

Pesticides



The risks associated with exposure to pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties became a key feature of efforts in 2012.

HEAL helped extend this message to policy makers in France, including several French senators, where an official investigation into pesticides and health was underway. We also gave special attention to reaching patients' groups affected by pesticide exposure and to the public in general during Pesticide Action Week, which took the theme of endocrine disrupting pesticides. An analysis of everyday foodstuffs by member organisation Générations Futures showed three-quarters of samples tested contained traces of hazardous pesticides. This investigation gained wide media coverage.

Raising awareness of endocrine disrupting pesticides

The 8th edition of Pesticide Action Week, 20 – 30 March 2013, gave a special focus to endocrine disrupting pesticides, aiming to showcase the growing alternatives to pesticides. To launch the week in Brussels, HEAL together with member Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN-E) organised a journalist breakfast briefing on EDC pesticides and chemicals on 19 March.

A few days later, HEAL and PAN-E launched a video clip calling for a ban on endocrine disrupting pesticides and urging organisations to join the EDC Free campaign. Watch it at www.edc-free-europe.org

French senate meeting brings voices from affected groups

Lisette van Vliet, HEAL's Senior Policy Officer addressed a congress on pesticides and health at the Palais du Luxembourg, Paris (Senate building) organised by Générations Futures on 23 March 2012, and co-organised by HEAL. The aim of the conference was to bring the voice of health-affected groups to the debate. Her message on the health risks associated with exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals was well-received by a large number of policy and health experts and patient representatives.

HEAL took the same message



to health-affected groups in Germany through an article in the German monthly, DNR newsletter (Nature Protection Alliance).

Multiplying the impact of members' efforts

To demonstrate the urgency of preventive action on endocrine disrupting chemicals, Générations Futures analysed certain breakfast cereals, pasta, and processed bread and found that 75% of the samples contained traces of pesticides, all of which contain one or several organophosphate or pyrethroid substances. The results were released in March in France and HEAL issued an English press release to share the findings with EU institutions, our network and the wider European public.



Three-quarters of starchy food products analysed in France were found to contain traces of pesticides



Screenshot from the video showing Lisette van Vliet (HEAL) and Hans Muilerman (PAN Europe) explaining why endocrine disrupting pesticides and other EDCs in Europe should be taken off the market.