



Joint Statement

EU chemical, crop protection and plastics industries react to European Commission proposal for Endocrine Disruptor criteria

The European Commission today announced its proposals for “scientific criteria for the determination of endocrine disrupting properties” under the Biocidal Products and Plant Protection Products Regulations.

Brussels, 15 June 2016 - Whilst we acknowledge the Commission’s inclusion of the WHO/IPCS definition, we are disappointed that we still do not have a set of scientific criteria that are suitable for the purposes of regulatory decision making. As a result of this definition, the European Commission has had to propose derogations for Plant Protection Products. This is not acceptable. Regulating by derogation fails to achieve certainty and predictability for product development and innovation.

The WHO/IPCS definition alone is not suitable for distinguishing between those substances that are of high concern and those that are not. Many substances which present no risk to human health or the environment will be identified as endocrine disruptors using this definition. We believe that regulators should take into account all available and relevant scientific information when evaluating a substance for its potential endocrine-disrupting properties. To do anything else would be unscientific.

Marco Mensink, Director General, European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic): *“Scientific criteria are needed to identify those endocrine disruptors of regulatory concern, and enable harmless substances to bring value to society. Unless potency is taken into account, we will fail to address only those substances that cause harm. Many years down the road, we now have a restatement of the WHO definition. This provides further clarity, but it is not sufficient. We need to ensure the highest standards of protection and also allow for innovation”.*

Jean-Charles Bocquet, Director General, European Crop Protection Association (ECPA): *“In our view, these criteria could ban crop protection products with the same endocrine disrupting properties found in everyday products like coffee. We recognise the significant public interest in this topic. We believe we need a proposal that targets only those substances which can cause actual harm, otherwise we risk taking away tools from farmers which they need to sustainably produce our safe, healthy, affordable food”.*

Karl-H. Foerster, Executive Director, PlasticsEurope: *“Finally, the criteria to identify endocrine disruptors are out. We still lack a commonly accepted working criteria that would allow to differentiate between a substance of regulatory concern and a substance of no or low concern”.*

Further Resources

- Cefic position paper on [Endocrine Disruptors](#) (EDs)
- Cefic information brochure (May 2016) “[Setting the Right Criteria for Endocrine Disruptors](#)”.
- ECPA ‘[View on Endocrine Disruptors](#)’
- PlasticsEurope [Position Paper](#)

About Cefic

Cefic is the forum and the voice of the chemical industry in Europe. As the voice of the European chemical industry, Cefic is a committed partner to EU policymakers, facilitating dialogue with industry and sharing our broad-based expertise. We represent 29,000 large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe, which directly provide 1.2 million jobs and account for 17% of world chemical production. www.cefic.org

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About ECPA

We represent the crop protection industry in Europe; innovative and science-based, our solutions keep crops healthy and contribute to providing Europeans with a safe, affordable, healthy, and sustainable food supply. We promote modern farming practices and champion the use of crop protection technology important for the sustainable intensification of agriculture. Our awareness raising and stewardship activities further the safe and sustainable use of pesticides in Europe, encouraging management practices that safeguard harvests, human health, and the environment. www.ecpa.eu

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About PlasticsEurope

PlasticsEurope is one of the leading European trade associations with centres in Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan and Paris. We are networking with European and national plastics associations and have more than 100 member companies, producing over 90% of all polymers across the EU28 member states plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.45 million people are working in 62,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover above 350 bn EUR per year. The plastics industry includes polymer producers - represented by PlasticsEurope, converters - represented by EuPC - and machine manufacturers - represented by EUROMAP. For further info see the web links: www.plasticseurope.org, www.plasticsconverters.eu, www.euromap.org

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