

2 September, 2026

We write on behalf of three European and international scientific organisations: the Endocrine Society (ES), European Society of Endocrinology (ESE), and European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE). We express our deep concern that the Commission's Food and Feed Safety Omnibus proposals would, if adopted, significantly weaken existing health and environmental protections and could prolong human and environmental exposure to pesticides for which evidence of endocrine-disrupting or other hazardous properties has emerged.

Our member scientists, clinicians, and allied healthcare professionals are the world's experts in endocrine science and health; we have established fundamental knowledge of what hormones are, what they do, and how health is harmed when chemicals interfere with hormone biology. A substantial body of scientific evidence indicates that persistent exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) can contribute to adverse health outcomes, including impaired reproductive function, metabolic disorders, neurodevelopmental defects and cognitive impairment, and certain hormone-related cancers.

EDCs are particularly harmful during critical stages of development, including during foetal life and in childhood, because endocrine (hormone) signalling guides essential developmental processes during these sensitive windows with cumulative and lifelong toxic impact, including for future generations. As a result, even the current low levels of EDC exposure commonly experienced by the general population may interfere with normal development, as shown by numerous scientific studies.

Based on this knowledge we have consistently advocated policies and regulations that reduce exposure to EDCs – including those found in pesticides and other products. While the science on EDCs continually evolves as research uncovers new links between exposure and impacts on health and wildlife, there is sufficient evidence to justify decisive action and strengthen public health protections.

We are concerned that the proposals to modify the existing EU laws for approving and controlling pesticides and associated products would effectively weaken existing legal, science-based controls. If approved, this retrograde step would set a dangerous precedent of overturning scientifically driven policy which could have impacts well beyond the pesticides regulations. This view is supported by a new analysis published in *Science* in June 2026 and authored by 35 scientists explaining how the Omnibus proposal, if adopted, would “jeopardize the Omnibus's goal to maintain high standards for the protection of human and environmental health.”

We urge decision-makers to reject the following proposals which would lead to weaker controls on EDCs:

Unlimited approval of pesticides: The proposal would remove the current vital re-evaluation of pesticides every 10-15 years to incorporate new scientific evidence, and the measures to immediately remove identified EDCs. It would introduce unlimited approvals for most pesticides and thereby prevent the integration of new data on endocrine disruption and other impacts. Under the current system, new evidence identified through planned reviews has led to the ban of 10 pesticides with endocrine-disrupting properties since 2011, demonstrating the importance of regularly reassessing pesticide safety as scientific knowledge evolves. We strongly support continued periodic assessments to incorporate new and emerging scientific evidence, as set out in the current pesticide regulations.

Derogation for hazardous pesticides (Article 4.7): The proposals would allow identified EDCs and other substances that should be banned to remain in use for 5 years, based on socio-economic considerations. Such an approach would override established hazard-based protections and could prolong unnecessary exposure of humans and wildlife to hazardous substances.

Extended grace periods: All banned substances, including EDCs, could remain on the market for 3 years (up from 1 or 1.5 years depending on the toxicity), allowing continued exposure to known EDCs.

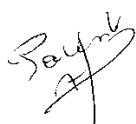
Failure to consider emerging scientific evidence in product authorisations: National-level authorisations should remain informed by the most up-to-date relevant scientific evidence. A framework that allows authorisations to rely primarily on legacy information available at the time of the original approval, risks disregarding subsequently identified hazards, including endocrine-disrupting effects. Regulatory decisions affecting public health should reflect the best available up to date scientific evidence that qualifies and supersedes prior information.

We therefore urge EU decision-makers to:

- retain mandatory periodic re-evaluation of pesticides;
- reject derogations and unnecessarily extended grace periods for substances identified as hazardous; and
- ensure that regulatory and authorisation decisions incorporate the best available and most up-to-date scientific evidence.

Protecting the integrity of the EU's science-based pesticide framework is essential to safeguard human health for current and future generations, particularly during vulnerable periods of development, as well as environmental health.

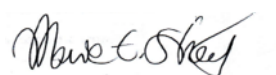
Kind regards,



Prof. Anne-Simone Parent
Chair, EU EDC Task Force
Endocrine Society



Prof. Pauliina Damdimopoulou
Chair, ESE EDC Working Group



Prof. Maria Elisabeth Street
Chair, ESPE EDC Interest Group

Further reading

Anne-Simone Parent et al. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals and female reproductive health: a growing concern. *Nat Rev Endocrinol.* 2025 Oct;21(10):593-607. doi: 10.1038/s41574-025-01131-x

Nicolò Caporale et al. From cohorts to molecules: Adverse impacts of endocrine disrupting mixtures. *Science.* 2022 Feb 18;375(6582):eabe8244. doi: 10.1126/science.abe8244.

Dimitry Wintermantel et al. EU Omnibus proposal increases pesticide risks. *Science* 392,1348-1351(2026).doi:10.1126/science.aeg874