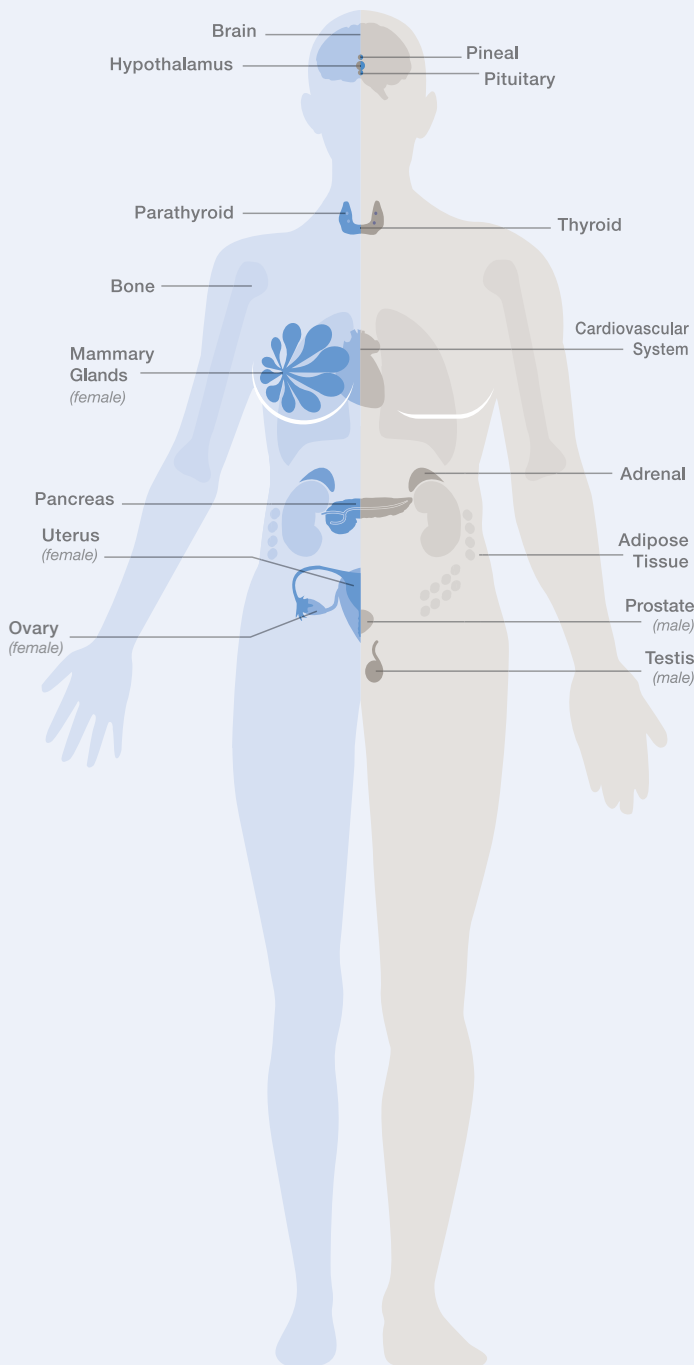


THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY

CALL FOR FURTHER SCIENCE-BASED EU POLICIES ON ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING CHEMICALS (EDCS)

GLANDS OF THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM AFFECTED BY EDCS



INTRODUCTION

The Endocrine Society welcomes the progress made by EU regulations to reduce exposure to harmful EDCs during the 2019-2024 EU mandate. We now call on EU policymakers to take further science-based actions to close the gaps in regulation and effectively protect our health and environment from harmful EDCs.

THERE IS A SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS THAT EDCS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCURRENCE OF SERIOUS CHRONIC DISEASES AND DISORDERS

Strong scientific evidence has linked EDCs to obesity, diabetes, infertility and cancer, which entail a very large health burden in Europe. Despite this knowledge, EDCs remain pervasive in our environment, causing daily exposure for citizens across the EU, and highlighting the need for urgent action.

- [Gore A, et al., *Endocrine Reviews*, Volume 36, Issue 6, 1 December 2015](#)
- [“State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals - 2012” ISBN: 978-92-807-3274-0 \(UNEP\) and 978 92 4 150503 1 \(WHO\)](#)
- [Reincke, M., et al. *Nat Rev Endocrinol* 20, 187–188 \(2024\). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41574-024-00958-0>](#)

EU POLICYMAKERS CAN LEAD THE WAY ON EDCS: NEXT STEPS NEEDED

EDCs were recognized in [EU legislation](#) in 2022 through the introduction of new hazard classes, similar to the approach used for CMRs. These chemicals therefore are a priority for action to reduce their use and our exposure. We welcome this important step, coherent with our former calls and advice, as essential to recognize EDCs as a health threat and identify them.

Further actions are now needed to complement this policy and ensure EDCs are effectively regulated to protect the health of EU citizens and future generations. These actions were promised in the Green Deal under the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability and are still urgently needed.

Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Our membership consists of over 18,000 scientists, physicians, educators, nurses, and students in more than 100 countries. Society members represent all basic, applied, and clinical interests in endocrinology. Some of the world's leading experts on the health effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are included in our members.

We support science-based policies to address the harm to human health and the environment from widespread exposure to EDCs across Europe and globally. We are active participants in EU legislative and regulatory policy-making relevant to EDCs. We also participate in policy discussion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

SUMMARY CALL

We call on EU policymakers to adopt up-to-date science-based laws to reduce exposure to harmful EDCs. This includes:

- Bans on the use of EDCs in all consumer products including toys, cosmetics, and food packaging.
- Quicker identification and restrictions on EDCs through implementation of actions promised in the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability; specifically,
 - a revised REACH legislation that incorporates modern testing methods,
 - safety assessments that can efficiently identify effects at very low doses, also for their mixtures, and
 - group-based restrictions that apply data from known hazardous chemicals to other chemicals with similar structures to prevent untested chemicals being used as substitutes.
- A general ban on PFAS due to their EDC properties and environmental persistence, following from the recently agreed restrictions on PFAS in food packaging materials.

BACKGROUND

By interfering with natural hormone biology, EDCs prevent our endocrine system from functioning properly, leading to endocrine diseases. While everyone can be impacted by exposure to EDCs at any age, puberty and pregnancy are examples of sensitive developmental stages where EDCs are particularly harmful, even at very low levels.

Scientific evidence on EDCs is not yet fully incorporated into EU regulations. This is partly because many policies to address toxic chemicals were developed before knowledge of endocrine disruption was widespread, and comprehensive screening of chemicals for endocrine effects is not yet required by the regulations. However, modern science-based approaches now exist that can incorporate [principles of endocrinology](#) into public health protections.

The regulatory gap for EDCs needs to be closed under the next EU mandate to ensure harmful EDCs are identified and effectively controlled to protect public health and the environment.

The Endocrine Society's expert scientists and clinicians stand ready to help you in your efforts to protect public health. To speak with a member of our Society, please contact Joe Laakso, PhD, Director of Science Policy at jlaakso@endocrine.org.

Learn More at our [EDC Topic Page](#) and also in the following:

- [Endocrine Society Position Statement on EDCs in the European Union](#)
- [Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals: Threats to Human Health](#)
- [Let's Talk EDCs Video Series](#)
- [Estimating cost of burden of EDCs in the EU](#)
- [Endocrine Disruptors: From Scientific Evidence to Human Health Protections – 2019 report for European Parliament](#)