



# ANNUAL REPORT 2012

**Pesticide  
Action  
Network**  
Europe



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Dear PAN Europe Members and Supporters,

PAN Europe has again been very active and successful in 2012 in its fight against harmful pesticides and in favor of really sustainable alternatives.

Our actions proved essential for the protection of public health and the environment when we denounced the scandalous attempts by EFSA of substituting toxicity testing of chemicals by a controversial “Threshold” approach (TTC) or the various derogation systems in place and especially the one called “Resubmission” supported by DG Sanco.

Our campaign on Endocrine disrupting pesticides which showed that up to 30 different ED pesticides were found in the everyday food of European consumers underlined the necessity of quickly getting specific criteria to officially define EDCs that should be banned under the new pesticides regulation.

Our new Bee campaign also played an important role in the recent withdrawal of several uses of three neonicotinoids in the EU!

Another unprecedented victory was obtained this year thanks to a legal action by PAN-Europe -and Natuur en Milieu- when the European General Court decided that NGO’s have the right to request an internal review for a wide scope of decisions of European authorities.

All these successes are encouraging and should give us all the energy and confidence that will be needed to face the major challenges of 2013 as getting a good definition of ED pesticides that are going to be banned or spreading IPM methods throughout Europe!

Let’s continue to work together to reach these common goals!

*François VEILLERETTE*  
*PAN Europe President*

## What is PAN Europe?

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) was founded in 1982 and is a network of over 600 non-governmental organizations, institutions and individuals in over 60 countries worldwide working to replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives. Five autonomous Regional Centres coordinate its projects and campaigns.

PAN Europe is the regional centre for Europe. It was founded in 1987, today bringing together 31 consumer, public health and environmental organizations as well as other non-governmental groups in 19 countries.

A board of directors consisting of five board members while two staff members take care of the daily management manages PAN Europe.

### Our mission

PAN works to replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives (where possible practices but also products).

### Our focal points

NGO advocacy and public participation in EU pesticide policy, with activities including:

- being involved in the EU decision-making process;
- disseminating information and raising awareness on pesticide problems, regulations and alternatives;
- organizing workshops and conferences and promoting dialogue for change between government, private sector and civil society stakeholders. Challenge pesticides authorisations in court at European and national level;
- Coordinate our network of members for joint action and policy interventions.



In May 2012, a new staff member joined PAN Europe central office in Brussels. His name is Martin Dermine, he is 30 years old, a native of Belgium, and has just finished his PhD in veterinary medicine. Martin explains his job as PAN EUROPE Bees Project Officer: “I work as PAN Europe’s « bee-expert ». Throughout the coming years, this job will cover four different missions. First, I will help provide new and current scientific material to support suits against the European Commission decisions on pesticides. I believe that in this particular matter, the Commission lacks scientific evidence to be able to authorise them. There is an urgent need for a moratorium on neonicotinoid pesticides (i.e.: pesticides that are harmful to bees). Secondly, I will be working on awareness-raising campaigns to get the public involved in our activities. These campaigns may, for instance, focus on pesticides residues in food. And finally, my mission will include lobbying activities at the European Commission and Parliament. For the year 2012, we prepared two court cases to be brought to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. This is a common effort with Générations Futures (France), Global 2000 (Austria) and Apenet (Italy) – a network of Italian beekeepers and researchers.”

### **In 2012, the European Commission was not doing enough to protect the Honeybees.**



Things have been moving intensely in the past months regarding honeybees and their chronic disappearance. Scientists, European Commission, European Parliament, EFSA and now PAN-Europe are dealing with honeybees and the hazards of neonicotinoids.

The ball has started rolling with two publications in Science on neonicotinoids affecting honeybees and bumblebees earlier this year. Therefore, the European Commission has asked EFSA for advice on both articles as well as for a complete review of the pesticides risk assessment protocols used by the industry for honeybees.



EFSA's conclusions on the scientific articles were unfortunately a bit too apolitical: "worrying evidence of toxicity of neonicotinoids at nectar concentrations are provided but more research needs to be done."

As is often the case, evidence is there is not deemed sufficient for action. EFSA's evaluation of risk assessment for bees is of major importance for the beekeeping sector and for pollinators in general. In fact, the Authority has explained that only the tip of the toxicity iceberg - acute toxicity - is evaluated, acknowledging that pesticides that are currently in use which have not been proven to be safe for bees.

The conventional agriculture industry has counterattacked by sponsoring the European Bees and Pollination Week, where conferences have been presenting the lack of biodiversity and diseases as causes of the pollination crisis. Pesticides? Noooo, never!

Despite the new scientific evidence of sublethal toxicity of neonicotinoids, the criticism on the weaknesses of the toxicity evaluation scheme - not forgetting about the example of re-birth of the Italian beekeeping sector after Italy has banned neonicotinoids in Italy in 2008 -the European Commission is still not moving and neither are Member States.

Therefore PAN-Europe has decided to change the rhythm of the dance by beginning this year two court cases at the European Court of Justice and a few national cases.

## PAN Europe meeting on neonicotinoids.

Our project on neonicotinoids, aimed at obtaining an EU-wide ban on this class of insecticides which are very harmful to insects and especially to honeybees, led us to organize a meeting with our partners across Europe. Along with our team: Generations Futures (France), Global 2000 (Austria), UNAAPI (the Italian National Beekeepers Union) and members of the university of Bologna, we were joined by BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) which is also interested on working on this issue. We gathered for a three-day meeting in the lovely Italian city of Bologna in November. The meeting was an opportunity to get to know one another and to exchange knowledge in order to increase the cooperation and effectiveness of the whole group.

Generation Future and Global 2000 shared their experience on residue testing and campaigning and members of UNAAPI presented their campaign work and the opportunities that allowed them to realize a ban on neonicotinoid seed coating on maize in Italy to protect their bees.

University of Bologna scientists exposed their research on the toxicity of neonicotinoids to honeybees and helped us to better understand the European Foods Safety Authority's (EFSA) role in regulation and the game played by the phytopharmaceutical industry who have long known about the toxicity of their molecules on honeybees.

BUND presented their work on informing and educating the general public about pesticides in general and especially on neonicotinoids. PAN Europe presented its experience with court cases, lobbying at the national and European level, and the overall framework of the project. This 48-hour get-together was intense and we led to very fruitful exchanges. It is very important to coordinate our efforts in order to not reinvent the wheel and waste time or money, and we believe this meeting has helped us fulfil this the objective. We left energized, happy to have met one another, and with everyone having a better picture of their role in working towards a ban on neonicotinoids and protecting insect fauna.

PAN Europe has launched early this year an action at EU-level to protect bees from toxic effect of neonicotinoids insecticides. The European legislation on maximum residue limits (MRLs) states that MRLs should be fixed in order to ensure high level of protection of human and animal health (Regulation 396/2005). The MRLs of neonicotinoids in honey and pollen have been fixed at 10 or 50 µg/kg, depending on the substance.

Sublethal and chronic toxicity experiments have proven adverse effects to bees at very small concentrations (less than 1 µg/kg). Therefore, PAN Europe has introduced a request to lower the setting of MRLs for honey and pollen in order to ensure a better protection of honeybees and respect the European legislation.

## OUR CAMPAIGN ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS

**PAN Europe identifies up to 30 different endocrine disrupting pesticides in European food... Go to [www.disruptingfood.info](http://www.disruptingfood.info)**

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) are PAN Europe's top priority for the year 2012. In June, a new campaign was launched with a kick-off strategy thanks to the publication of our "consumer guide" which has been translated, thanks to our members, in French (by PAN Europe), in German (by Global 2000 and PAN Germany), in Spanish (by Vivosano) and in Dutch (by WECF Netherlands).

### **EDCs in European food: a major health concern**

PAN Europe's consumer guide is an exclusive survey of European food items. This new publication reveals the level of pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties in European fruits and vegetables. These pesticides are capable of « disrupting » the hormone system of the human body, which is responsible for the normal development and functioning of all vital organs.

