



EDC FREE EUROPE
LET'S STOP HORMONE DISRUPTORS

Policy brief:

EDC-Free Europe's concerns on the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus



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This policy brief highlights the health and environment concerns of the EDC-Free Europe coalition regarding the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus (X) proposal, presented by the European Commission in December 2025. It sets out two key issues and provides a series of recommendations to strengthen the proposal's protections.

About EDC-Free Europe

EDC-Free Europe is a coalition representing more than 70 public interest groups, which share a concern about endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and their impact on our health and wildlife. Our coalition partners include trade unions, consumers, public health and healthcare professionals, advocates for cancer prevention, environmentalists and women's groups.

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What are EDCs?

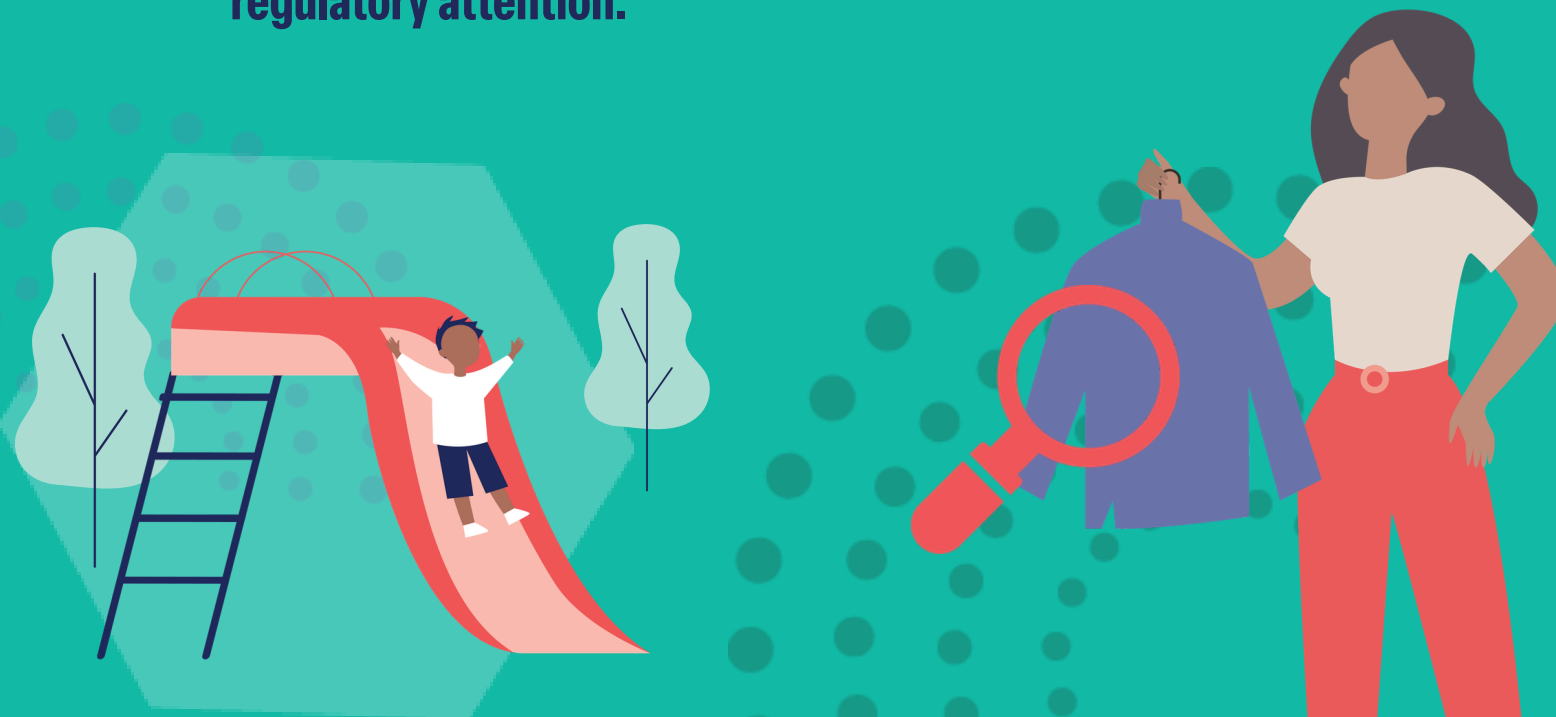
Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) interfere with hormonal systems and are linked to cancers, diabetes, developmental disorders, and reproductive health issues.

