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*Position paper*

## **European Commission publication of criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the field of plant protection products and biocides**

The members of the PC/BPA-group acknowledge the Commission's proposal to base the criteria to identify endocrine disruptors on the broadly accepted WHO/IPCS definition. However, for the purposes of reliable regulatory decision making, we view that these criteria might not provide sufficient clarity in all cases.

For the endocrine disruptor identification based on WHO/ICPS-criteria, the Commission specifies how this identification should be carried out: namely *"by making use of all relevant scientific evidence, using a weight of an evidence-based approach and applying a robust systematic review."*<sup>1</sup>

For the industrial chemical Bisphenol A, a comprehensive scientific evaluation following these science-based principles has already been conducted: In its evaluation on BPA published in 2015, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) reviewed all available scientific studies on BPA in a systematic approach, including the literature on potential endocrine-related effects of BPA. In applying a weight-of-scientific evidence approach the EFSA expert panel concluded that *"based on the WHO criteria, it is not possible to conclude that BPA is an endocrine disruptor"*.<sup>2</sup>

The scientific criteria as endorsed by the European Commission are to be applied to any respective chemical substance in order to be able to decide whether or not the substance is an ED. Results of these comprehensive scientific evaluations are expected during the coming years. For BPA, such an evaluation is already available.

The documents from the European Commission can be found here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/endocrine\\_disruptors/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/endocrine_disruptors/policy/index_en.htm)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-2152\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2152_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/node/913756>