More and more top-level scientific studies have shown the dangerous effects of endocrine disruptors on health over the last years, linking them to rising chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hormone-related cancers (breast, prostate, etc.), brain damage and infertility (see report by Prof. Kortenkamp commissioned by the EU : « State-of-the-art assessment of endocrine disruptors », 2012.). EDCs are complex chemicals capable of having effects at even very low doses such that there is no « safe » level of exposure (see Vandenberg/Soto/Heindel/ VomSaal et al. Endocrine Reviews, June 2012); and the ability to « add up », leading to even more dangerous chemical mixtures («cocktail effects»).





## PAN Europe «consumer guide»: a new campaign against pesticides

In reaction to the current European legislation on EDCs, PAN Europe investigated endocrine disruptors in food and published its results in the “consumer guide”. A ranking of the 10 most “disrupting” food items gives readers a good overview of the level of “contamination” of European food and the possibility to avoid the food items with the highest level of endocrine disrupting pesticides. **Overall, up to 30 different pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties were identified. Lettuce happened to be the most “contaminated” food item, closely followed by tomatoes, cucumbers and apples.** Along with these warnings, this guide provides consumers with several practical tips for the everyday life to minimize exposure to endocrine disruptors. Eating organic products remains the best solution, especially when it comes to children and pregnant women.

PAN Europe’s new campaign on EDCs in food started on June, 5<sup>th</sup> with the release of the “consumer guide” on a special website: [www.disruptingfood.info](http://www.disruptingfood.info). It is available for download for free in both French and English. This website was designed for the campaign and it will be updated with on going PAN Europe actions on the subject. Consumers and PAN Europe friends are invited

to subscribe to the “Newsletter” of the campaign if they wish to be informed of our next action and to join in it next September. Along with this, a Facebook page was finally created for PAN Europe with daily updates and news.

Our fellow NGOs partners support the campaign. Réseau Environnement Santé (RES, France), France Nature Environnement (FNE, France), Inter Environnement Wallonie (Belgium), who have made press releases of their own. Thanks to our new communication tools (website, facebook), the campaign was well covered by the media, both at the European (ENDS, Europolitics...) and national levels; involving such leading newspapers as Le Parisien (France), Aujourd’hui en France (France) and radio like RMC (France) or RTBF (Belgium).



*The campaign goes on, reaching both consumers and organic farmers who are eager to support our effort to reduce the use of pesticides and promote a safe, eco-friendly, agriculture. Success will be achieved with the involvement of the public. PAN Europe calls upon all its partners to join in now!*

## **Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Training Session: 12 European NGOs meet in Vienna.**

At the beginning of October 2012, PAN Europe organized a training session for its members and partners in Global 2000's office in Vienna concerning Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs). The issue is especially important now because the European Commission is scheduled propose final criteria for endocrine substances in December 2013. 14 representatives from 12 NGOs all over Europe came to this meeting: Bund (Germany), the Ecological Danish Council, the European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth Bulgaria, Générations Futures (France), Global 2000 (Austria), Legambiente (Italy), the Social Environmental Institute (Poland), Vivosano (Spain), and WECF Netherlands. The goal of this meeting was to discuss on the next step in EDC lobbying both at the national and European levels and to provide scientific and communication expertise to various organisations with different backgrounds. PAN and other organizations gave input presentations as a base for our discussions. These included: What are EDCs? Decision making process overview and state of art; Lobbying, how and who should we target?; The examples of France and Denmark projects on the subject; Possible Communication tools; How to interest the Media?; and finally the Court cases brought by PAN and how to initiate one. These presentations were meant to be short in order to give participants time to discuss, share our experiences, and brainstorm. It was especially important for our EDCs campaign to meet in person with our various partners with whom we exchange very often by email.



## **Consumer Guide distribution in Brussels: Belgian citizens and European technocrats.**

After having our Consumer Guide *Disrupting Food* translated in several languages (available on [www.disruptingfood.info](http://www.disruptingfood.info)) and disseminate around Europe via the Internet, we decided that we should try to disseminate our guides in Brussels itself. Thanks to the help of our volunteer Ruta Kapre, we distributed the guide in some crucial city hubs. On one hand we wanted to target the European institutions, so we went to Place du Luxembourg, seat of the European Parliament and Schuman Square on the corner of Rue Froissart, close to both the European Commission and the DG Health and Consumers. It was interesting to see the people's reactions, often very interested. One could clearly say that there was a great deal of awareness of the issue. We also wanted to target the native Brussels population, especially families with young children who are the most vulnerable to Endocrines Disrupting Chemicals. We therefore went to both Flagey Market and Sainte Catherine Christmas Market on December 8th. Most of the people around, both Belgians and foreigners, were clearly worried about the quality of their food and wanted to have more information. All in all, it was a great experience for PAN, which has done, limited street action.

### *Media Links:*

[http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2012/12/12/perturbateurs-endocriniens-bruxelles-se-dechire\\_1804965\\_3244.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2012/12/12/perturbateurs-endocriniens-bruxelles-se-dechire_1804965_3244.html)

<http://blogs.rue89.com/de-interet-conflit/2012/12/14/perturbateurs-endocriniens-lagence-europeenne-minee-par-les-conflits>

[http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2012/12/05/fertilite-masculine-les-dangers-averes-des-perturbateurs-endocriniens\\_1800127\\_3244.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2012/12/05/fertilite-masculine-les-dangers-averes-des-perturbateurs-endocriniens_1800127_3244.html)

[http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS\\_20120817\\_OTS0033/global-2000-fordert-verbot-von-hormonell-wirksamen-pestiziden-durch-minister-berlakovich](http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20120817_OTS0033/global-2000-fordert-verbot-von-hormonell-wirksamen-pestiziden-durch-minister-berlakovich)

[http://www.onmeda.es/noticias\\_salud/noticias/alimentos\\_como\\_la\\_lechuga\\_o\\_los\\_tomates\\_contienen\\_hasta\\_30\\_t%C3%B3xicos\\_diferentes-234.html](http://www.onmeda.es/noticias_salud/noticias/alimentos_como_la_lechuga_o_los_tomates_contienen_hasta_30_t%C3%B3xicos_diferentes-234.html)

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/seed-treatment-poses-a-risk-to-europe-s-bee-population/76174.aspx>

<http://anh-europe.org/news/it%E2%80%99s-official-pesticides-are-killing-the-bees>

<http://chemicalwatch.com/11301/ngo-highlights-edc-residues-in-eu-fruits-vegetables>



## THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

### **Illegal pesticides and the Common Agricultural Policy**

Earlier this year, Danish national television found a large number of illegal pesticides on a number of Danish farms. The Danish administration reacted by attempting to recollect part of the CAP money back from the implicated farmers. Though, as there is no visual proof that the illegal pesticides in question were actually used in the fields (the inspectors did not see when the farmers actually sprayed and the cereals have already been sold), it seems to be illegal to claim the CAP payments back. Absurd no?

### **Pesticides, crop rotation, and the Common Agricultural Policy**

Since 1999, there have been environmental requirements in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); the EU defines the overall objectives, while it is for member states to define details. In Brussels terms, a number of EU Regulations and EU Directives, known as the so-called statutory mandatory requirements as well as a set of Good Agricultural and Environmental Policy standards (GAEC), together are known as cross compliance.

First Directive 91/414/EC, now 1107/2009 Regulation is one of the 19 mandatory requirements that farmers needed to respect to obtain CAP funding. However farmers only need to respect certain articles of this regulation.

Currently, the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) is still not part of the so-called cross compliance. Instead crop rotation, which is the key principle of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) defined in the SUD, is a GAEC requirement applied in only 18 Member States.

The European Commission's 2011 reform proposal, suggested introducing the SUD into cross compliance, not starting in 2014 as stated in the SUD, but starting from 'when it has been implemented by all member states'.

As you all know, the proposal also included the introduction of a green component, meaning that in order for farmers to obtain payments in the future, they would have to apply a simple agronomic package of practices consisting of crop diversification, ecological focus areas, and no tilling of pasture. This is in line with the basic principle of IPM, asking farmers to start taking a holistic approach to farming.

Also, to give more weight to the green component, the GAEC requirements were proposed to be changes, among others, deleting crop rotation.

In principle, crop rotation is an indirect mandatory requirement in today's CAP, but with the reform, it risks becoming a voluntary requirement for farmers, to be supported under rural development. When the CAP reform was proposed in 2011, the environmental baseline had already been lowered.

