

FACTSHEET

Does EU Commission allow full exposure to endocrine disrupting pesticides?

1. In 2009, in a democratic legal agreement among EU Commission, Parliament and Council, it was decided that people and our ecosystems should not be exposed to endocrine disrupting pesticides¹ given their potential long-term and irreparable effects (cancer, brain and developmental damage to the unborn) following low, environmental exposures.
2. Endocrine disrupting pesticides (EDPs) would be considered a "hazard" and would be banned, just like classified carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (toxic to reproduction) pesticides².
3. The only exception would be in case of "negligible exposure", defined as use of pesticides in closed systems, excluding contact with humans and resulting in food residues below the limit permitted in baby foods³.
4. In 2016 however, EU Commission proposed to change "negligible exposure" to negligible "risk", and allow full exposure to EDPs residues in food based on MRLs⁴, like with any other pesticide.
5. This will result in massive increase of exposure to EDPs in food, 10, 100 or even more than 1000 times⁶ of what it was previously agreed in the pesticide Regulation 1107/2009

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING PESTICIDE (active ingredient)	NEW EXPOSURE UPPER LIMITS MRLs (mg/kg)	ESTIMATED INCREASE OF EXPOSURE (X times) negligible exposure versus MRLs
Mancozeb	10 (strawberries) 25 (hops)	1000 - 2500
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Tralkoxydim	0,05 (spices)	5
Metconazole	0,2 (cherries) 0,4 (oats)	20 - 40
Propyzamide	0,6 (endives)	60
Thiophanate-methyl	6 (oranges, mandarins)	600
Chlorpyrifos	2 (mandarins, kiwis)	200
Pymetrozin	3 (berries, lettuces)	300

YES, the agreement to prevent exposure to humans is abandoned and hormone-like pesticides are allowed 10, 100 and even more than 1000 times in our food.

¹ Regulation 1107/2009, Annex II, 3.6.5, "conditions excluding contact with humans"

² Regulation 1107/2009, Annex II, 3.6.2, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, classes 1A and 1B.

³ Regulation 1107/2009, Annex II, 3.6.5, "closed systems or in other conditions excluding contact with humans"

⁴ <http://www.pan-europe.info/press-releases/2016/06/eu-health-commissioner-andriukaitis-decides-leave-europeans-unprotected>

⁵ MRLs (Maximum Residues Limit) are the agreed maximum levels of pesticide active ingredients permitted in food products

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database-redirect/index_en.htm