

Ursula von der Leyen, MD, MPH
President-Elect, European Commission
Le Berlaymont
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049
Bruxelles, Belgium

August 07, 2019.

Dear Dr. von der Leyen,

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, please accept my sincere congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the European Commission.

Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society is the world's oldest and largest organization of scientists and clinicians devoted to hormone research and care for people with hormone-related diseases. Our membership of over 18,000 worldwide includes scientists who study fundamental biology and hormonal pathways involved in human disease, as well as clinicians who apply scientific knowledge to deliver new therapies and improved care for patients. We are a global organization, with nearly 1400 members based in the Member States of the European Union.

As a medical and scientific society, we welcome many of the goals and priorities articulated in your agenda for Europe. We share your passion for public health and reducing the incidence of disease. Biological functions governed by endocrine systems are broad and essential to overall wellbeing, and endocrine diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, osteoporosis and many hormone-dependent cancers include some of the most pressing public health issues facing policymakers around the world. Our members study and treat these diseases and conditions that affect millions worldwide, that also include, thyroid disorders, cancer, infertility and disorders of human growth, development and aging.

We are also encouraged by your emphasis on the relationships between ecological health and the health of European citizens. We appreciate your bold call for a cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution, including endocrine disruptors (also known as endocrine-disrupting chemicals or EDCs). Our members include the world's leading experts on the science of EDCs and chemical interference with endocrine systems. We have been actively engaged in the European Commission's progress on this issue, including the adoption of new criteria to identify EDCs and urging the development of a detailed strategy with specific action steps to develop a consistent approach to EDCs across sectors that results in effective public health protection and reduced exposure of EU citizens to EDCs.

Due to the scientific consensus regarding the effects of EDCs, we recommend that the Commission's stated goal of minimizing exposures to EDCs across sectors be consistent with the



regulatory approach in the Biocidal Products Regulation and Plant Protection Products Regulation. Specifically, endocrine disruptors should not be authorized unless exposures are negligible. This would be in alignment with the approach for carcinogenic, mutagenic, and reprotoxic chemicals (CMRs) and consistent with the inherent hazards associated with EDCs.

Our members stand ready to help you achieve your vision of a healthy planet and healthy European citizens. We believe that the expertise of our scientists and clinicians will be of value to the Commission in your efforts to improve public health and reduce harms due to EDCs and other environmental contaminants. If we can be of any further assistance, or to connect with a member of our EDC Advisory Group, please reach out to Joseph Laakso, PhD, Director of Science Policy at jlaakso@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,

E. Dale Abel MD PhD

President, Endocrine Society