Though, this new architecture of the CAP -putting agricultural practices up front – seemed to be positive, as it allowed us to speak about the basic principles of integrated production, the need to integrate nature into and around the field, diversification, crop rotation, cover crops, ecological focus areas, keeping pasture, etc. Definitely more interesting than the normal CAP debate, which was generally limited to technical terms like cross compliance, modulation, rural development, agri-environmental measures, etc.

The CAP reform is currently being discussed in the European Parliament and the European Council. While the battle is not over until it is over, the deal on the budget makes it very clear that concepts like budget cuts, cutting red tape, the financial crisis, are winning over the battle on sustainable development, with the result being that progress is again being pushed off the agenda, and we risk being left with 'money for nothing'.

Faustine Defossez from the EEB explains this in a very nice way in an interview to Euractiv : *“On the one hand, the Council and the Parliament are trying to exempt as many farms as possible, but on the other, those that are left will have to comply with an empty shell of a greening package”*

So once again the EU is being overruled by member states’ interests, meaning that the original idea of finally putting agricultural practices up front, and make farmers more equal with the EU – and finally making EU citizens understand why we have a CAP, is being lost again.

It seems that we are instead back to the idea that the EU should set the overall outline, and the Member States should define specifics, which again – as in the case of chemical regulation – means that the door for loopholes and derogations remains is wide open. This is definitely not a good development for the big EU picture, definitely not a good thing the environment and public health in the EU, and is especially bad for EU farmers because EU citizens remain in the dark about the kinds of benefits that they are actually being delivered, which puts the long term financing of the CAP in danger.



### Innovations and resource efficiency in the European agricultural sector

As part of Europe 2020, the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade, the European Commission has established a set of European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) as a new approach to EU research and innovation. One of these EIPs will deal with agricultural productivity and sustainability.

PAN Europe is part of one of the 42 'high level representatives' in the steering committee, meant to develop a Strategic Implementation Plan that will give orientation and strategic advice to the EIP. While we do know that there is a risk these efforts will turn out to be just another piece of paper, we do feel that we should engage in the process in order to provide input on what kind of action is needed to ensure that EU farmers start seriously reducing their dependency on chemical inputs.

As a contribution to this debate on innovation and resource efficiency, we have prepared a set of factsheets. These can be found here: [www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/innovation%20and%20resource%20efficiency-1.pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/innovation%20and%20resource%20efficiency-1.pdf)



### **IOBC-IBMA-PAN Europe symposium on “*Integrated Pest Management – the Way Forward to Sustainable Agricultural Production*” held in Brussels 19 June 2012**

International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC), International Biocontrol Manufacturers’ Association (IBMA) and Pesticide Action Network (PAN Europe) with the support of the European Parliament and the European Commission organised jointly a high level conference on “*Integrated Pest Management – the Way Forward to Sustainable Agricultural Production*” in Brussels on Tuesday, 19 June 2012.

The overall purpose this conference was celebrating the 50 years anniversary of publication of Rachel Carson’s book “Silent spring” and reminding EU policy makers about the potential created with the EU Directive on sustainable use of pesticides approved in 2009, and meant to be fully implemented by Member States by the end of this year.

The uptake of environmentally friendly crop protection methods is a major element of making agriculture more sustainable, and highly relevant for the entire debate on the EU 2020 growth debate on resource efficiency as well as on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

We had a invited a wide range of high level experts with different background and from different angles, with some illustrating that the need for change, some highlighting why this change is difficult, while finally others giving concrete examples of many of the alternative production methods and products already available, all making it clear that EU policies have the potential to reduce pesticide dependency by start proposing innovative sustainable solutions of crop protection.


One of the key speakers in the debate was David Pimentel from Cornell University, who has a live long experience with working on pesticides including a 22-year farming experiment measuring corn and soybean yields in a system with and without artificial inputs, where pesticides were replaced by agronomic practices like rotation and cover crops, but delivered exactly the same yield, in-





creased employment, lowered costs, and even reduced soil erosion. A very good example for that it is feasible to start encouraging farmers to start applying Integrated Pest Management, understood as first use a combination of different preventive agronomic practices, use non-chemical methods when available, and use chemical crop protection products only as a last resort. Around 150 participants taking part in this event, covering national representatives from ministries, EU civil servants and policy makers, as well as a huge range of Brussels based stakeholders. The debate on reducing pesticide dependency is not only relevant at the EU level, but also highly relevant in the national context. The EU Directive on sustainable use of pesticides oblige member states to convert this new legislation into national law by end of last year, while they by end of this year, need to develop National Action Plans, and inform the European Commission about how they intend to reduce their use and impact of pesticides.

Though, in a IPM forum organised by DG SANCO on the 20 June, DG SANCO reported that so far only 13 Member States had completed transposition into national legislation, nine had partially done so, and five had not done this. It was also reported that of 16 Member States for which they have information, six of them already have a NAP, although three will be revised to ensure they satisfy the SUD requirement. So as you see implémentation is only happening very slowly, and if it was not enough, in many the Member States the level of ambition in the NAP remains very low (see article from PAN Germany reporting about the situation in Germany in the part on national work..). So definitely much more work still to be done.



You can find all presentations and the conclusion on:  
[www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/120619.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/120619.html)

### **Lunch debate on crop rotation in the European Parliament, 29 May 2012**

On the 29th May 2012 the IFOAM EU Group, Friends of the Earth Europe, and PAN Europe in cooperation with S&D MEP Karin Kadenbach and Green MEP Martin Häusling organised a lunch debate on *“Crop Rotation and Legume Production: Cultivating a More Sustainable and Resource Efficient Farming Policy”* in the European Parliament.



With this event we wanted to make it clear that although the Commission's proposed measure on crop diversification is a positive step, it does not have the potential to bring about the array of positive environmental and socio-economic effects that basic crop rotation practices and more advanced systems can deliver.

We had asked a few experts to give presentations on the topic, including: **MEP Martin Häusling, who in 2011 made a report on the protein deficit in the EU** explained that over the last decades crop rotation has become an exception rather than the rule on farms in many countries across the EU. Referring to the report he outlined that in the last 10 years the production of leguminous crops in the EU had dropped by 30% and today represents only 3% of EU crop land. Instead the EU imports 40 million tons of protein crops, mainly soy, every year, equalling 20 million hectares of arable land, to meet its demand for protein livestock feed (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2011-0026&language=EN>). He stressed that it was essential to ensure long-term viability of EU farming by designing effective CAP greening measures that make agronomic sense for farmers.

**Christine Watson (Leader of the Soil Team at the Scottish Agricultural College)** explained the environmental benefits of crop rotation and legume cultivation. She highlighted that policymakers need a more temporal approach (crop rotation) to cropping systems rather than the spatial approach (crop diversification) as envisaged under the current proposals. She emphasised that with good planning and knowledge exchange crop rotation cannot only decrease input costs, but reduce the risk for farmers by contributing to weed control and limiting dependency on inputs. She advised policymakers to place long term benefits rather than short term gains at the heart of farm policy.

**Anouk Cormont (Researcher at Wageningen University)** illustrated the potential of domestic legume cultivation for livestock feed on arable and mixed farms in four regions in the Netherlands and Germany.

She outlined that a study conducted by her team looking at the income of farmers in these regions found that allocating 20% of arable land for grain legume cultivation could deliver many benefits. Moreover, in two of the regions cultivation would lead to increased income for farmers, while in the other two regions the loss of income would require relatively small compensation of about 19 euro per hectare through CAP support. She explained that current CAP direct payments were not taken into account in the income calculation. She added that their study clearly demonstrated the fact that legume cultivation can reduce input dependency.

**Christoph Dahlmann (Project manager with the German small farmers association ABL in North-Rhine Westphalia)** argued that if Europe is going to

respond to the current challenge of filling the gap of Europe's protein feed deficit, crop rotation and increased legume cultivation need to be fully embraced. He said it is now time for the EU to shift towards more sustainable cropping systems under the new greening component within the CAP, and support farmers who incorporate legumes into their cropping systems by encouraging more research, breeding programmes and training in order to develop even more sophisticated systems in the future.

