



Virginijus Sinkevičius
European Commissioner for
Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Stella Kyriakides
European Commissioner for
Health and Food Safety

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Ms Génon K. Jensen
Spokesperson on behalf of the EDC-Free Europe Coalition,
Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
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Dear Ms Jensen,

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 2019 regarding endocrine disrupting chemicals and the European Green Deal.

We would like to reassure you of President Von der Leyen's and all the Commissioners' commitment to an ambitious European Green Deal, which integrates the subject of chemicals and in particular endocrine disruptors.

The European Green Deal states that *"to ensure a toxic-free environment, the Commission will present a chemicals strategy for sustainability"*. It explicitly mentions that, *"the regulatory framework will need to rapidly reflect scientific evidence on the risk posed by endocrine disruptors [...]"*.

The Commission's commitment to tackle the problem of endocrine disruptors is also mentioned in two mission letters:

The Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius, *"will lead on delivering on our zero-pollution ambition. This will require a wide-ranging approach looking at air and water quality, hazardous chemicals, emissions, pesticides and endocrine disruptors."*

And in the framework of the zero-pollution ambition and 'Farm to Fork' strategy, the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, *"should help protect citizens from exposure to endocrine disruptors."*

The Commission has always been and will remain committed to protecting EU citizens and the environment from hazardous chemicals. Therefore, concerning endocrine disruptors, the Commission intends to fully implement the November 2018 Communication "Towards a comprehensive European Union framework on endocrine disruptors".

A fitness check is currently being performed by the Joint Research Centre to assess whether relevant EU legislation on endocrine disruptors delivers its overall objective to protect human health and the environment by minimising exposure. The result of the fitness check should be available at the end of the first semester of 2020 and will be discussed during the 2nd Annual Forum on Endocrine Disruptors which is scheduled to take place in October 2020.

Furthermore, the Commission is implementing the criteria¹ to identify active substances with endocrine disrupting properties used in pesticides and biocides since their adoption in all ongoing and future evaluation procedures to tackle the risks from endocrine disruptors as swiftly as possible.

Regarding biocides, in 2019, the Commission has also conducted extensive consultations to prepare a Delegated Act amending the data requirements for active substances and biocidal products. The draft Delegated Act will be published in early 2020 for feedback and thereafter the Commission will adopt it. For pesticides, the Commission Communications, which complement Regulations (EU) No 283/2013 and 284/2013 setting out the data requirements for active substances and plant protection products will then be adapted accordingly.

The Commission is also preparing an amendment of the registration requirements in REACH, to ensure that companies placing chemicals on the EU market will provide authorities with data regarding their substances' endocrine disrupting properties. The Commission will also consider how endocrine disruptors can be further addressed for food contact materials, following up on the ongoing evaluation of the current legislation.

Finally, as you underlined in your letter, there is scientific consensus on the definition of endocrine disruptors, based on the broadly accepted definition of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Therefore, we are working with Member States towards the inclusion of endocrine disruptors in the existing international system for the classification of chemicals (GHS) and in the CLP Regulation. This would allow an EU-wide and global solution to the identification of endocrine disruptors.

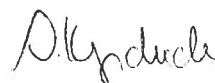
As all this work requires specific scientific knowledge, we will involve all the stakeholders, including your organisation, in the different discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Virginijus Sinkevičius



Stella Kyriakides



¹ Adopted by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2017/2100 and Commission Regulation (EU) No (2018/605), respectively