



World Hormone Day
Because Hormones Matter
24 April 2025



**European Society
of Endocrinology**
The voice for endocrinology

Update on legislation relating to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)

Background: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation

The [REACH Regulation](#) came into force in the European Union (EU) on 1 June 2007. The aim was to improve protection of human health and the environment from the risks posed by chemicals, while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

As part of the [Green Deal](#) and the development of a [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability](#), the previous European Commission committed to review the REACH legislation, to put in place more stringent criteria for the approval and re-assessment of chemicals.

Unfortunately, the publication of REACH was (again) delayed and is now expected to be published in Q4 2025 under the guidance of the new Commission that started its mandate on 1 December 2024.

Why does this matter?

An ambitious revision of REACH would be a major step towards reducing the presence of EDCs in our environment. Given the proven links between EDC exposure and endocrine conditions, this would have a significant impact on population health in Europe.

A revised REACH proposal would need to:

- factor in the 'mixture effect' of combining multiple harmful chemicals
- accelerate regulatory processes which are currently very slow
- significantly reduce the current high burden of proof for national and European authorities to take precautionary actions
- encourage the replacement of harmful chemicals with safe alternatives.

However, we have concerns that the upcoming REACH revision will simplify the current rules without fully reflecting the need to protect populations from harmful EDC exposure. For this reason, it is important that we (the European endocrine community) continue to share our views on REACH and EDCs in general to educate policy makers and the general public on the risks EDCs pose for our health and environment.

Action to date

To urge the Commission to publish the REACH revision, ESE and partners have undertaken a number of initiatives. In April 2023 we [presented a petition](#) to the Commission President,

Ursula von der Leyen, signed by 44 international and European national and specialist endocrine societies. This was followed by a similar petition signed by eight international patient associations representing circa 300 global patient organisations in the world and more than 40 national endocrine patient organisations.

In association with the European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE), the European Thyroid Association and the Endocrine Society (USA), we held a [high-level policy event on EDCs](#) in the European Parliament on 7 June 2023, hosted by MEPs Martin Hojsík (Slovakia) and Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland).

More recently in November 2024, ESE worked together with the Endocrine Society urging MEPs to press the Commission on the REACH file during the official hearings of the designated Commissioners.

As a result of this engagement, EU institutions, civil society and other stakeholders at the EU and national level are increasingly recognising the views of endocrinologists and researchers in the field.

What next?

The endocrine community must continue to push for the urgent publication of the REACH revision and contribute to other ongoing EDC-related debates. These include the [proposal to reduce emissions from polyfluoroalkyl substances](#) (PFAS), where proposed exceptions may significantly reduce the impact of the ongoing PFAS restriction proposal.

More information

- ESE's [advocacy activities on EDCs](#)
- [Update on REACH proposals](#) by European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- Information on ESE's [EndoCompass project](#), which sets out a roadmap for tailored EU research funding for endocrinology, including in the area of EDCs
- Information on [proposal to reduce emissions from polyfluoroalkyl substances](#) (PFAS)

European Society of Endocrinology

February 2025