Henriette Christensen, Policy Officer, *PAN Europe IFOAM, Friend of the Earth Europe, PAN Europe and APRODEV*, has since then also elaborated a joint briefing on crop rotation illustrating that:

Firstly, crop rotation can help significantly to respond to current environmental challenges faced by European food and farming in terms of protecting and enhancing our water resources, securing soil fertility, reducing our dependency on external inputs, such as synthetic nitrogen, and pesticides as well as contributing to action to climate action.

Secondly, studies have found improved yields using crop rotations. Therefore implementing crop rotations does not have to mean compromising profit in the medium term.

Finally, crop rotations could have the added benefit of reducing Europe's dependence on imported Proteins for animal feed, with leguminous cultivation as a part of



a strong crop rotation measure leading to win win' effects for the farmers and the environment, and could be a guarantee for ensuring EU's long term food security.

To see the factsheet go to:

<http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html>

The debate on indicators beyond GDP also relevant to the EU debate on resource efficiency

As a contribution to this debate Connie Hedegaard, member of the European Commission responsible for Climate Action, made a remarkable contribution, see:

[http://ecocouncil.dk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1745:eu-commissioner-on-climateaction-connie-hedegaard-sends-her-greetings&catid=109:economy-andpolitics&Itemid=208](http://ecocouncil.dk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1745:eu-commissioner-on-climateaction-connie-hedegaard-sends-her-greetings&catid=109:economy-andpolitics&Itemid=208)

Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for climate action, repeat the message on the need to stop considering business as usual, recently in 15th June 2012 where she again said:

*« It is not possible to continue the business as usual ...make it expensive to be stupid and get the right targets for what to reduce. It is not easy but the alternative is much worse »*

This debate is not only relevant for the OECD, Rio and others it is also relevant for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the use of pesticides.

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The 'business as usual approach' in the agricultural sector, has been estimated by David Pimentel (2009), as annual economic and environmental losses due to the application of pesticides in the USA to be:

- public health, \$1.1 billion/year
- pesticide resistance in pests, \$1.5 billion;
- crop losses caused by pesticides, \$1.1 billion;
- bird losses due to pesticides, \$2.2 billion; and
- ground water contamination, \$2.0 billion.

Numbers of the business as usual approach also exists in the EU, where annual economic, environment and health consequences caused by pesticide are estimated to:

Studies in the UK and Germany US\$257m and \$166m, respectively, paid by sufferers of pesticide-related poor health, the environment and citizens (Pretty & Waibel, 2005).

UK water companies spent £189 million removing nitrates and £92 million removing pesticides from their water supplies between 2004- 2005 and 2008-2009 (National Audit Service, 2010) (+/- 350 M €)

To change this paradigm change in European agriculture is indispensable. The European model of farming based on diversity is broken, and an ever increasing amount of the European farming is producing standard products for supermarkets giving very little attention to production methods, heavily relying on external inputs (covering not only pesticides and fertilizers but also antibiotics). As a result farmers are increasingly being squeezed by supermarkets offering low prices for standard products to farmers and by input industry. The way forward for European farmers is getting out of this dependency, and start a conversion from input intensive to knowledge intensive agriculture, producing with nature not against it.

The way forward for the EU debate on resource efficiency and the debate on the Common Agricultural Policy is targeting at a paradigm change putting crop rotation for arable farmers at the centre, which over time, can help farmers save money.

For instance Katsvairo, 2000 concluded that rotated low chemical management increased net returns for continuous corn under high chemical management by:

- 70 USD/ha or even more in moldboardplow and
- 120 USD/ha or more in chisel tillage.

For more information on the entire debate on resource efficiency and innovation in the agricultural sector see PAN Europe paper on innovation on:

<http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html>

### **New PAN Europe report, Twisting and Bending the rules.**

EU Member States and Health DG SANCO allow data gaps on a massive scale in the approval process of pesticides. This is what PAN-Europe learned in its analysis of one of the major derogation systems (case by case revocation) of regulators called 'Resubmission' ([PAN report on resubmission](#)). In a sample taken from the resubmission-pesticides, in ten out of ten cases of approved chemicals studied, it turned out that an environmental risk assessment was not possible for lack of data. In eight out of ten cases, consumer risk assessment was not finalised due to a lack of data. For the pesticide Bromuconazole, even five data gaps were considered acceptable. These decisions expose people and the environment to unknown risks. Data gaps are not allowed according to pesticide Directive 91/414; all required toxicity studies need to be performed.

Resubmission is a new process developed behind the curtains of the Standing Committee of national representatives and Commission in 2007 which grants the pesticide industry a second chance in the event that their chemicals are banned or withdrawn. On top of this they are granted years of free market access during the process of evaluation in exchange for a "voluntary withdrawal" of their chemical. The threat of massive numbers of court cases from chemical industry and the political desire to "finalise" the much-delayed evaluation of pesticides most likely caused this strange 'deal' with industry. Industry could not resist such an advantageous offer and in the end applications for 87 different active substances were done, completely paralysing the evaluation system of SANCO and Food Authority EFSA now for more than 3 years.

The 'friendly' evaluation of this group of pesticides not only allowed approvals with data gaps, PAN-Europe's new study "Twisting and bending the rules" also revealed that member states and the Commission will never ban a pesticide solely because of environmental risks. In ten out of ten cases studied, the condition of not having unacceptable effects on the environment was not met; in seven of ten cases, even high risks for the environment were considered acceptable. This is a grave violation of the rules and a systematic undermining of the central criterion for pesticide approval: no unacceptable effect on the environment.

While giving industry such an enormous present, the necessary work on the renewal of the pesticide system –as required by the new Regulation 1007/2009- has been halted and no work is being carried out on the reconstruction of the

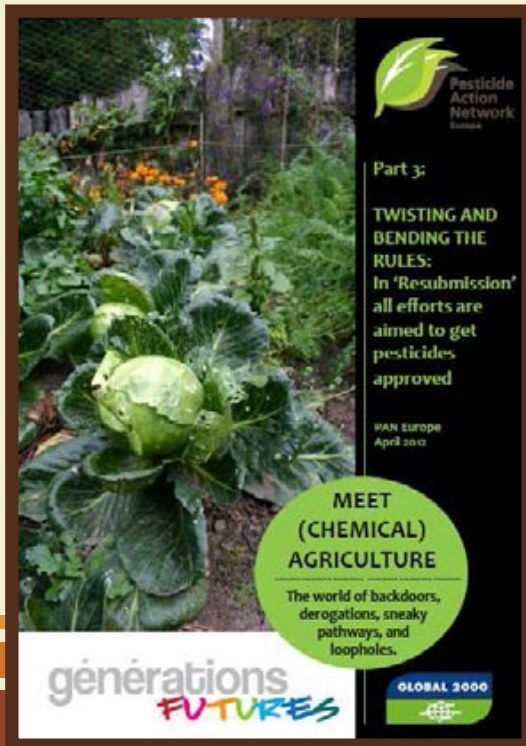
outdated and insensitive toxicity test requirements. Further, no work is being done on either renewing the old risk assessment methodologies looking for substitutes for pesticides.

### Still massive use of derogations by France, Portugal and Greece.

In July 2012, PAN-Europe published a follow up report on the use of the “120 day derogation” (Article 53 of Regulation (EC) NO 1107/2009), that allows Member States to apply illegal pesticides for almost a crop season (120 days for an emergency when no viable alternatives are available). Despite a 30% decrease compared to previous years, 230 authorizations were granted for 127 substances during 2011 including extensions of use for other crops or products totally banned in Europe, as dichlorvos and dichloropropene. France, Portugal, and Greece remained the top granting countries with 32, 30, and 21 derogations each. PAN-Europe questioned the abusive use of this system by Member States without any oversight from the European Commission and urged the Commission to take a more active role in the process. Specifically the Commission was called upon to make the derogation system fully transparent and to force Member States to use existing alternatives.

Our report was echoed by the European Parliament and the media, particularly the situation of Portugal, the only country from the top 3, that did not show a

clear reduction in the number of derogations granted. The Commission admitted to some misuse of Article 53 by Member States and announced that it was working on a guidance document to establish harmonized criteria concerning the evaluation and decision-making of this process and to define detailed information to notify the Commission and other MS about. In October 2012, PAN-Europe was invited to comment on a draft version of the guidance document. In the draft, the EC introduced a higher level of control on the derogation process, but many questions have still been left open.



