ramazzini website: www.collegiumramazzini.org.

Related positions of the Collegium Ramazzini are also available for consultation, including [The Control of Pesticides in the European Union: A Call for Action to Protect Human Health](#) (2008) and [Control of Biocides in the European Union: The Collegium Ramazzini Calls for Action to Protect Human Health](#) (2010).

We urge you to consider the position of these international scientists. Please consider experts from the Collegium Ramazzini at your disposal for further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Morando Soffritti
Secretary General
Collegium Ramazzini