

Maroš Šefčovič
Executive Vice-President
European Commission

15 September, 2023

Dear Vice-President Šefčovič:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I am writing to you as the Vice-President responsible for the Green Deal to highlight that the commitments in the Green Deal and Zero Pollution plan will not be fulfilled without an ambitious revision of REACH. Our global medical and scientific community, including many members based in the European Union, is awaiting the Commission's proposals to update REACH and address hazardous exposures to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) that have been linked to numerous human health harms.

These proposals, as provided for by the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS), will provide necessary protections for public health that European citizens are looking for, and we are concerned by reports that these proposals could be delayed beyond the end of this year.

Leadership by the European Union to protect public health is more important now than ever, as endocrine diseases like diabetes, cancer, and reproductive health issues continue to affect millions of people and place a heavy burden on health systems.

President Von Der Leyen this week told the European Parliament of her concern as a grandmother for the future of her grandchildren and questioned whether they would be able to have their own family, in a reference to increasing fertility problems; many EDCs have been identified as impacting on human fertility following early life or adult exposure. Science shows that children's exposure to harmful chemicals now can lead to serious diseases later in life. Moreover, the hazardous effects of chemicals may include transgenerational effects that impact future generations.

Our membership stands ready to provide scientific input and support for the EU's actions and we urge you, in your role of Vice-President for the Green Deal, to ensure updated REACH proposals are delivered by the end of this year to fulfil the commitments of the CSS and provide a legacy for this Commission of action to protect public health.

Sincerely,

Anne-Simone Parent, MD, PhD
Chair, EU EDC Task Force
Endocrine Society