## Bats at risk from pesticide exposure

Researchers from the University of Koblenz-Landau<sup>1</sup> have warned that bats are at a greater risk of pesticide exposure than had previously been suspected. The researchers said that bats may consume insects sprayed with damaging chemicals, and that due to their long lifespan and low birth rates, bats are particularly susceptible to adverse effects on reproduction caused by pesticides. The scientists studied bats foraging for insects in an apple orchard, which had been, sprayed with Fenoxycarb and Chlorpyrifos insecticides.

Not only did they discover that bats feeding on tree dwelling insects are at risk of pesticide exposure, the researchers found that the current European Union risk assessments did not adequately consider the animals when reviewing the safety of agricultural chemicals. The discovery comes just months after the European Food Safety Authority acknowledged that current pesticide testing does not provide adequate protection for insect pollinators.

In addition to their iconic status as the only flying mammals, bats are important pollinators and naturally regulate insect populations.

The researchers concluded that, as bats can be exposed to chemicals through their diet as well as through drift and inhalation and the effects of exposure can be cumulative and severe for bat colonies, immediate action must be taken to include considerations of bat species in agricultural chemical trials.





## Official Review of dangerous nerve poison Chlorpyrifos.

In 2012, EU Health Commissioner John Dalli decided to start a review of the approval of pesticide Chlorpyrifos after years of accumulated evidence of harm. This was announced in a letter to PAN Europe by Dalli's head-of-cabinet, Mrs. Darmanin. It is one of the first-ever cases of approved pesticides being reviewed because of new concerns. Chlorpyrifos is an insecticide used on grapes and potatoes and was provisionally approved in 2006. However, the conditions for approval –to show in 2-years time that the risks for birds and mammals are acceptable- have not been fulfilled. Further, independent scientists have continued to present strong evidence of harm to humans. New evidence from the USA<sup>2 3</sup> shows brain damage in children exposed to Chlorpyrifos at every-day exposure levels, the effects being more irreversible for young girls than boys. This new evidence only strengthens the available evidence of harm and shows the present EU standards are irresponsibly high. Additionally to that, Chlorpyrifos is a persistent and bioaccumulative chemical, it travels long distances and is shown to be present almost everywhere in the environment, in food and air, even in the Arctic<sup>4</sup>, in ice, snow, fog, air, seawater, lake sediment, fish and vegetation. PAN Europe has send letters to Mr. Dalli presenting the scientific evidence on 07-06-2011 and 13-09-2012 and now Dalli finally has taken responsibility to protect citizens and the environment and starts the review. PAN Europe has urged Mr.

Dalli to choose for a full ban since it is the only way to prevent further damage being done. Based on a yet to be released EFSA opinion, the Commission needs make proposals again to the Standing Committee in early 2013.



Picture showing DOW Chemicals collecting signatures from farmers in 2012 for a petition against a ban on Chlorpyrifos

<sup>2</sup> Virginia A. Rauh, Frederica P. Perera, Megan K. Horton, Robin M. Whyatt, Ravi Bansal, XuejunHao, Jun Liu, Dana Boyd Barr, Theodore A. Slotkin, and Bradley S. Peterson, *Brain anomalies in children exposed prenatally to a common organophosphate pesticide*, PNAS | May 15, 2012 | vol. 109 | no. 20 | 7871–7876

<sup>3</sup> Megan K. Horton, Linda G. Kahn, Frederica Perera, Dana Boyd Barr, Virginia Rauh, *Does the home environment and the sex of the child modify the adverse effects of 2 prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos on child working memory?*, Neurotoxicology and Teratology xxx (2012) xxx–xxx

<sup>4</sup> Chlorpyrifos as a possible global POP, Meriel Watts, PhD, For Pesticide Action Network North America, August 2012

## 10 years EFSA - 10 years of blind love for industry

Food Authority EFSA celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in November 2012, but according to PAN Europe there is not much to celebrate. EFSA has a track record of working closely with industry and with industry-linked people who claim to be an independent scientist. The EFSA too readily embraces industry ideas, while forgetting about their mission to protect people and the environment. Below are a few examples illustrating the 10 years 'lost' by EFSA during which it could have worked to improve human health and the environment. There however is a glimmer of hope for the next 10 years, as illustrated by the recent EFSA-opinion on bees.

- EFSA organised a range of 'scientific' colloquiums' -generally organised with the industry lobby club ILSI (International Life Science Institute)- crowded with industry people and crowded with industry-linked people, while civil society was excluded. Cases include the 2005-colloquium on genotoxic carcinogens<sup>5</sup>, the 2006-colloquium on pesticide mixtures<sup>6</sup> and the 2011-joint EFSA/ILSI/CEFIC-workshop on TTC <sup>7</sup>, an industry-tool to classify chemicals as 'safe' without testing. Many of the industry-linked people present served in the EFSA-panels and illustrate the cosy relations.



<sup>5</sup> EFSA/WHO international conference with support of ILSI Europe on risk assessment of compounds that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic, Brussels, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> EFSA scientific colloquium, cumulative risk assessment of pesticides to human health: The way forward, Parma, 2006

<sup>7</sup> Workshop on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern: Scientific challenges and approaches, Brussels, 2011

- While politicians decided to oblige regulators such as EFSA to take into account independent scientific work published in scientific journals, EFSA managed to write a Guideline 8 effectively excluding independent science by using the so-called “Klimisch-ranking”. H.J. Klimisch is an employee of BASF claiming that industry-sponsored studies should be preferred over studies done in independent laboratories. EFSA themselves showed very clearly their bias on independent literature dismissing all 700 independent studies on the chemical Bisphenol A while continuing to base their conclusions on 4 industry-sponsored studies.
- One of the clearest cases of a conflict of interest was EFSA's work on TTC (Threshold of Toxicological Concern). Industry consultant Susan Barlow volunteered to chair the working group and invited her network of industry people to join her. 10 out of 13 members of the TTC-wg. were people promoting the use of TTC in the past -generally together with ILSI- and still were supposed to perform an independent assessment. 8 out of 13 had formal relations with industry group ILSI 9.
- It is not only TTC which has been embraced by EFSA, but many industry-proposals and loopholes were adopted with help of the industry-linked in the EFSA-panels. On multiple occasions, harmful effects demonstrated in animal studies were dismissed and considered 'irrelevant' for humans, controls in animal studies were not used and substituted by statistical methods allowing harmful effects, toxic pesticide breakdown products were classified as 'non-relevant', and wild plants and animals allowed to be killed by pesticides if they would return after one full year (called "recovery")
- So is EFSA not fulfilling its role at all? No, not entirely, a good inspiration for the next 10 year EFSA is the opinion on bees 10 where academic research was taken into account. This, however remains an all too lonely exception.

### **GM-crops increase the use of pesticides in the US.**

Contrary to often-repeated claims that today's genetically-engineered crops have, and are reducing pesticide use, the spread of glyphosate-resistant weeds in herbicide-resistant weed management systems has brought about substantial increases in the number and volume of herbicides applied. If new genetically engineered forms of corn and soybeans tolerant of 2,4-D are approved, the volume of 2,4-D sprayed could drive herbicide usage upward by another

<sup>8</sup> Submission of scientific peer-reviewed open literature for the approval of pesticide active substances under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, *EFSA Journal* 2011;9(2):2092

<sup>9</sup> A toxic mixture, Industry bias found in EFSA working group on risk assessment of toxic chemicals, PAN E report on TTC.

<sup>10</sup> Scientific Opinion on the science behind the development of a risk assessment of Plant Protection Products on bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees), *EFSA Journal* 2012;10(5):2668

approximate 50%. The magnitude of increases in herbicide use on herbicide-resistant hectares has dwarfed the reduction in insecticide use on *Bt* crops over the past 16 years, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Herbicide-resistant crop technology has led to a 239 million kilogram (527 million pound)<sup>11</sup> increase in herbicide use in the United States between 1996 and 2011, while *Bt* crops have reduced insecticide applications by 56 million kilograms (123 million pounds). Overall, pesticide use increased by an estimated 183 million kg's (404 million pounds), or about 7%.

## Silent Spring close to reality

Rachel Carson's famous book 'The Silent Spring' starts with 'a fable of tomorrow', picturing "a town in the heart of America where all life seems to live in harmony with its surroundings". "Along the roads laurel, viburnum, and alder, great ferns and wild flowers delighted the traveller's eyes...". But "then a strange blight crept over the area and everything began to change. Some evil spell had settled in the community...everywhere was a shadow of death".

