



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE  
PRESS RELEASE

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**Date:** 30/09/2010  
**Reference:** PR 021/2010

## **BEUC calls for Bisphenol A to be banned**

The release today by EFSA, the European Food Safety Authority, of updated advice on Bisphenol A comes as a disappointment for the European Consumers' Organisation.

This substance is used as a stabilizer and hardener in plastic materials and found in many daily products e.g. baby bottles, water boilers, drinking bottles, cash register receipts etc.

Differing from newly available scientific evidence, EFSA concluded there is no need to lower the current limits. Bisphenol A is known as an endocrine disrupter, a substance which can interfere with the hormonal system, and has a similar effect to that of the female sexual hormone, oestrogen.

BEUC has legitimate reasons to be concerned:

- EFSA points out that effects reported by some studies deserve further consideration;
- the 'cocktail effect' of chemicals is not taken into account

This is why we call for the application of the precautionary principle<sup>1</sup>.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, commented:

"Consumers are exposed everyday to a cocktail of harmful chemicals from various sources such as phthalates in drinking bottles and cosmetics, mercury in fish dishes, dyes in textiles and as this opinion does not take this chemical cocktail effect into account, it should be treated with caution."

"Consumers expect products to be safe, an expectation which is compromised by products containing Bisphenol A; this is why we urge the European Commission to make use of the precautionary principle and ban the use of Bisphenol A from consumer products."

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<sup>1</sup> principle "by virtue of which preventive measures are to be taken when there are reasonable grounds for concern that substances (...) may bring about hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between the inputs and the effects."

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