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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Towards a new national strategy on endocrine disruptors : The French experience

24 may 2018



A first national strategy on endocrine disruptors adopted in 2014

- Wide consultation of stakeholders and the public
- Main strategic goal : to reduce the exposure of people and the environment
- 4 priority areas :
 - Research, development and monitoring
 - Expertise on substances
 - Regulation and substitution of endocrine disruptors
 - Training and communication



1/ Research, development and monitoring

- Put a strong focus on EDs in public “Health and Environment” Research programs and mobilize the best scientists through a dedicated national research program on endocrine disruptors
- Make research results available to the industry, through a joint private-public platform to (pre)validate test methods (before recognition by OECD)
- Strengthen health and environmental monitoring



2/ Expertise on substances

- National Agencies (ANSES and ANSM) tasked to assess a number of substances that are likely to be endocrine disruptors, with a target of at least 15 substances over 3 years by ANSES through RMOA
 - > As a result, several substances were included in the evaluation programme of ECHA. Overall, for a large number of substances, additional information had to be requested.



3/ Regulation and substitution of EDs

- Propose regulatory measures for substances identified as ED as a result of previous assessment, notably through REACH restriction or SVHC identification.
- Call for a European definition of endocrine disruptors based on the intrinsic hazardous properties
- Proposal to restrict BPA in thermal papers (cashier receipts)
- Support to industry regarding substitution



4/ Education, awareness and training

Actions included in the National Health and Environment Plan and in the Occupational Health Plan :

- Training of health professionals (notably general practitioners, medical specialists of children and women health)
- Information and awareness raising, particularly among future/young parents - exp : inclusion of specific information for pregnant women on chemicals exposure in the maternity booklet, and in the children health booklet.



Evaluation of the first strategy

Report from health and environment inspectors published in February 2018

⇒ **Endocrine disruptors are :**

- A major health and environment issue, in relation to complex science : the modes of action and the fact that effects are measurable on several generations call into question the classical principles of toxicology
- One of the main public health concerns in France according to the latest opinion polls
- Related to important economic impacts



Evaluation of the first strategy

Main conclusion : the strategy is an important initiative to be pursued

- A coherent document that enabled EDs to be better integrated in public policies and France to take a leading role at European level
- Public authorities (ministries and agencies) leading and stimulating French scientific expertise



Towards a Second national strategy

The evaluation report recommended a renewed strategy, built on 5 priorities :

- 1. Develop research**
- 2. Strengthen health and environment monitoring**
- 3. Better characterize hazards**
- 4. Manage the risks** (evolution of legislations, ban on hazardous substances, better enforcement of current legislations)
- 5. Train, raise awareness and inform** (notably via the creation of a dedicated national reference center)



Towards a Second national strategy

- On this basis, 3 working groups created
- All stakeholders involved (ministries and agencies, NGOs, industry, local administrations, representatives for health professionals...)
- A first draft strategy in June, with the final adoption expected in September
- In parallel, on-going preparation of a wide general public information campaign on chemicals, including on products likely to have endocrine effects



Towards a revised EU strategy

- **Strong call for a revised european strategy :**
 - Comprehensive
 - Ambitious
 - Inspired by national actions
 - Adressing all elements : research, expertise, monitoring, regulation, information and training, incentives and support to the industry



Towards a new national strategy on endocrine disruptors The French experience

Any questions :

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Ministry for ecological and inclusive transition website :

<https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/perturbateurs-endocriniens>

