

## Bisphenol A has a detrimental effect for human and animal health and our general environment

### Joint statement by the Endocrine Society and the European Society of Endocrinology

1. Following a session around Bisphenol A (BPA) at the [4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Annual Forum on Endocrine Disruptors](#), our societies recognize the need to reiterate that there is widespread scientific evidence that exposure to BPA, including at small quantities or in combination with other chemicals as a mixture, is harmful for human, animal, and ecological health. The EU has long recognised that BPA is harmful and has classified BPA as reprotoxic and an endocrine disruptor for human health and for the environment under REACH.

EU-level studies<sup>1</sup> are consistent with the “Data integration, analysis, and interpretation of eight academic CLARITY-BPA studies” in showing that:

- Developmental exposure to BPA can lead to adverse effects in multiple organs systems, including the brain, prostate gland, urinary tract, ovary, mammary gland, and heart.
  - Many effects were at the lowest dose tested, and many of the responses were non-monotonic.
  - Because the low dose of BPA affected endpoints in the same animals across organs evaluated in different labs, these are biologically – and toxicologically – relevant.
2. By restating this well-established science we wish to clarify the scientific status quo on health impacts of exposure to BPA, and thus resolve any misunderstandings arising from the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum’s session on BPA on 22<sup>nd</sup> September where the scope of the presentations did not entirely reflect the breadth of science describing the impact of BPA on human and ecological health. The European Court of Justice has also confirmed in various cases, most recently at end of 2021, that BPA was correctly listed as a “substance of very high concern” in REACH due to its endocrine disrupting properties for humans.

As the voice of European, US and other global leading experts actively studying the health effects of BPA and other bisphenols, we urge decision makers to implement without further delay the necessary measures to address the continuous high presence of BPA and other bisphenols in our environment.

Other bisphenols are often used as substitutes for BPA and have also been shown to be harmful, but they will remain in widespread use unless they can be assessed more quickly for restriction as a group. The European Commission’s recently published ‘[Restrictions Roadmap](#)’ promotes group restrictions for a range of harmful chemicals in order to speed up the decisions on restricting exposure to harmful chemicals. The German Environment Agency is now preparing a proposal for a group restriction of bisphenols to submit to the EU Chemicals Agency, ECHA, in the coming weeks.

In Europe real progress has been made by the European Food and Safety Authority (EFSA) earlier this year. After careful review of the available scientific data, they proposed to lower the recommended Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) for humans to 0.04 nanograms per kilogram of body weight per day. This represents a 100,000-fold drop in comparison to the 2015 *risk assessment* and hence a clear acknowledgement of the risk that exposure to BPA poses for public health at extremely low levels.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Such as: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19577634/> and <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26676280/>

<sup>2</sup> [Bisphenol A: EFSA draft opinion proposes lowering the tolerable daily intake | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#)

- We look forward to confirmation by EFSA in December of their proposed TDI limit for BPA.
- We call on the US Government represented by the FDA and other regulatory bodies across the globe to follow suit and adopt similarly ambitious regulatory measures to address the adverse BPA health effects.

It is pivotal for our health and environment that through effective policy and regulatory measures we phase out BPA as well as other bisphenols and their substitutes from our daily life.

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#### **About BPA**

Bisphenol A is one of the most widespread chemicals in our environment and can be found in many daily items including water bottles, canned food, sports equipment, household electronics and many other products that are packaged in plastic containers. BPA is used in so many products that exposure is thought to be ubiquitous, and nearly continual. Unlike some other endocrine disruptors, BPA is rapidly metabolized and does not bioaccumulate in the body, so reducing exposure can rapidly reduce body burden.

#### **About the Endocrine Society**

Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization dedicated to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Our global membership of over 18,000 includes expert researchers advancing our understanding of interference with hormonal systems by manufactured chemicals, called endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

#### **About the European Society of Endocrinology**

The European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) provides a platform to develop and share leading research and best knowledge in endocrine science and medicine. By uniting and representing every part of the endocrine community, we are best placed to improve the lives of patients. Through the 51 National Societies involved with the ESE Council of Affiliated Societies (ECAS) ESE represents a community of over 20,000 European endocrinologists. We inform policy makers on health decisions at the highest level through advocacy efforts across Europe.