

October 23, 2020

Stella Kyriakides
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Re: The Endocrine Society welcomes proposed EU actions on endocrine disruptors

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I write to express our appreciation for the Chemicals Strategy and in particular the proposed actions to minimise exposure to endocrine disruptors (EDCs). We thank you for your efforts as Commissioner for Health and Food Safety to protect citizens and their environment.

The Endocrine Society has dedicated years to pressing for science-based policies to regulate [EDCs](#) and we applaud the European Union for its leading role in addressing the harmful effects of these chemicals, and for raising the world-wide visibility of this issue. Our press statement in response to the Chemicals Strategy can be found [here](#).

We are pleased that the range of proposed actions on EDCs reflect several key science-based measures that the Endocrine Society and others from the scientific community have called for. These measures include:

- Hazard-based horizontal identification of EDCs;
- Banning identified EDCs in consumer products, except where there is a proven essential use;
- Adding EDCs as substances of ‘very high concern’ under REACH;
- Stronger data requirements for EDC identification, and updated testing and screening methods
- Banning all PFAS in fire-fighting foams and other uses, except where essential for society.

We look forward to additional details regarding the implementation of these actions and their timely entry into force, to protect citizens’ health and their environment. This is particularly important in view of the evidence linking exposure to EDCs and increased vulnerability to chronic diseases that susceptibility to Covid-19.

Our expert member scientists and clinicians look forward to the development of proposals for action. We are keen to collaborate with you over the coming months as these proposals take shape.

EU Beating Cancer Plan and Endocrine Disruptors

We sincerely appreciate the Commission’s prioritization of cancer as a public health concern and welcome prevention as one of the four pillars of the plan. I also write to reinforce the need to include prevention strategies that reduce exposure to EDCs as part of the Beating Cancer Plan.

As reviewed in the Endocrine Society’s [Second Scientific Statement on EDCs](#), chemical exposures including many classes of EDCs have been linked to increased incidence of breast, endometrial, ovarian, and prostate cancer. Moreover, emerging evidence suggests that individuals are particularly susceptible to EDC exposures



during development, and these early-life exposures may influence the development of disease much later in life. An effective approach to cancer prevention should address the impact of EDCs and specifically call for:

- Minimizing exposure to hazardous EDCs throughout the environment and in consumer products.
- Recognition of the need to protect all citizens from irreversible effects and particularly vulnerable populations—including but not limited to, children, adolescents, and pregnant women.
- Development of science-based identification and regulatory strategies on EDCs applicable across all sectors of the economy and sources of exposure.
- Implementation of hazard-based regulatory strategies for EDCs covering both low-level and high-level exposures, including cumulative and mixture effects. This includes synthesizing basic science (comprising animal and in vitro studies), clinical observations, and epidemiological data.

We note that these actions are largely consistent with many of the EDC-focused provisions in the Chemicals Strategy.

Our global membership of over 18,000 scientists, clinicians, and healthcare experts are leading research on the molecular roots of cancer and endocrine neoplasias, as well as the effectiveness of various therapies, to identify new and better ways to treat these diseases. Hormone-related cancers—including breast, prostate, and thyroid cancer—rank among the most common forms of cancer, and in addition to tackling these diseases, our members' research offers hope for individuals diagnosed with rare conditions, such as adrenal cancer and multiple endocrine neoplasia.

We look forward to a comprehensive plan to fight cancer and support member states' ability to control this disease and call on the Commission to include actions to support reduced exposures to EDCs as part of a preventative approach to fighting cancer.

Thank you for considering our comments; if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to reach out to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] endocrine.org.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]