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Questioning HEALTH Expertise
Deficient Evaluation & Conflicts of Interest,

European Parliament Brussels, 4 March 2010

Bisphenol A: Perspective from a European environmental health NGO
1. Introduction to HEAL

2. Why BPA?

3. NGO views

4. BPA on the EU Political Agenda
Introduction to HEAL
Who we are

• 60+ member organisations in 26+ countries

• Response to **increasing recognition of environment & health links** across Europe

• **Platform for groups** to create synergies & advocate stronger policies at EU and international level
Our Mission

- **monitor** environmental health **concerns** and evidence
- **enhance** public **awareness** of environment + health links
- **increase** health community’s **understanding** of and **participation** in EU + national decision-making
- **ensure timely communication** of new science to to reduce policy lag
- **advocate policies** to improve environmental health
Welcome!

Chemicals Health Monitor aims to improve public health by ensuring that key scientific evidence on the links between chemicals and ill-health are rapidly translated into effective policy. We highlight the rationale for more restrictions on certain chemicals and for the substitution of all hazardous chemicals; we encourage a precautionary and participatory approach in all EU policies, especially REACH.

The project was launched by the Health and Environment Alliance in collaboration with CHEM Trust, Collaborative on Health and Environment and other partner organisations in March 2007.

To read a project description in other languages, please, click here.

Headlines

ECHAs invites participants to register for first stakeholder day

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has opened online registration for its First Stakeholders Day to take place in Helsinki, Finland on 10 October 2008. This first stakeholders day of ECHA is (...) (Read more...)

Initiativ Lievensufank paper on breastmilk biomonitoring published in the Environmental Health Journal

On 5 June, Maryse Arendt from the Initiativ lievensufank (IL), a HEAL member, had an article published in the Environmental Health journal on breastmilk biomonitoring and communications issues. (...) (Read more...)

REACH milestone: Public Comment sought for the first proposals for the Candidate List

One of the central pillars of REACH is the so-called Authorisation process, where individual uses of chemicals of 'very high concern' are examined and either permitted or prohibited. The chemicals (...)
Bisphenol A

Sick of chemicals: a review of the evidence
Health Effects of Bisphenol A

Evidence of links with

• prostate cancer;
• breast cancer;
• early onset puberty
• obesity
• diabetes,
• thyroid disorders,
• heart disease,
• fertility/reproductive disorders;
• male reproductive organ birth defects
• altered brain development pre/post birth
• neurobehavioural problems
Bisphenol A & Public Health
What’s happened so far?

Govt positions
- EU EFSA Jan 2007, Jul 2008 – higher Tolerable Daily Intake
- CANADA April 2008 - baby bottle ban
- DENMARK May 2009 - Parliament calls for ban
- US EPA Jan 2010 - ‘new concern’
- FRANCE Affssa Feb 2010 – warning signals
- EFSA new opinion May 2010
- WHO October 2010

Scientific positions
- Wingspread Statement 1991
- Prague Declaration on Endocrine Disruption 2005
- Independent Lit Review 2006
- Chapel Hill Consensus 2007
- Critique of Data Selection Criteria, 2008
- Endocrine Society 2009
- TEDX Meta Review 2009
July 2006 science review:

109 (public) studies - adverse effects at low levels

10 (public) studies - no adverse effects

11 (industry) studies - no adverse effects
### Meta Review of Science June 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of studies</th>
<th>391</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studies with significant effects</td>
<td>319 (82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies with no effects</td>
<td>72 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies using mammals or mammalian tissue</td>
<td>277 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies using fish, amphibians, birds, invertebrates, and other wildlife species or their tissues</td>
<td>115 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies using <em>in vitro</em> methodology</td>
<td>132 (34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies using <em>in vivo</em> methodology</td>
<td>240 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies using both <em>in vivo</em> and <em>in vitro</em> methodologies</td>
<td>19 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Concern about skewed evaluations

March 2008  36 scientific experts on BPA, on EFSA

- predominantly relied on 2 industry-funded ‘Good Laboratory Practice’ studies;
- rated them superior to hundreds of other studies;
- those 2 studies have major conceptual + methodologic flaws


In the face of overwhelming evidence …

an aggressive disinformation campaign using techniques ("manufactured doubt") first developed by the lead, vinyl, and tobacco industries to challenge the reliability of findings published by independent scientists.
NGO views
& resources

Sick of chemicals: a review of the evidence
Bisphenol A in plastics: is it making us sick?

a hazard of modern living
A consumer guide to Bisphenol A
Choosing our future
FOR A HEALTHIER LIFE, CONSUME CHEMICALS IN MODERATION!

Men under threat
How the decline in male reproductive health may be linked to exposure to chemicals.