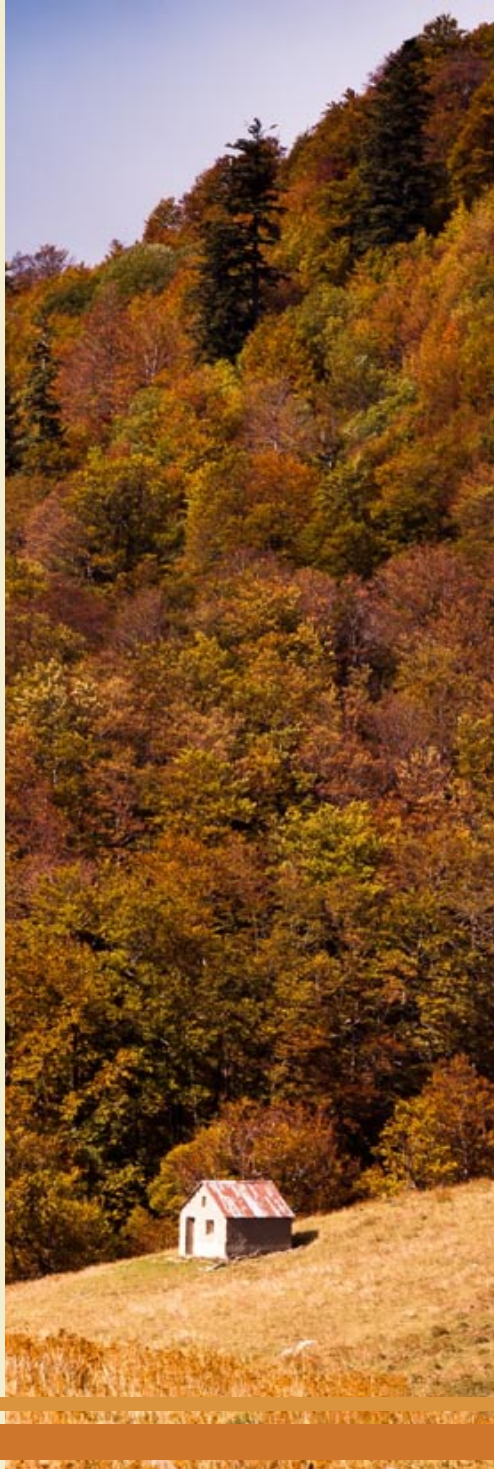
In our lifetime, we have been witnessing the fable become reality. Frogs and bats are poisoned by pesticides and dying of mysterious fungal infections, birds populations are decreasing at an alarming rate, even abundant birds seen in the fields like skylarks are threatened with extinction. Bees are dying. And what about us humans? Can you believe children are more sick now than a generation before?

In a landmark study of 12 national scientific institutes of work done in 8 West and East-European countries (Basic and Applied Ecology 11 (2010) 97–105), lead author Flavia Geiger and colleagues studied the effects of agricultural intensification. Loss of landscape elements, enlarged farms and fields sizes and larger inputs of fertilizers and pesticides have all taken their toll. Many wild plants and animals have gone extinct regionally or nationally and the potential to use biological control in agriculture has been reduced because beneficial insects have also been killed. Flavia Geiger and colleagues looked at 13 components of intensification in agriculture and the clearest relation with the decrease of biodiversity was the use of pesticides. The use of insecticides and fungicides in particular had consistent negative effects on biodiversity.

The European Union has had strict regulations on pesticides to protect human health and the environment since 1991, and this protection should prevail

over the interests of crop production. One might ask why this regulation is so ineffective in protecting wildlife in Europe. This brings us to the Brussels arena where white could be white but also just as easily be black. The strict regulation to protect wildlife can be watered down by the Commission and member states in a procedure called 'comitology'. In this procedure, the Commission and EU member states (represented by their Ministries of Agriculture) are capable of twisting and turning the rules behind closed doors. The outcome is generally very positive for industry and farmers but not for the environment. Dozens of pesticides show a "high risk" for birds or for mammals or for bees, but often, the Commission and Member States decide to approve the pesticide. PAN-Europe recently published a report on 88 pesticides evaluated in a special procedure called 'resubmission'[\(PAN report on resubmission\)](#). This report clearly shows that is not a single case where a pesticide was banned for environmental reasons, while many were very harmful to wildlife. The official argument by Health DG SANCO is that Member states need to impose mitigation measures to protect wildlife, but it is totally unaware if this is the case, and if so, if the measures are enforced at all.

Rachel Carson was right, we are destroying our world. All the beautiful plants and animals are disappearing forever. The EU has high standards for protecting wildlife, but as it comes to decision-making, the rules are bent towards the interest of companies and wildlife is 'forgotten'.



### Historical court decision granting access to court for NGO's

PAN-Europe -and its member Stichting Natuur en Milieu in the Netherlands- in 2008 asked the Commission for a review of Commission Regulation 149/2008 allowing for a massive relaxation of pesticide residue standards in food. Instead of reviewing the regulation, the Commission but responded that the NGO's had no standing to ask for an internal review because such a request would qualify as a legislative act that cannot be reviewed on the basis of the EU-legislation, that only foresees the internal review of 'administrative acts' of 'individual scope'. The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg now rules that the criteria of 'individual scope' is not part of the Aarhus convention and is an invalid application of the convention. The right of access to justice is also about decisions of general scope like most of the environmental regulations of Commissions. The court further stated that the Aarhus convention takes precedence over secondary community legislation, all implementing rules, and decisions made by Commission. This means that the possibility of asking for the internal review of Commission Regulations is now open for environmental NGO's such as PAN-Europe.

PAN-Europe will now ask Commission to start the review of Regulation 149/2008 following the request already sent to the Commission in 2008 and put an end to the massive relaxing of the food standards. In the meantime, the Food Authority EFSA has decided to again lower a range of relaxed standards because of high health risks for humans, proving that PAN-Europe had good reason to ask for a review.

The court verdict is a historical one because NGO's have been denied standing in court for over 15 years. Several attempts have been made by PAN, Greenpeace and others but had all failed until now. The court decision will create a fair playing field because industry has always been able challenge decisions in court and the finding will now improve the lobby power of NGO's.

### Glyphosate

PAN-Europe and Greenpeace started three court cases on the extension of the EU approval of Glyphosate, thereby requesting the disclosure of documents

including the original industry studies. In the first case, the Commission denied us access to court and referred us to Germany for the documents because Commission claimed they didn't have them. Nevertheless we appealed to European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. In the second case, we asked Germany the documentation. The Germans claimed the documents are confidential and we had no right to read them. We went to court in Braunschweig, and this court too felt that industry's interest should prevail over the public interest. We are considering an appeal. The third case is on a concrete authorisation in the Netherlands and a court meeting is pending.

## **Endocrine disrupting pesticides**

PAN Europe and generation Futures brought the first court case on the fungicide prochloraz, which was approved in 2011 while Commission made no assessment on its endocrine disrupting properties. Not regarding human health nor regarding the environment. A similar case has been started on the insecticide Bifenthrin together with ClientEarth and Generations Futures.

In May 2012 PAN Europe filed a court case against the decision of EU Commission to authorize the chemical Prochloraz. This chemical is known for its endocrine disrupting properties, but the Commission chose to completely disregard all the evidence from available scientific studies on endocrine disrupting effects for humans and granted Prochloraz ten years of access to the European market.

Prochloraz is a fungicide approved for a wide variety of crops in the European Union. Evidence of its negative effects has already been presented by a large number of scientific studies. These adverse effects include the feminisation of male offspring and sexual malformations. The unborn are especially vulnerable to this type of chemicals. Indeed, exposure during key stages of development in the womb can lead to behavioural effects in later life. Despite these alarming effects, Prochloraz was eventually re-approved by the EU Commission in the late 2011 after a very short withdrawal. But Commission did not consider the available evidence regarding human exposure at all.

