

PRESS RELEASE (Original in French)

EXPPERT Survey 8: Exposure to endocrine-disrupting pesticides in water

## Endocrine disrupting pesticides in tap and surface water

*Génération Futures EXPPERT survey 8 uses government reports on water quality in France as the basis for an analysis of the extent to which endocrine-disrupting pesticides and their byproducts can be found in French tap water. A European law banning endocrine disrupting pesticides came into effect years ago but has not been implemented because the European Commission has delayed proposing the needed scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors. Now, EU Member Countries are expected to take a final decision on a European Commission proposal this spring.*

**Paris, Brussels, 13 January 2017** – The report published today on endocrine disrupting chemicals in water in France is the eighth part of the EXPPERT survey. EXPPERT stands for Exposure to endocrine-disrupting pesticides.

### Context

In July 2016, the French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health published its report, “*Bilan de la qualité de l'eau au robinet du consommateur vis-à-vis des pesticides en 2014*” (Assessment of the quality of tap water with regard to pesticides in 2014). In 2014, The Ministry of Ecology published its survey, “*Pesticides les plus quantifiés dans les cours d'eau et dans les eaux souterraines en 2013*” (The most frequently quantified pesticides in surface water and groundwater in 2013).

While these reports inform us about the presence of pesticides in water, they do not actually provide the toxicological properties of the molecules identified, and notably for those pollutants that could be endocrine disrupting chemicals.

### Génération Futures' work

Génération Futures carried out an analysis, which had never previously been conducted. The aim was to know whether any of the pesticide residues, or the byproducts from the degradation of these pesticides, covered in the investigations cited above, were potential endocrine disrupting molecules.

Our analysis identified molecules that are potentially disruptive to the endocrine system.

The following results, which are detailed in the EXPPERT 8 report, were obtained. They unfortunately show that:

- 73.3% - that is, 11 out of the 15 most frequently quantified pesticides (or their degradation byproducts) in surface water in metropolitan France in 2013 are suspected of being endocrine disruptors.
- 53.3% - that is eight out of the 15 molecules classified as the most frequently quantified pesticides (or their degradation byproducts) in groundwater in metropolitan France in 2013 are suspected of being endocrine disruptors.
- Tap water: 50% - that is, 18 out of 36 pesticides (or their degradation byproducts), which were the reason that the water was classified as not conforming to standards in 2014 (either as NC1 – without

restriction or NC2 – with restriction) for more than one unit of distribution of drinking water (UDI), are suspected of being endocrine disruptors.

### Why this report?

As a reminder, on Wednesday 21 December 2016 (following a delay of three years), the European Commission attempted to have its new proposals on the criteria for endocrine disruptors voted. This would provide the basis for endocrine disruptors to be excluded from the market under the pesticides and biocides legislation. In November, *Générations Futures* had condemned the Commission's proposals as unacceptable because they required a level of proof that was almost impossible to attain. The proposal also provided for a derogation in the event of "negligible risk" to humans. The Commission even added a new gift to industry in its proposal of 21 December by introducing - at the last moment and for the first time - the scandalous possibility of a derogation from the ban on endocrine disruptors. But events did not take place exactly as the Commission would have wished. Many Member States (including France and Sweden) opposed the proposal. The Commission found that it could not even hope for 40% support. The vote was therefore postponed until the spring.

"By bringing out one report after another, our association continues to sound the alert about the exposure of populations, especially the most vulnerable, to endocrine disruptors. This new report demonstrates again the urgency for action and the need to remove endocrine disrupting pesticides from the market," says François Veillerette, Director of *Générations Futures*.

"The EU has a unique opportunity to show that it truly cares about the health of its fellow citizens by proposing genuinely protective criteria for defining endocrine disrupting chemicals. That is not the nature of its current proposal. We urge all national governments to demand from the European Commission a serious proposal with a reasonable level of proof and without derogations to exclude suspected endocrine-disrupting pesticides," he concluded.

### Contacts

François Veillerette, Générations Futures, tel: 00 33 6 81 64 65 58. Email: [francois@generations-futures.fr](mailto:francois@generations-futures.fr)

Nadine Lauerjat, Générations Futures, tel: 00 33 6 87 56 27 54. Email: [nadine@generations-futures.fr](mailto:nadine@generations-futures.fr)

Lisette van Vliet, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), tel: 00 32 2 234 3645. Email: [lisette@env-health.org](mailto:lisette@env-health.org)

### Notes

This press release is adapted from the French original version "Enquête EXPPERT 8 : Des pesticides perturbateurs endocriniens dans l'eau, 8ème volet des enquêtes EXPPERT (EXposition aux Pesticides PERTurbateurs endocriniens) see [www.generations-futures.fr](http://www.generations-futures.fr)

The full report is available here <http://www.generations-futures.fr/2011generations/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EXPPERT-8-final.pdf>

Générations Futures press release on the vote on 21 December 2016 is available here (in French) <http://www.generations-futures.fr/perturbateurs-endocriniens/vote-21-decembre/>

HEAL's press release on the vote on 21 December is available in English <http://www.env-health.org/resources/press-releases/article/eu-s-never-ending-story-on>

Other materials in the EXPPERT survey series available in English

EXPPERT Survey 1: Which endocrine disrupting insecticides are children exposed to everyday?

[Press release, Brussels, 25 March 2013](#)

EXPPERT Survey 2: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and banned Pesticides in strawberries [Press release, 25 March 2013](#)

EXPPERT Survey 3: How are children exposed to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals? [Press release, 9 July 2014](#)

EXPPERT Survey 4: Nineteen endocrine disrupting pesticides found in samples of women's hair [Press release, 12 March 2015](#)

EXPPERT Survey 5: Pesticides that are banned or suspected to be EDCs are found in green salads [Press release, 22 September 2015](#)

EXPPERT Survey 6: Homes close to pesticide spraying show all year exposure [Press release, 1 March 2016](#)

EXPPERT Survey 7: Exposure to endocrine-disrupting pesticides. What are the exposures in daily life? [Press release, 11 October 2016](#)

*The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is a leading European not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union (EU). With the support of more than 70 member organisations, HEAL brings independent expertise and evidence from the health community to different decision-making processes. Our broad alliance represents health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, citizens, women's groups, youth groups, environmental NGOs, scientists and public health research institutes. Members include international and Europe-wide organisations as well as national and local groups. Website: [www.env-health.org](http://www.env-health.org). Follow HEAL on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@HealthandEnv](#) [@EDCFree](#) and [@CHM\\_HEAL](#)*