

## **French Senate proposal to suspend the commercialisation of Bisphenol A-based polycarbonate baby bottles is neither proportionate nor based on science**

The French Senate has called on the French government to temporarily suspend the commercialisation of BPA-based polycarbonate baby bottles in France, until the French Food Safety Authority (AFSSA) issued conclusions on their ongoing assessments of Bisphenol A (BPA).

**The proposal itself has no legal implications for the current commercialisation of BPA-based polycarbonate baby bottles in France.** It must now be transmitted to the French National Assembly and its committees, which have no obligation to examine or to implement the Senate's request. The French Minister for Health and Sport Roselyne Bachelot has already argued that the proposal is not a proportionate response to any concerns about BPA-based baby bottles, and that existing scientific evidence on BPA is reassuring. She stressed that it is essential to base a decision on objective factors, and more information will become available soon from the respective expert authorities, including AFSSA and the national French research institute INSERM.

The Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A (PC/BPA) industry group of PlasticsEurope is deeply concerned that the proposal by the French Senate will unnecessarily spread anxiety among consumers and, at the same time, create needless business and investment uncertainty. *"There is no science-based need to ask for a commercialisation suspension of polycarbonate baby bottles in France"* says Jasmin Bird of the PC/BPA-group.

Whilst the French Senate does not support a ban of the aforementioned products, the request is in contradiction to the existing French, European and global regulatory assessments of BPA. It is not based on scientific evidence, and furthermore ignores both the questions about the safety of available substitutes as well as the ongoing BPA evaluation and assessment activities of the responsible French, European and global safety agencies.

Only two days ago, AFSSA highlighted their ongoing scientific assessment activities concerning BPA, stating that "BPA has been used for more than 40 years in various applications for materials in contact with food and water. Various risk assessments carried out by food and health safety authorities have concluded that, based on the available scientific data, there is no risk for the consumers in the current applications." AFSSA also reiterated its intention to work together with the other regulatory agencies including the European Food Safety Authority.

Jasmin Bird stated *"An approach grounded in science rather than politics is the only one that can provide consumers with the reassurance that the products they buy are safe."*

For more information on BPA, please visit the industry information website on BPA at [www.bisphenol-a-europe.org](http://www.bisphenol-a-europe.org).

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