

FACTSHEET

Is EU Commission protecting its citizens?

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. Commission service DG Environment was mandated to draft the criteria that would be used to identify EDPs. After massive industry pressure however, the Commission Secretary-General intervened in 2013, side-lined DG Environment, and put DG SANTE (Health) in charge who first had to conduct an economic impact assessment on a new set of criteria options⁴.
5. In 2014 DG SANTE’s willingness to change the rules in favour of industry was revealed by drafting a guideline on “negligible exposure” that would widen the derogation to a big loophole⁵ and violate the purpose of the regulation to remove these pesticides from use in agriculture (unless there is a danger to plant health)
6. In 2016 EU Commission proposed to replace the “negligible exposure” clause with “negligible risk”, have an unreasonably high burden of proof to identify EDCs (much higher for carcinogenic and reprotoxic chemicals) and therefore allow full exposure to EDPs⁶.
7. EDPs will not be banned anymore according to a PAN Europe in-depth study⁷.

No, EU Commission gives priority to commercial interests and TTIP negotiations and is not protecting its people or the environment against the harms of EDPs.

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/2015/05/eu-health-policy-endocrine-disruption-collateral-damage-commission-health>

⁵ <http://www.pan-europe.info/press-releases/2014/05/new-attack-eu-policy-regarding-endocrine-disruption-health-dg-sanco-prepares>

⁶ <http://www.pan-europe.info/press-releases/2016/06/eu-health-commissioner-andriukaitis-decides-leave-europeans-unprotected>

⁷ Impact endocrine criteria - PAN Europe