In December 2011, PAN Europe sent a request to the Commission for an internal review of the approval. The Commission, according to regulations, must consider current scientific knowledge and ensure that harmful effects on humans are prevented. After a negative decision of Commission on 9th March 2012,

PAN Europe's lawyer Mr. J. Rutteman send our appeal to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

While the Commission has to come up with criteria for endocrine disruption by the end of 2013, this type of chemical is still marketed. PAN Europe believes that people in Europe should be protected against the adverse effects of such chemicals in the meantime and that no endocrine disrupting pesticides should therefore be allowed on the market.

Prochloraz is also part of the "re-submission" regime of Commission in order to escape from the usual stricter testing protocols. A report by PAN on the flaws of this regime was published in the end of March (link: [PAN report Resubmission](#)).

### **Landmark case on access to court.**

PAN Europe, together with Natuur en Milieu (NL) brought a suit regarding massive food standard relaxing for pesticide residues in 2008. The Commission claimed we had no right to go to court but the Luxembourg court concluded that the Commission was wrong in 2012. While the verdict was quite clear, the Commission decided to an appeal. Both NGO's now face again a journey to Luxembourg to defend the outcome in 2012. The outcome of the appeal will not be known before 2014.

Next to the victory in 2012, the Commission now –for the very first time- had to do a review for the case on relaxing standards since their appeal doesn't count for this case, and completely denied all of our claims. This means we have to challenge this Commission decision in the European Court of Justice– a case on content together with Natuur en Milieu.

### **Pilot cases on neonicotinoides.**

PAN Europe brought two cases on pesticides harmful to bees in the Netherlands, given the easy access to court in that country (access to court is easily granted, no lawyer needed). In 2011, a case was brought on all authorisations of Imidacloprid. The Dutch authorisation body was very slow in reacting and we decided to go directly to court. In early 2013, there will be a court hearing. A second case was on Fipronil (trademark Mundial), which is still ongoing.



## Complaints at the European Ombudsman.

In late 2011, a PAN Europe complaint was filed on the TTC work of the Food Authority EFSA<sup>12</sup>. 10 out of 13 people who had been developing, promoting and publishing on TTC in the past, generally with industry lobby clubs, were part of an EFSA working group and supposed to do an independent assessment. EFSA had its say on the complaint of PAN Europe. We could give again our observations but Ombudsman has still not made a verdict .

A second complaint was filed by PAN Europe in late 2012 regarding the Resubmission programme of DG SANCO<sup>13</sup>. On dozens of occasions, pesticides showed high risk for birds, for mammals, for bees, for water organisms, and in no case was a pesticide banned. This means the pesticide Regulation has been violated and pesticides will continue destroying biodiversity.



<sup>12</sup>PAN report on TTC

<sup>13</sup>PAN report on resubmission

## PAN EUROPE ON FACEBOOK

Launched in June 2012, PAN Europe now has a Facebook page. We now have more than 350 “likes” but depending on the subjects of our posts we sometimes reach over than 2000 people a week. The most popular subjects were the honeybee issue and the work on the Commission to ban the neonicotinoides that appear to be killing them. Of course we also use this page to promote PAN projects, reports, press releases, and petitions, but most importantly, it is a way to inform people about scientific literature and media article from all over Europe. People are thereby up to date about the evolution of issues such as Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, the Bees disappearance probably caused by pesticides, the CAP 2013 reform, and more generally other environmental linked subjects that might interest people. Although the number of people that “like” our page is still growing, it is interesting to see that they are from all over the world, Europe of course but also USA, South America, and even India. In addition, in 2013, PAN decided to continue with this social networking wave and will start a Twitter feed in March in order to react in real time to the environmental issues that emerge every day in Europe and on the Brussels scene, especially those related to pesticides.

## 2012 IN THE NETWORK

### The Belgian Pesticide Free Week

The fifth Pesticide-Free Week was held from 20 to 30 March 2012. This campaign takes place yearly in sync with the “Alternatives to pesticides week” organised mainly in France. Since 2008

Adalia, a non-profit association has coordinated the campaign in Wallonia (Belgium).

On this occasion, local authorities, associations, and gardeners came together to discuss the impact of pesticides on the environment and on health, and to put forward alternatives allowing the use of pesticides to be reduced. For the first time, Brussels joined the



campaign, making it a major event throughout the French speaking part of the country.

This year 147 activities were organised such as conferences, exhibitions, visits, demonstrations and debates. Adalia encouraged people to bring their old pesticides to specialised disposal facilities by rewarding them with some flower seeds. This unique campaign was made possible thanks to the collaboration with the waste management association. People now know what to do with certain pesticides that are no longer authorised.

During our activities, some lucky children received a few ladybirds each to release in their garden. We explained how useful insects are, especially ladybirds that eat aphids. Back home, the children told their parents that they should use ladybirds instead of pesticides against aphids.

We are very happy to see that the Belgian Pesticide-free week has a strong public support and is expanding each year. We hope that one day this campaign won't be needed any more since everyone has gone pesticide-free!

***Bastien Domken- Adalia Asbl***

### **School fruit scheme in Slovak Republic & pesticide residues**

Under the EU supported SFS (School Fruit Scheme) run in Slovakia as in other member states, the Commission will refund up to 80% of the price of any fruit and vegetables which are offered to the children. The idea is good of course; we need to teach our children to eat healthy food – including fruits and vegetables, but, how healthy are the fruits consumed in the EU? Based on official European monitoring - about 50% of them contain pesticide residues, about 25% have traces of more than one kind of pesticide (multiple residues). Many residues are EDs (Endocrine disruptors), for which children are the most vulnerable. Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) are based on best agricultural practice, not human ecotoxicity like ADI (Accepted Daily Intake), or ARfD (Acute reference dose). Additionally, about 50% of MRLs in the EU are still in the wake of the 2008 harmonisation and do not reflect multiply residues in any single food we eat. So, in the Autumn of 2012 (7.11.2012), I made a proposal to the Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Group of the European Commission to take a new approach with regard to the school fruit scheme – the forward 0 residues SFS approach. The Commission has not yet responded.

***Daniel Lešinský, CEPTA***

## National Action Plan Slovak Republic

NAP SK – Slovak National Action Plan for „sustainable“ pesticides use was adopted without an understanding of what the partnership principle means in adopting strategic documents. The responsible person at the ministry did one on-line public consultation, followed by just one physical meeting of stakeholders. We were not able to see \ the final version of the document and were given no opportunity for discussion. In the working version, it was felt that the responsible person at the agriculture ministry have a lack of understanding for priorities of the directive and no understanding for the partnership principle approach. EU strategy as well as that of other member states would be instructive. The strategy would clearly define common targets in pesticides use, which could be evaluated. The NAP in such a case would then serve as it was intended. Otherwise, a good idea of a systematic approach in pesticides usage/dependence reduction by NAP will stay on paper, varying from country to country, with responsible officers using competitiveness as an argument against the safety of EU inhabitants, taxpayers, and the future.

**Daniel Lešínský, CEPTA**

## Week for Alternatives to Pesticides (Pesticides Action Week)

From 20 to 30 March 2012 was held the 7th Annual Pesticides Action Week. This operation was attended by tens of thousands of people (associations, farmers, consumers, local authorities etc.) for a 'future without pesticides'.

750 events were organized mostly in France but also in 21 others countries (4 countries more than in 2011): France, Belgium, UK, Germany, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, Congo, Georgia, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Canada.



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Various events were organised: film screenings, debates, workshops, training, demonstrations, site visits, symbolic marches, organic meals, exhibitions, shows, etc. Farmers have also organized “open farms days “, the discovery of organic gardening or organic orchards.

Municipalities also attended the event and organized various events: pedestrian tours through cities to discover the efforts of the team and non-chemical weed control techniques and visits to “free pesticides urban zones”. There were dozens of trips to learn how to look at nature differently and better understand the impact of pesticides on biodiversity: home gardens, night out in search of newts, training, technical conferences, demonstrations, workshops for young and older people, and conferences with experts and personalities such as Pierre Rabhi (agroécologiste), Francois Veillerette Marc Dufumier (agronomist) etc..

One of the highlights of the event was a major conference at the “Palais du Luxembourg” (French Senate) 23rd and 24th March on “Pesticides and Health, what kind of change is needed for improvement?”. On the first day, a scientific conference was held with leading experts and the next day technical workshops aimed at pesticide victims, on legal issues and on alternatives for farmers were held.

