

*Speaking points TBT C
November 2014*

15. EU – CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY COMPOUNDS AS ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

Thank you Chair and thank you to the United States for continued interest in the ongoing work on endocrine disruptors in the European Union.

As mentioned in previous meetings of the Committee the European Union will carry out a comprehensive impact assessment that will analyse different options for defining criteria for the identification of endocrine disruptors and their corresponding health, socio-economic and environmental effects once incorporated in different pieces of EU legislation.

In this context, the European Commission published in mid-June 2014, a roadmap which sets out the scope of the Impact Assessment, and presents the policy options that are being assessed.

At least two studies supporting the impact assessment are needed. The first one has started and will assess which chemicals may be identified as endocrine disruptors under each of the various options for the criteria. The second one will assess the socio-economic, health and environmental impacts of the implementation of the various options for the criteria into the relevant legislations.

As part of the impact assessment process, on 26 September the European Commission launched a public consultation on the definition of criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors in the context of the implementation of the EU's plant protection products regulation and the biocidal products regulation. This public consultation will provide information relevant to the impact assessment.

The public consultation will last till 16 January 2015. The usual consultation period of 12 weeks has been extended to allow all stakeholders sufficient time to provide input. The EU calls on all interested stakeholders, including WTO members to actively participate in this public consultation.

Once the consultation is closed a feedback report will be issued with an assessment of all replies received. Such factual, quantitative report will feed into the work for the Impact Assessment whose outcome will not prejudice or constitute the announcement of any position on the part of the European Commission, but will allow the Commission to take an informed decision as regards further EU's legislative work as appropriate.

Only after the impact assessment is concluded, the European Commission will present proposals for introducing criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the EU's plant protection products regulation and biocidal products regulation. The criteria may have an impact on other pieces of EU legislation.

Thank you chair.