

French Minister of Health: No risk from BPA

Roselyne Bachelot, the French Minister for Health and Sport, confirmed on 31 March 2009, that Bisphenol A (BPA) does not represent a health risk.

Answering questions from French Deputies in the French National Assembly, the Health Minister stated that reliable studies had concluded that BPA-based baby bottles are harmless. The Minister noted that recent in-depth studies by the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) had proved that there was no risk.

The Minister underlined that any residual levels of BPA are significantly inferior to the maximum limits fixed by health authorities. The studies have also been confirmed by other important health agencies, including the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

In response to questions from French Deputies regarding the restriction of BPA in Canada, the Minister declared that the Canadian decision have been taken under the pressure of public opinion, with no serious scientific basis.

Regarding the use of the precautionary principle, the Health Minister firmly reminded Deputies that the precautionary principle is one based on reason, and in no case a principle based on emotion. Furthermore, the precautionary principle should not be used when reliable scientific studies exist.

More information :

- Official transcript of discussions of the French National Assembly of 31 March 2009 (in French)
www.assembleenationale.fr/13/cri/2008-2009/20090209.asp#INTER_13
- European Plastics Industry Information Website on Bisphenol A
www.bisphenol-a-europe.org

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