

Mr. Esben Lunde Larsen
Minister for the Environment and
Food
Ministry of Environment and Food of
Denmark
Slotsholmsgade 12
DK-1260 Copenhagen V

Ref.: BEUC-X-2016-082/MGO/cm

15 September 2016

**RE: European consumers need Danish Consumer Council THINK
Chemicals**

Dear Mr. Lunde Larsen,

On behalf of BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, I write to highlight the essential role Danish Consumer Council (DCC) THINK Chemicals plays for consumers across Europe and to urge you to extend the Danish Government's financial support for DCC THINK Chemicals.

Since its establishment in 2014, DCC THINK Chemicals has been an invaluable source of information on chemicals in consumer goods as well as a clear voice in the European debate on how to better protect consumers against toxic chemicals. Among DCC THINK Chemicals' impressive achievements, I wish to emphasize that:

- DCC THINK Chemicals' 46 product tests have been widely disseminated among consumer and environmental NGOs across Europe. Therefore, all EU consumers benefit from THINK Chemicals' important work.
- DCC THINK Chemicals supports consumer organisations in other EU countries to raise awareness about harmful chemicals such as endocrine disruptors (EDCs), flame retardants or fluorinated substances. DCC THINK Chemicals for example recently cooperated with BEUC's Romanian member, APC, on a joint test of harmful chemicals in deodorants. The test was covered by many different news media, including national television, and sparked a national debate on EDCs in Romania.
- DCC THINK Chemicals actively engages decision-makers in the EU to raise awareness about the consumer impact of chemicals. DCC THINK Chemicals' work, especially test results, allows BEUC to bring clear evidence to the EU institutions on how to better protect consumers against toxic chemicals.
- DCC THINK Chemicals is an influential voice in the European debate on endocrine-disrupting chemicals. DCC THINK Chemicals is for example an active partner in the EDC-Free Europe coalition which brings together over 60 health, environmental and consumer groups, campaigning to reduce exposure from endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

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I am aware of your critical work at European level to protect consumers against harmful chemicals, which BEUC applauds. However, as you know, the pace and scope of EU chemicals policy is often frustratingly slow. Consumers therefore need reliable information to guide them on how to avoid unwanted chemicals in their everyday lives. DCC THINK Chemicals is among the most active consumer voices providing such information to consumers in Denmark and across Europe.

Without the generous support of the Danish government this level of engagement will not be possible. We are concerned that if your support is removed, consumers across Europe would lose an invaluable source of independent advice on chemicals in their lives, where they can be found and how they can be avoided.

I therefore strongly encourage you and the Danish government to continue your financial support for Danish Consumer Council THINK Chemicals.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Goyens
BEUC, Director General

c/c: Members of the Danish Parliament's standing committee on the Environment and Food.