



To Vice President Timmermans,

To Commissioner Kyriakides and Commissioner Sinkevicius,

*In view of its public interest, this letter will be made publicly available on EDC-Free Europe web site.*

Brussels, 5 July 2023

Re: call for urgent action to reduce exposure to endocrine disrupting chemical bisphenol A.

Dear Vice President Timmermans,

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides, dear Commissioner Sinkevicius,

On behalf of the EDC-Free Europe coalition, I am writing to call on your attention and leadership to ensure the adoption of urgent protection measures in light of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) conclusions<sup>i</sup> **stressing that all age groups of the EU population are at health risk with the current levels of exposure from bisphenol A (BPA).**

The EDC-Free Europe coalition is an alliance of public interest groups representing more than 70 environmental, health, women's and consumer groups across Europe who share a common concern about hormone disrupting chemicals and their impact on our health and wildlife.

The EFSA opinion from 19 April 2023 establishes a TDI 20 000 times lower than the TDI set in 2015. Yet we are noticing European Commission announcement<sup>ii</sup> that measures to respond to this recommendation could be adopted only in the first quarter of 2024. **While we welcome the intention to ban BPA in food contact materials, we regret that no immediate measures are foreseen to urgently reduce the exposure of EU citizens to BPA given the health risks identified by EFSA.**

As you know, the situation in practice is even more concerning when considering the 2022 results of the European wide human biomonitoring study, HBM4EU, which sadly confirms the widespread contamination of EU citizens with bisphenol A as well as their equally harmful replacements<sup>iii</sup>. The ubiquitous exposure to bisphenols and other harmful chemicals from the early stages of life onwards documented by HBM4EU represents a violation of internationally and constitutionally protected human rights - such as the rights to life and health - as well as

the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as recognised by the UN General Assembly in July 2022.

We are extremely worried given the health concerns associated to the exposure to BPA and other bisphenols including negative effects on children's health, brain development, impairment of reproductive functioning, increasing risks of obesity and diabetes and the potentially harmful effects on the immune system. Furthermore, BPA has also been identified as being of very high concern for wildlife.

Despite the numerous alerts from scientific experts over the last decade and repeated calls for actions from NGOs, we very much regret that the regulation of bisphenol A and other substances from the bisphenol group has remained patchy, inadequate and far too slow.

To urgently respond to the situation, we call on the European Commission to ensure that:

- The upcoming ban of BPA in food contact materials includes all other bisphenols that can be used as replacements.
- The planned bisphenol restriction under REACH, which is currently focussed on the environment only, must be extended to the risks for human health. ECHA needs to be urgently tasked with this extension.

Every day of delay matters for our health, the environment, and the societal costs of this contamination. We call on your leadership to urgently address this situation and finally draw the full lesson from the long-lasting inadequate regulation of BPA and other harmful chemicals.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Jen

**Coordinator EDC-Free Europe campaign**

*The Secretariat of EDC-Free Europe coalition is hosted by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) - HEAL Transparency Register number: 00723343929-96*

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<sup>i</sup> EFSA 19 April 2023 Bisphenol A in Food is a Health Risk <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/bisphenol-food-health-risk>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13832-Food-safety-restrictions-on-bisphenol-A-BPA-and-other-bisphenols-in-food-contact-materials\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13832-Food-safety-restrictions-on-bisphenol-A-BPA-and-other-bisphenols-in-food-contact-materials_en)

<sup>iii</sup> April 2022 Final conference newspaper <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/HBM4EU-Newspaper.pdf>, p. 53.