Breast cancer and exposure to hormonally active chemicals:
An appraisal of the scientific evidence

Factors influencing the risk of breast cancer – established and emerging

Breast cancer: Preventing the preventable
Exposure to certain non-natural chemicals may be contributing to the breast-cancer epidemic.
What is BPA?

As part of this campaign, Breast Cancer UK has prepared the No More BPA report, for the use of Government, the media and the public. You can download the report from here, or you can browse the sections of the report that you are interested in by following the links below.

The No More BPA Report was published on the 1st December 2009 and written by Hratche Koundarjian, Campaign Manager at Breast Cancer UK. The information, opinions and analysis are those of Breast Cancer UK alone and should not be attributed to any other organisation.

- Introduction
- BPA and the hormonal system
- Oestrogen levels and breast cancer
- BPA: The body of evidence
- BPA and breast cancer
- BPA and other chronic health conditions
- BPA exposure in children
- Polycarbonate baby bottles as a source of exposure
- Canadian Government ban of BPA baby bottles
- The withdrawal of BPA baby bottles in the US
- BPA and US federal action
- US health agencies and BPA
- Danish Parliament call for BPA bottle ban
- The UK, EU and BPA
L'essentiel de ce qu'il faut savoir sur le BPA ou Bisphénol A

Où trouve-t'on du Bisphenol A - BPA?
On le trouve dans des usages :
1. alimentaires : biberons, petit électro-ménager de cuisine, récipients plastiques pour micro-onde, bouteilles d'eau réutilisables, revêtement des boîtes de conserve et des cannettes. On le trouve dans les plastiques identifiés par le code de recyclage n° 7 (PC) et, dans une moindre mesure n° 3 et 6.
2. non alimentaires : pare-choc, lunettes, CD, papier thermique, ciments dentaires...
Or des traces de Bisphenol A (BPA) ont été retrouvées dans les aliments en contact avec ces emballages plastiques.

Comment est-on exposé au Bisphenol A - BPA?
L' imprégnation de Bisphenol A (BPA) à partir de plastiques ou de revêtements à base de résine époxy dépend du type d'aliment, de boisson, de la température et de la durée de chauffe.

Quels sont les effets du Bisphenol A - BPA?
Le Bisphenol A (BPA) agit comme un perturbateur endocrinien et est impliqué dans des affections aussi variées que les problèmes de reproduction, l'obésité, les cancers du sein et de la prostate, le diabète, les dysfonctionnements thyroïdiens et les problèmes d'attention chez les enfants. L'exposition en bas âge peut augmenter une prédisposition aux cancers en affectant la programmation génétique du développement des individus.
Hormone aus der Dose: Getränkedosen enthalten Bisphenol A


Mehr...

Schnuller geben hormonell wirksames Bisphenol A ab

Viele Babyschnuller sind mit hormonell wirksamen Chemikalien belastet. In allen zehn im Auftrag des BUND untersuchten Schnullern wurde Bisphenol A gefunden. Es steht im Verdacht, Unfruchtbarkeit, Schädigungen der Gehirnentwicklung und Brustkrebs hervorzurufen. Folgetests ergaben, dass sich die Substanz durch Speichelinwirkung aus den Schnullern lösen kann. Mehr...

Frau Lembke
Pfui Teufel: Bisphenol A

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland
Regional & local municipal initiatives:

French city bans of BPA baby bottles in day care:

- Paris
- Nantes
- Toulouse
- Lille Besancon
- Poitiers

Denmark

- May 2009 Parliament resolution for ban in baby bottles
- Feb 2010 Ministry resolution to work towards EU ban in food-contact plastics
Bisphenol A on the EU Political Agenda
Implications for EU policy

**scientific evidence**

*insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain*

+ 

**preliminary evaluation**

*which shows potentially dangerous effects*

+ 

**effects may be inconsistent**

*with high level of protection*

= APPLICATION of PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE
Relevant EU legislation

• Cosmetics Directive
• REACH
  • Place BPA on ‘High Concern’ List
    • Commission / Member States must nominate
  • Restriction for baby bottles?
• Food Contact Materials Directive - revision
  • Migration limits
• EU Endocrine Disruptors Strategy
EU Parliament on BPA
Guarantee better scientific evaluation

- Weight evidence according to ‘independence’;
- Integrate new toxicology: low doses, timing; adult manifestation of prenatal effects; chemicals cocktail; no safe thresholds;

Ensure legislative action

- BPA on REACH ‘candidate’ list;
- Revision of Food Contact directive;
- Precautionary phase out of all non-essential uses
- Label all food contact items, also those for adults

Reverse burden of proof for endocrine disruptors before use, eg. that BPA not involved in effects
Stay informed

HEAL Newsletter (10x year)
www.env-health.org
Chemicals & Health Bulletin
lisette@env-health.org

Thank you for your attention!

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