

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party

for the South East of England

Prime Minister Tony Blair
10 Downing Street
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November 28th 2005

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you ahead of this week's Competitiveness Council and to urge you to take a much stronger line on REACH than the position that was adopted by the European Parliament on November 17th 2005.

I have denounced the position adopted by MEPs as I believe it is unlikely to deliver the necessary level of protection of human health and the environment against hazardous chemicals, unless the loopholes in the testing regime are closed. MEPs did take a stand and call for a paradigm shift on the most dangerous chemicals and I call on Council to fully incorporate this approach for authorisation into the common position. If Council, moreover, continues to resist the "risk-based" omission of data for higher volume chemicals, then we still have a chance to get a new chemicals legislation that could provide effective protection against the most dangerous chemicals. Ensuring that consumers have increased access to information is key to a successful REACH and I trust that you will recognise it as such and argue this case at Council.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP

Cc Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP
Cc Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP