

**COMMISSIONER DALLI'S VIDEO MESSAGE RECORDING**

***FOR THE***

***EU CONFERENCE ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS:***

***"CURRENT CHALLENGES IN SCIENCE AND POLICY"***

***11-12 JUNE 2012 (KEY NOTE SPEECH PLANNED FROM 15:45 TO 15:55)***

***ORGANISER: EUROPEAN COMMISSION – DG ENVIRONMENT***

***VENUE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION, CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING  
ROOM ALCIDE DE GASPERI***

**SPEECH**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I very much regret being unable to join you today in person, but nevertheless wanted to share some thoughts with you on this important topic.

I thank the Environment Directorate General for organising today's event, and my colleagues Commissioners Potocnik and Geoghegan-Quinn for their continued commitment to address the issue of Endocrine Disrupters.

The growing scientific evidence of the last 40 years has established beyond doubt that some chemicals have the potential to alter the normal functioning of the endocrine system in humans and wildlife.

It is a fact that since 1998, when the Commission adopted its Strategy on Endocrine Disruptors, the Commission has taken a leading role to establish the most up-to-date information, to identify and fill scientific data gaps, and to implement policy as appropriate.

=====

Today, we stand at a turning point. On the one hand, we can be proud that a lot has been accomplished. We know more about Endocrine Disruptors and how they work. On the other, we also realise that that there is a lot more we don't know!

Several pieces of legislation including the legislation on Plant Protection Products and Cosmetics for which I am responsible need to incorporate criteria for the identification of Endocrine Disruptors.

The legislation on Plant Protection Products foresees the incorporation of criteria for the identification of Endocrine Disruptors in the approval process of active substances by December 2013 at the latest.

The Cosmetics legislation also pays particular attention to the issue of substances with endocrine-disrupting properties. A review of this legislation is foreseen with regard to endocrine-disruptors, either when union-wide or internationally agreed criteria for their identification are available, or at the latest by 2015.

Progress in the development of criteria for the identification of such substances is essential for those two pieces of legislation.

But our job with Endocrine Disruptors does not stop there. This is a cross cutting public health issue which is inherent to the world of chemicals in all their applications.

\*\*\*\*\*

Let me conclude by underlining that we need to tackle the question of endocrine disruption in a holistic manner making use of the best available science. The European Union Agencies and Scientific Committees will continue to provide us with solid scientific advice on Endocrine Disruptors as they have done in the past.

I trust this Conference will provide ample opportunity for discussion of the key issues and challenges for science, research and policy.

I wish you all a successful Conference – and I look forward to hearing the outcome of your discussions.

Thank you.