

Dear Sir or Madam,

As one of your regular consumers, I am deeply worried about the news that so many of the products in supermarkets contain harmful pesticides residues capable of disturbing the hormonal system, which is responsible for the good development of all vital organs. I am asking you to guarantee that these chemicals are not present in your products and to state your intentions in public.

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in food are a major health risk. These chemicals have indeed been linked to serious hormone-related diseases like breast and prostate cancer; sexual malformations and brain damage, loss of motility, memory, etc¹. The unborn and young children are the most vulnerable group and should in fact never be exposed at all to this type of pesticides. This applies to even very low doses of exposure².

Yet, a recent publication by PAN Europe (Pesticide Action Network) shows that consumers are exposed to endocrine disrupting pesticides on a daily basis when eating conventionally-grown lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, apples and many other vegetables and fruits³. Several of these pesticides are sprayed on the same crops and consumers might be exposed to highly dangerous chemical mixtures – the « cocktail effects ». **Given the health concerns over EDCs, I demand that you take action to reduce the concentration of ED pesticides in the 5 most exposed food items to a minimum : lettuces, tomatoes, cucumbers, apples and leeks.**

Alternatives *do* exist today, and they are realistic: selling organic food, or promoting eco-friendly practices like Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are part of them⁴. A good start would be to systematically propose organic lettuces, tomatoes, cucumbers, apples and leeks at more attractive prices. Pesticides have become a major source of concern for European consumers who are more and more aware of their harmful effects⁵. Now is time for your brand to open the way for a new type of agriculture, more respectful of both your consumers and the environment.

I hope to hear back from you soon,

Best regards,

¹ See state-of-the-art report by Prof. Kortenkamp, appointed by the European Union : « State-of-the-art assessment fo endocrine disruptors », 2012.

² Vandenberg/Soto/Heindel/VomSaal ao. (Endocrine Reviews, June 2012).

³ See PAN Europe camapign website : www.disruptingfood.info

⁴ For more information, go to : <http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/IPEurope.html>

⁵ According to the 2010 EU Eurobarometer on risk perception related to food, pesticides residues in fruits, vegetables or cereals are the main concern of European citizens regarding food safety.