



**Ms Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission

**Subject: Urgent request to prevent the destruction of contraceptives intended for beneficiaries of international aid**

Madam President,

We would like to draw your attention to the imminent destruction of large stocks of contraceptives funded by the United States and currently stored in Geel, Belgium.

These contraceptives – mainly implants and intra-uterine devices – were intended for low- and middle-income countries under USAID programmes. Valued at nearly 10 million USD, they remain fully usable (with expiry dates up to 2031), and organisations such as UNFPA and MSI Reproductive Choices have indicated their readiness to collect them immediately at their own expense.

The decision to incinerate these products in France, for reasons that raise serious concerns, would not only represent an unacceptable sanitary and financial waste but also undermine the principles of solidarity, public health, and fundamental rights to which the European Union has consistently reaffirmed its commitment.

In this context, we urge you to take, as a matter of urgency:

- a diplomatic initiative by the European Commission to request the suspension of this destruction and to explore a logistical solution for redistribution to the intended beneficiaries;
- a legal and regulatory assessment within the Commission's services to determine the conformity of such destruction with EU law and with the Union's commitments on sustainable development and gender equality;
- clear political support for humanitarian organisations ready to redistribute these contraceptives, in line with the Union's commitments to women's health and rights worldwide.

Madam President, such destruction is unacceptable on sanitary, ethical, and political grounds. The European Union cannot remain passive without risking its international credibility.

Thank you in advance for the attention you will give to this matter. We remain at your disposal to further discuss or work with your teams on possible concrete solutions.

Yours faithfully,

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