

Trade Union Perspective on the EU regulatory framework for Endocrine Disruptors

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Present situation

- Piecemeal and often inconsistent approach: Plant Protection Product, biocides, REACH, cosmetics, etc...
- No specific provision in the specific legislation for workers protection (chemical agents directive 98/24, carcinogens directive 2004/37 and pregnant workers directive)

Sufficient evidence to act...

- Workers' exposure to EDC is quite common in some sectors or activities
 - In a Dutch study published in 2009, about 30 % of job titles are considered as possibly or probably exposed to EDC
- Wide variety of EDCs: heavy metals, organochloride pesticides, phthalates, BPA, parabens, industrial residues, etc...
- Adverse consequences for the human health and for the next generations

For a global EU strategy

- No only about studying EDC: 2013 will be a crucial year for regulatory initiatives (PPPR directive, REACH and the BPR)
- Time to act more systematically
- Kortenkamp's report: a good basis for the development of a EU strategy

- Need to adopt a specific classification
- REACH review: include explicitly EDC in article 57 on authorization.
- For the Trade Union Priority List for REACH authorisation: EDC as a criterion of prioritisation: see <http://www.etui.org/Publications2/Guides/Trade-Union-Priority-List-for-REACH-Authorisation>
- Address the issue of low volume substances

Pay Special Attention to Workers Protection

- Revision of Directive 2004/37
 - Include reprotoxic substances in the scope of application
 - Need for more legal binding limit values
- Develop EU data bases on substitution