

From: [REDACTED] (SG)
Sent: 08 February 2018 15:10
To: [REDACTED] (SG)
Subject: BTO - today's meeting with Endocrine Society

From: [REDACTED] (SG)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 3:32 PM
To: LAUTSO-MOUSNIER Marika (CAB-KATAINEN)
Cc: SLEATH William (SG); [REDACTED] (SG)
Subject: BTO - today's meeting with Endocrine Society

Meeting with Endocrine Society – 26 September 2017

Participants: [REDACTED] (Endocrine Society)
M. Lautso-Mousnier (Cab Katainen), [REDACTED] (SG)

Representatives of the Endocrine Society asked for a meeting to present their activities and to discuss the COM's work in the area of Endocrine Disruptors (ED), in particular as regards the establishment of criteria for Plant Protection Products / Biocides and the forthcoming Strategy on ED. They explained that:

- The Endocrine Society is the oldest and largest global scientific organisation devoted to research on hormones / endocrinology (representing more than 18,000 health care professionals/researchers in more than 100 countries, including 24 EU Member States). They are not an advocacy group, and have been following the debate on the establishment of ED criteria at EU level for the broader implications this would have on scientific research on ED.
- They have concerns with the approach followed by the COM when establishing criteria for ED and have flagged this to EU Member States and MEPs in July 2017. Their main concerns are:
 - The COM criteria set an excessively high burden of proof to establish that a substance is an ED. This, combined with the absence of categories for ED in the Commission's measure (i.e. not only established/presumed ED, but also suspected ED and endocrine active substances without evidence of adverse effects) makes it very difficult to identify substances as EDs.
 - The derogation provided by the COM measure for certain ED substances with respect to their effect on non-target organisms creates confusion in identifying these substances as ED.
 - In general, the approach taken by the COM in establishing ED criteria risks stifling fast-developing scientific research in the field, does not encourage R&D to develop alternative substances and has important cost implications (not only health-related but also in terms of productivity losses).
- The Endocrine Society has a major interest in the forthcoming COM strategy on ED and welcomes the COM's commitment to finance research in the field. In their view, more financing should be provided for projects focusing on basic research (rather than on screening).

The COM:

- Took note of the Endocrine Society's concerns. It explained that COM's decisions are based on scientific evidence and take account of the advice provided by its agencies.

- Noted that the reflection on the ED strategy has just started at political level under the leadership of VP Katainen. The VP intends to adopt a broad cross-cutting approach involving all relevant COM departments and is aware of the international dimension of the work in the field. The criteria currently subject to the EP scrutiny are specific to the legislation on Plant Protection Products / Biocides but are of course also linked to the broader reflection on ED.

The Endocrine Society representatives welcomed the intention to work on a broad strategy for ED and committed to share any relevant document with COM.