

For the attention of:

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RE: Forthcoming trilogues on the Fertilisers Regulation review

Dear Parliamentarians, Dear negotiators,

We, the undersigned organisations, call on you to strongly defend the mandate you received from the whole of the European Parliament to limit the amount of cadmium in chemical fertilisers to 20mg/kg. By doing so you will be defending citizens' health and the environment against those who have a vested financial interest in securing higher cadmium limits as part of the Fertilisers Regulation review.

Cadmium (Cd) is considered to be one of the most toxic metals as it exhibits adverse effects on all biological processes of plants, animals and humans (1). It has been found to be carcinogenic, mutagenic, endocrine disrupter (EDC), neurotoxic, toxic for reproduction and may cause long term adverse effects in the aquatic environment. (2) Consequently, human exposure to cadmium has been linked to pulmonary disorders, kidney damage and dysfunction, cardiovascular disease, fertility complications, osteoporosis, lung cancer, prostate cancer and cancer of the kidneys, among others.

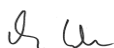
According to EFSA reports, cereals, starchy roots, tubers and vegetables contribute up to 54% of the total cadmium intake from food. It is reported that the average intake of cadmium from food products for infants exceeds the tolerable weekly intake. (3) Many adults exceed the tolerable weekly intake as well. (4)

Europe has already tackled major sources of cadmium but farming has been left untouched until now – the time has come to decrease toxic metals in our soils and therefore in our food through strict limits of cadmium residues within chemical fertilisers.

While last October the European Parliament stood up for citizens' health and environmental protection when it voted in favour of a 20mg/kg cadmium limit in fertiliser products sold across the EU, the Council has unfortunately adopted a position that goes in the opposite direction (60mg/kg) and de facto stood for vested interests against those of citizens. A 20mg/kg limit on cadmium in fertiliser products sold in the EU is the bare minimum (5) required to protect our health and environment.

Therefore we call on you to do your utmost to defend the public interest, citizens' health and our environment in the negotiations.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates, *Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)*

On behalf of



European Environmental Bureau
Europe's largest network of
environmental citizens' organisations
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Identification number: 06798511314-27*

References:

- 1) (Birke et al., 2016)
- 2) Risctox database, ISTAS, EEB. cadmium substance card:
http://risctox.istas.net/en/dn_risctox_ficha_sustancia.asp?id_sustancia=955314
- 3) An EFSA 2012 report found that average intake of cadmium for infants exceeded the tolerable weekly intake
- 4) Ritera et al., 2017
- 5) If the average phosphate fertiliser contained 20 mg of cadmium per kilogram it would still take 100 years to reduce cadmium contamination of European soils by 20%. **This means that a 20mg limit is the bare minimum we should aim for.**