Children, pregnant women, and future generations are especially vulnerable, even at low doses.¹

The annual health cost of EDCs in Europe alone is estimated at €163 billion.²

Research suggests there may be no safe level of exposure to EDCs, particularly during sensitive periods of development.^{3, 4}

Because EDCs can affect the human body and the environment in multiple ways, they require specific regulatory attention.



A growing recognition for the need to address EDCs in the European Institutions

The recent discussions on the Chemicals Omnibus have generated increased interest in addressing EDCs: the European Parliament signalled strong support across political groups to better regulate EDCs in cosmetics, coming within three votes of being included in the Parliament's negotiating position on the Chemicals Omnibus. And in an exchange with the European Parliament in May 2026, related to the latest developments around the REACH update, EU Commission Vice-President Séjourné underlined the commitment to the identification and restriction of EDCs.

This political momentum must now be reflected in the Parliament's position on the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus, to ensure it strengthens rather than weakens health protections against EDCs.





EDCs in Pesticides

Pesticides are a key route of exposure to EDCs, which are found in food, water, soil, and air. Since 2009, the EU committed to identifying and banning EDCs in pesticides and biocides. They are considered to be of equal concern as pesticides with carcinogenic properties, which is why they should be banned or severely restricted in use.

Yet this commitment has not been fully implemented. Two recent reports highlighted the presence of EDCs on the food consumed across Europe:

- Nearly 40% of locally produced apple samples tested in 2026 by PAN Europe contained Fludioxonil, a PFAS pesticide identified by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as an endocrine disruptor;⁵
- 46% of food consumed in Spain contains pesticide residues. Based on the 2026 data from Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN), Ecologistas en Acción highlighted that of the 127 detected pesticides, 48 were endocrine disruptors.⁶

Food and Feed Safety Omnibus: a step back in health and environmental protection

In April 2026, an independent scientific assessment commissioned by the Dutch Parliament concluded that the Omnibus X proposal will not achieve its stated objectives. The scientists conclude that it will not simplify regulation, reduce administrative burden, or accelerate authorisations for biocontrol products as promised. Instead, the assessment identifies several major risks concerning the protection of human health and the environment.⁷



The Food and Feed Safety Omnibus raises two key health and environment protection concerns for EDC-Free Europe:

1

Concern: Unlimited approvals to most active substances in pesticides



Currently, pesticides authorisations must be reviewed every 10-15 years to allow for the assessment of new scientific evidence of health impacts. The European Commission proposal would remove this requirement for most substances, preventing reassessment in light of new scientific evidence. Without periodic review, substances linked to endocrine disruption – such as mancozeb, dimethomorph, and flufenacet – would still be on the market today, putting the health, of citizens and wildlife at risk. Lifting the approval time limit would concern 49 substances, without additional evaluation to scientifically support this decision, according to a report by Générations futures.⁸

What EDC-Free Europe recommends:



EDC-Free Europe calls for maintaining mandatory periodic re-evaluation.

As highlighted in an answer from EFSA's executive director to the question posed by French MP Benoît Biteau and the Croatian MEP Biljana Borzan, EFSA has indicated that with 50 additional experts and €15 million in funding, the current backlog could be cleared within three years, without removing review requirements.⁹



2

Concern: Approval by derogation for endocrine disruptors



According to EU Regulation 1107/2009 pesticides identified as endocrine disruptors are considered to be of equal concern as pesticides with carcinogenic properties, which is why they must be banned, and only approved by derogation.

Current law limits derogations to cases of serious plant health threats. The proposal expands the realm of derogation to 'plant production' needs and does not explicitly exclude endocrine disruptors, unlike carcinogens. This risks increasing the health exposure of farmers, consumers, and the wider population to substances already identified as endocrine disruptors.

What EDC-Free Europe recommends



EDC-Free Europe recommends explicitly excluding endocrine disruptors from derogation provisions, in line with the existing treatment of carcinogens. Endocrine disruptors have been formally recognised as distinct hazard classes under the revised EU Classification, Labelling, and Packaging (CLP) Regulation since 2023.

Additional recommendations

- Maintain member states' ability to act on new science
- Avoid extensions of grace periods
- Maintain mandatory periodic re-evaluation for biocidal active ingredients according to the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR, EU Regulation 528/2012)



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Campaign partners include trade unions, consumers, public health and healthcare professionals, advocates for cancer prevention, environmentalists and women's groups.



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