

September 17, 2020

Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Re: Endocrine Disruptors and EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing the world's leading experts in endocrinology, endocrine science, and reproductive health, we write to express our serious concern that important elements of the new EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, including text related to the need for immediate action on endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) could be undermined in a forthcoming draft of the strategy.

The members of our societies include many of the world's leading experts on the health effects of EDCs and the treatment of patients with endocrine diseases, and we have held meetings with EU policymakers to share the state of the scientific evidence linking EDCs to public health harms. There is a strong international scientific consensus that EDCs contribute to serious health problems such as diabetes, obesity, adverse pregnancy outcomes, neurodevelopmental and reproductive disorders, and compromised newborn and children's health¹². We therefore welcome the Commission's commitment in the European Green Deal to take action to protect public health and the environment against hazardous chemicals, including EDCs, via the EU chemicals strategy and we support the clear emphasis on scientific evidence to inform a health protective regulatory framework.

We are now concerned to learn from multiple media reports that the internal drafts of the chemicals strategy could be significantly weakened by comments introduced by DG GROW. The reported comments related to the section specifically on EDCs indicate a lack of urgency and disregard for the scientific consensus about the harmful public health impacts of exposure to EDCs. In the context of the current public health emergency we expect particularly at this time to see clear and strong actions to reduce such exposures, which contribute to important comorbidities for COVID-19 such as diabetes and metabolic disease.

In view of these concerns, we are taking this exceptional step of jointly writing to you to urge the European Commission to uphold its commitments under the Green Deal to protect public health and the environment with clear measures to identify EDCs and immediate actions to reduce exposure. Despite awareness of the issue through the 1999 EU Programme on EDCs, only a handful of EDCs have been identified, and these chemicals are not regulated across all sectors and uses. Without clear steps and policy actions now to mitigate ongoing exposures, we can expect further public health consequences for ourselves and future generations.

We urge you, therefore, to ensure that urgent and effective science-based measures on EDCs are included in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability in order to protect our citizens' health and our environment.

Sincerely,

Endocrine Society
Endocrine Society of France (Société Française
d'Endocrinologie)
European Neuroendocrine Association
European Society of Endocrinology
European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology
European Thyroid Association

German Society of Endocrinology (Deutsche
Gesellschaft für Endokrinologie, DGE)
International Federation of Gynecology and
Obstetrics
Italian Society for Endocrinology (Società Italiana di
Endocrinologia)
Spanish Society of Endocrinology and Nutrition
(Sociedad Española de Endocrinología y Nutrición)

¹ E. Diamanti-Kandarakis et al., "Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals: An Endocrine Society Scientific Statement" *Endocr Rev.* 2009 Jun; 30(4): 293–342.

² A.C. Gore, et al., "EDC-2: The Endocrine Society's Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals." *Endocr Rev.* 2015 Dec; 36(6): E1–E150.