

## **Advocating for better hormone health: key messages to share with policymakers**

Please adapt this information to suit your communications with policymakers and others.

### **Update on legislation relating to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)**

#### **Background: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation**

The [REACH regulation](#) came into force in the EU on 1 June 2007. The aim was to improve protection of human health and the environment from the risks posed by chemicals, while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

As part of the Green Deal and the development of a Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, the current European Commission committed to review the REACH legislation, to put in place more stringent criteria for the approval and re-assessment of chemicals.

Unfortunately, the new REACH legislative proposal has not yet been published. It will now be for the next European Commission to consider. However, following the start of the European Commission's new term in late Autumn 2024, it is unlikely to return to the political agenda before 2025.

#### **Why this matters**

An ambitious revision to REACH would be a major step towards reducing the presence of EDCs in our environment. Given the proven links between EDC exposure and endocrine conditions, this would have a significant impact on population health in Europe. A revised REACH proposal would need to:

- factor in the 'mixture effect' of combining multiple harmful chemicals
- accelerate regulatory processes which are currently very slow
- significantly reduce the current high burden of proof for national and European authorities to take precautionary actions
- encourage the replacement of harmful chemicals with safe alternatives.

#### **Action to date**

To urge the Commission to publish the REACH revision during the parliamentary term ending June 2024, ESE and partners [presented a petition](#) to Ursula von der Leyen, signed by 44 international and European national and specialist endocrine societies. This was followed by a similar petition signed by eight international patient associations representing about

300 national patient organisations in the world and more than 40 national endocrine patient organisations.

In association with the European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology, the European Thyroid Association and the Endocrine Society, we also held a [high-level policy event on EDCs](#) in the European Parliament on 7 June 2023, hosted by MEPs Martin Hojsík (Slovakia) and Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland).

While there is still no confirmed timeline for publication of the REACH proposal, the voice of endocrinologists and researchers in the field is increasingly acknowledged by the EU institutions, civil society and other stakeholders at the EU and national level.

### **What next?**

During what remains of the current parliamentary term and over the next five years, the endocrine community must continue to push for publication of the REACH revision as well as continue their engagement with other ongoing EDC related debates. These include the [proposal to reduce emissions from polyfluoroalkyl substances](#) (PFAS), where proposed exceptions may significantly reduce the impact of the proposed legislation.

### **More information**

- [ESE's advocacy activities on EDCs](#)
- [Update on REACH proposals](#) by European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- Information on ESE's [EndoCompass project](#), which sets out a roadmap for tailored EU research funding for endocrinology, including in the area of EDCs
- Information on [proposal to reduce emissions from polyfluoroalkyl substances](#) (PFAS)

### **European Society of Endocrinology**

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