



December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Re: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and forthcoming European Green Deal

Dear Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, Dear Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius,

We are writing to you on behalf of the EDC-Free Europe coalition<sup>1</sup>, a coalition of public interest groups representing 70 environmental, health, women's and consumer groups across Europe who share a concern about hormone disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and their impact on our health and wildlife.

Our coalition is concerned to see that endocrine disrupting chemicals do not appear in the priorities outlined in the draft document for the European Green Deal published by Euractiv on 29 November. The announcement of a *"strategy on sustainable chemicals"* and *"a package of regulatory measures by 2021"* would certainly not match the level of expectations set by the European Parliament resolution of April 2019, calling for legislative proposals on EDCs by June 2020. It would also be a serious disappointment for the 321,000 European citizens who signed our petition for more urgent action against harmful EDCs<sup>2</sup>.

This draft does not match the ambition and encouraging words expressed by the Commission President in her political guidelines presented in July: ***"European citizens' health and the planet's health go together: it is the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the safety of the products we use. [...] For the health of our citizens, our children and grandchildren, Europe needs to move towards a zero-pollution ambition. I will put forward a cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution, addressing air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, industrial emissions, pesticides and endocrine disrupters"***

This early draft of the Green Deal also goes against your own mission statements and testimonies in the European Parliament to protect health by reducing exposure to EDCs<sup>3</sup>.

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are increasing our chances of getting serious and potentially life-threatening diseases and health disorders as highlighted in 2012 by experts from the World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>4</sup>, scientists from the Endocrine Society<sup>5</sup> and others. In these reviews of scientific

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.edc-free-europe.org/about-us>

<sup>2</sup> EDC-Free Europe – Eight demands for an EU EDC Strategy <https://www.edc-free-europe.org/articles/position-paper/eight-demands-edc-strategy>

<sup>3</sup> *"I believe that we are all aware that endocrine disrupters are going to be a very important part of the agenda of the next Commission."* **Stella Kyriakides;**

*"For chemicals, it will mean looking at hazardous substances and endocrine disruptors...It is important that endocrine disruptors would be prohibited from toys, cosmetics which we apply directly on our skins, food contact materials."* **Virginijus Sinkevičius**

<sup>4</sup> WHO/UNEP, "WHO | State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - 2012," WHO (World Health Organization, 2013), <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/endocrine/en/>.

<sup>5</sup> Endocrine Scientific Statement (review), 2015: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26544531>

literature, impacts from EDCs have been linked to reproductive and fertility problems such as drastically falling sperm rates, as well as hormone dependent cancers such as breast and prostate cancers. Neurological impairments including autism and IQ loss, as well as metabolic changes including obesity and diabetes, have also been associated with exposures to EDCs.

A report from leading scientists on endocrine science presented to the European Parliament in April 2019 stresses that *“the EU population is widely exposed to known and suspected EDs. This fact is confirmed by biomonitoring studies, including on susceptible subgroups such as pregnant women and children. Annual costs related to exposure to EDCs were estimated to be 163 billion”*<sup>6</sup>.

Furthermore, the report stresses that scientific consensus now exists for:

- (1) The definition of endocrine disruptors;
- (2) The presence of suspected or recognised EDCs in the environment and in people living in the EU;
- (3) EDCs as a serious concern for the health of current and future generations and the environment;
- (4) The limitations of current regulatory approaches used to identify so-called safe thresholds, and;
- (5) The lack of consideration of cumulative effects of combined exposures in regulations or clear on the recommendations to take.

The EDC-Free Europe coalition calls on you to ensure that action is taken to address the tremendous scientific and societal concerns that endocrine disruptors pose, by making sure legislative measures to protect our health and the environment from EDCs are an integral part of the European Green Deal. This is the only way to respond to the requirements set by the European Parliament resolution and European citizens’ expectations on this issue.

**Ms. Génon K. Jensen**

Spokesperson on behalf of the EDC-Free Europe Coalition,  
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HEAL Transparency Register number: 00723343929-96

**About the EDC-Free Europe coalition:**

EDC-Free Europe is a coalition of public interest groups representing more than 70 environmental, health, women’s and consumer groups across Europe who share a concern about hormone disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and their impact on our health and wildlife. Campaign partners include trade unions, consumers, public health and healthcare professionals, advocates for cancer prevention, environmentalists and women’s groups. Website: <http://www.edc-free-europe.org/>

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<sup>6</sup> Study Requested by the PETI committee, European Parliament, “Endocrine Disruptors : from Scientific Evidence to Human Health Protection”, Barbara Demeneix, Remy Slama, March 2019.