



Women in Europe for a Common Future | WECF

Attention:

College of Commissioners
European Commission

June 14th 2016,

Subject: Commission decision on Endocrine Disruptors (EDCs) Criteria – WECF international symposium June 9th points out the need to protect pregnant women and children from toxic chemicals

Dear Commissioners,

Tomorrow, by announcing official scientific criteria of EDCs, you are about to make an important choice for the health of millions of European citizens. Women in Europe for a Common Future, as an NGO network much involved in the prevention of vulnerable populations' exposure to toxic chemicals, would like to share with you some core elements pointed out by speakers and scientists during the international symposium we organized in Paris on June 9th. Indeed, we are very much concerned that the appropriate choice of EDCs criteria is made to ensure the best protection of vulnerable populations from harmful chemical exposures.

Speakers of June 9th event included Dr Jeanne Conry, past president of the American Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics, and co-chair of the working group on environmental health of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and Patrice Sutton, academic coordinator at the Program for Reproductive Health and the Environment of the University of California, San Francisco. Both of them stressed the need to move from knowledge to action, and to carry out collective action, using all powerful opportunities to prevent the rise of non-communicable diseases linked to exposures to toxic chemicals, including EDCs. As well, scientists reminded that robust science reflecting real exposure, and use of the precautionary principle were needed to advance towards a better protection from harmful chemical exposures.

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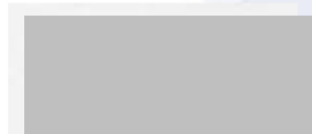
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Code BIC : SOGEFRPP

WECF would like to point out that for EDCs criteria, this means clearly that science-based criteria are the core elements on which a definition should be based. As such, an impact assessment based on socio-economic elements, is not relevant to make the best decision in the interest of people's health and that of future generations. Especially because pregnancy is such a vulnerable period to the unborn, criteria such as potency cannot be considered valid for this definition.

The Commission, in its role of EU leading political institution, has an historic role in making choice reflecting most robust scientific elements: this definition, to be used as a tool to regulate EDCs can foster innovation and environmental health protection. We would therefore advise you to follow WHO classification in 3 categories – known, probable and suspected – to reflect the wide spectrum of effects which can affect populations.

We thank you for the attention you will give to these important elements and trust that your decision will reflect existing scientific body of evidence and health professionals considerations.

Yours sincerely,



President WECF France



Advocacy Manager WECF France



