

Time to move forward on the EU Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters

The PC/BPA Group of PlasticsEurope echoes the recent calls of the European Chemical Industry Council, CEFIC, and urges the European Commission to take the next steps in its "Community Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters".

Like CEFIC, the PC/BPA group underlines the fact that the European Commission, individual member states and stakeholders all agree that the EU Strategy and the so-called 'Priority List for Further Evaluation' **is not and was not intended to be a list of confirmed endocrine disrupters.**

The European Commission must therefore begin the evaluation of the substances on the "Priority List for Further Evaluation". This will prevent ongoing misuse by certain actors of the Priority List, often used as justification for calls for the deselection of certain substances. In many cases, substances on the list are already well tested and evaluations are available through the EU's own risk assessment system.

Regarding bisphenol A, the PC/BPA group highlights that:

- According to the widely accepted "Weybridge definition" agreed by EU Member State scientists (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/endocrine/documents/reports_en.htm) in 1996, bisphenol A is not an endocrine disruptor, because it does not show any reproducible evidence of adverse effects through the endocrine mechanism and it is not a selective reproductive toxicant.
 - Like many naturally-occurring substances and everyday foodstuffs, bisphenol A shows very weak, estrogen-like activity. But robust multigenerational studies have shown that human reproduction and development are not affected by every-day exposure to realistic dose levels of bisphenol A.
 - In conclusion, the weight of scientific research shows that there is no risk to humans, wildlife or the environment from exposure to bisphenol A-based products in their intended uses.
- For the full CEFIC position paper please see:
http://www.cefic.be/Files/Publications/CEFIC%20position_EU%20Strategy%20ED.pdf
- For more information on bisphenol A, please visit www.bisphenol-a-europe.org

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