

Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A group

February 10, 2010

## **Bisphenol A industry group welcomes French Agency decision to focus on research**

The PlasticsEurope Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A group today welcomed the decision by the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) to focus on further research into better understanding potential endocrine active substances. With respect to Bisphenol A (BPA) after reviewing recently published scientific information, the agency did not recommend any immediate action to restrict the chemical in a statement issued on Friday 5 February 2010.

The industry welcomed AFSSA's intention to develop a science based methodology for assessing the reported effects of exposure to such chemicals at low doses at a European level. It is hoped that such a methodology will move discussion on studies purporting to show low dose effects on to firm scientific ground. Jasmin Bird of the PlasticsEurope Polycarbonate/Bisphenol A industry group 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."

In its statement AFSSA reiterated that existing assessments from both the European Food Safety Agency and the US Food and Drug Administration have concluded that Bisphenol A poses no risk to consumers. The agency concluded that flaws in the methodology of new studies required more research to be undertaken. In particular, the agency called for further data to be gathered in France on different exposure routes to Bisphenol A.

AFSSA is the latest scientific body to recommend a science based approach to concerns over Bisphenol A. Last week the US Food and Drug Administration decided against taking regulatory measures on Bisphenol A and instead reconfirmed their commitment to already allocated funding for research on the chemical.

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*Notes to the editors:*

Under the following links please find more information related to the FDA and AFSSA statements:

<http://www.hhs.gov/safety/bpa>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/16/health/16plastic.html>

<http://www.afssa.fr/Documents/PRES2010CP003EN.pdf>