

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in the EU

While most of the health portfolio falls under each EU member state to legislate, the area of chemicals regulation is one where the EU has unique competence to propose legislation that govern the entire union. The regulation for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is the main framework for chemicals in the EU. The 2019-2024 Commission is striving towards an even more ambitious approach and has proposed the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability to set the pace for the coming years.

The EU proposes criteria for and manages the restriction process of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs). The EU in 2017 adopted EDC criteria for pesticides and biocides and the European Commission recently carried out a fitness check to evaluate whether legislation on EDCs is fit for purpose.

The European Society of Endocrinology responded to the fitness check consultation and the consultation on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. Our main concern is the urgent need for consistent definitions, criteria, and identification data requirements for EDCs across all EU legislation. ESE therefore engages with members of the European Parliament to provide expert input in ongoing legislative work, as well as the Directorate General for Environment in the European Commission.

A coordinated funding effort is needed to stimulate independent research in this area. Without additional efforts, people will continue to be exposed to chemicals that can severely affect their health and well-being.

ESE resources

Read about ESE and the EDC Working Group's work [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

[UNDERSTAND](#) ESE's reaction to the European Commission's communication on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in the EU in 2018.

[READ](#) ESE's response to the consultation on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability in 2020.

EU resources

- Understanding REACH [webpage](#).
- European Commission Endocrine Disruptors [Q&A](#).
- Fitness Check [strategy](#) for Endocrine Disruptors by the European Commission.
- Compilation of [consultation comments](#) for the Fitness Check by the EU Joint Research Centre.

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