To discover all the videos of the two days visit our website: [www.congrespesticides.org](http://www.congrespesticides.org)



These first 10 days of spring (which is a very symbolic period because spring is the time when pesticide spraying starts again every year) have been the occasion of a great citizen mobilization for a future without pesticides, supported by local and national media (radio , TV and newspapers). All these events were targeting the same objectives: to inform of the risks of pesticides and to promote alternatives to pesticide use.

Initiated in 2006 by the ACAP group, Citizen Action for Alternative to Pesticides, and coordinated by Generations Futures, the event is for everyone: consumers, citizens, municipal officials, farmers, businesses, children, gardeners, and the simply curious. The operation is backed by more than 35 partners. Again this year, new networks have joined the operation (in France: Ecomaires, Synabio, Ecocert, the Hummingbirds, Altereco, ONEMA / Ecophyto2018). This 2012 edition is marked by increasing internationalisation and strengthened links with new international partners: Bund (Germany), IFOAM (International), Friends of the Earth Europe, Soil Association (UK).

These closer links have an effect on the promotion of the event in these countries. Hopefully this will result in 2013 in many more efforts in these countries, the ideal being that some national structures accept to coordinate the event in their own countries, like Belgium with Adalia or ASOL in Togo. Now 'rendezvous' the 20 to 30 March 2013 to perpetuate this action for hope and solutions with the 8<sup>th</sup> occurrence of the Pesticide Action Week !

**Nadine Lauverjat**, *Générations Futures*



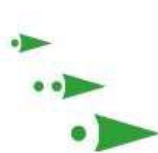
For more information: [pesticidesactionweek.org](http://pesticidesactionweek.org)

### **Salon International de l'Agriculture**

Paris, Monday, February 27, at 10am, at the "Salon International de l'Agriculture" (SIA), for the first time in France (and probably in the world), professional users of pesticides, and direct victims of these products went to demonstrate - with the association Phyto-Victims - at the stand of UIPP (Union of Industry Plant Protection) - the lobby group of agrochemical companies in France. Each wearing a T-shirt on which their name and the disease they were suffering was printed. Participants also displayed large posters showing examples like a photo of a victim coupled with sentences like «Pesticides have made me a paraplegic» or «Pesticides have made me a widow.»

Among the protesters were farmer Paul François, who was recently in the media spotlight for his successful lawsuit against the U.S. firm Monsanto and the widow of Yannick Chenet, a farmer who died last year. This action was supported by Generations Futures, which has been present alongside Phyto-victims since its creation in March 2011.

François Veillerette, Generations Futures' spokesman, said in a press release issued for the occasion "during the last sixty years, French agriculture was gradually made totally dependent on massive use of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides). Hazardous synthetic pesticides have been used by tens of thousands of tons each year during this period. This massive use of pesticides unfortunately has a dark side, *which its promoters would like to hide. This of course includes environmental pollution. But what the advocates of pesticides absolutely want to see stay in the shadows, it is the exorbitant impact on human health of the massive use of synthetic pesticides in agriculture.* And it is the farmers themselves who pay the heaviest price for this hidden health disaster. Today, farmers, widows and other professional victims of pesticides dare to show themselves in broad daylight and accuse a system that made them sick. This is a great step forward. Generations Futures want to pay a tribute to the courage of these victims and to all the suffering that they and their families are going through. Courage is indeed necessary to testify while the entire agro-industrial system has been imposing an 'omerta rule' on this subject for half a century! " "This demonstration of Phyto-victims at the Salon of Agriculture now allows people to see the real price paid by workers, in agriculture and



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J'aime

other sectors, for the use of massive quantities of synthetic pesticides for half a century” he concludes.

Other supporters were added to the list including WWF France, FNAB, the professional federation of organic agriculture, and the agricultural trade union Confederation Paysanne.

The objective of this effort was to help victims of pesticide professionals to express themselves and to counter the claims of chemical manufacturers who claim that pesticide use does not poison anyone. Therefore, this Monday, Feb. 27, these men and women - farmers, widows of farmers, farm workers, employees of food industry, dockers - have shown that pesticide victims do exist and they have made their voices heard on this occasion.

This event attracted a lot of media attention and enabled a delegation of victims to meet the French Minister of Agriculture (Bruno Lemaire) and the European Commissioner Ciolos. They also were able to make an appointment with the office of Prime Minister to report on the situation of professional victims of pesticides. Meanwhile, a mission of the Senate on “Pesticides and Health” was launched and met the victims. Parkinson’s disease linked to pesticides entered the list of occupational diseases, which is a significant progress. Things are now moving forward and, in France, the situation will never be the same now on this issue. It is now time to create an identical movement across Europe and even beyond, PAN Europe will certainly have a unifying role to play!

**Nadine Lauverjat, Générations Futures**

Check out videos of the action here:

[http://www.phyto-victimes.fr/2012/03/phyto-victimes-au-salon-de-l%E2%80%99agriculture-act-2 /](http://www.phyto-victimes.fr/2012/03/phyto-victimes-au-salon-de-l%E2%80%99agriculture-act-2/)

<http://www.phyto-victimes.fr/2012/03/phyto-victimes-au-salon-de-lagriculture-acte-1/>





## Safe food campaign in Austria.

In Spring 2012, GLOBAL 2000 was asked by PAN Europe to participate in an initiative to produce a consumer guide that informs European consumers about the endocrine disrupting potential of pesticides in fruit in vegetables and to provide a tool to lobby in favour of strong criteria for characterisation of ED-pesticides by the European Commission through December 2013. We were pleased to work on this important project. The outcome of the analysis was shocking: our calculations on the basis of EFSA-pesticide monitoring data and existing scientific literature on potential ED-pesticides showed that the average European fruit and vegetable from conventional agriculture contains amounts of potential endocrine disrupting chemicals in the range of 300 micrograms to 1300 micrograms per kilogram. Comparatively, the daily dose of the sum of synthetic oestrogen and progesterone of a birth control pill is less than 200 micrograms. This shocking discovery led to call a press conference on 16 August 2012. The event attracted quite a bit of media attention: all of the four Austrian television stations were present and reported about the press conference, as did Austrian radio. The print media also broadly picked up the issue and day after the press conference, we had around 36 media clippings.

Our call for Austria to remove ED-Pesticides from the list of pesticides that are allowed in “integrated production”, which is part of the Austrian programme for an environmentally sound agriculture (ÖPUL) - financed with hundreds of millions of Euros by the European Union – led to important discussions especially at the Ministry of Agriculture, the AMA (AMA-Gütesiegel is a relatively weak quality label for conventional agricultural products, with broad coverage in Austria) and farmer organisations. Some of them blamed were unconstructive and claimed that GLOBAL 2000 was to be blamed for saying that Austrian agricultural products of being unhealthy and dangerous, but there were also more constructive reactions, for example, AMA which posed questions on how we should deal with these findings.

In January, GLOBAL 2000 was invited to hold a presentation on ED-pesticides and their risk to consumers during the “Wintertagung”, Austria's biggest annual agricultural convention.



Moving forward:

The same calculations, that made together with PAN Europe using European pesticide monitoring data (EFSA report 2009) are to be carried out using Austrian pesticide data (until recently we didn't have this data) as part of our program/projects together with REWE group Austria (pesticide reduction program PRP and NHP). We also intend to hold regular meetings with farmers. We hope to make use of these meetings to discuss possibilities to remove certain ED-pesticides from the production of special crops. We intend to repeat our call for a phase out of all ED-pesticides from the IP-list, list of pesticides allowed in integrated production within the Austrian environmental program ÖPUL .

*Helmuth Burtscher, Global 2000*

### **Ban on pesticides in residential areas in NL?**

Since summer 2011, I have represented PAN Europe in the Dutch working group for the National Action Plan regarding the non-agricultural use of pesticides. In the end, the working group decided to stop using pesticides on streets, parks and other residential green areas as well as for non-professional use. Only a minority of those selling the products were against the ban. Additionally, a study commissioned by the Dutch government showed that the use of non-chemical alternatives are not more expensive and the alternatives for keeping streets clean are only slightly more expensive. However when the National Action Plan (NAP) was published, it turned out that the use of pesticides in residential green areas on streets wouldn't be banned at all. A 2011 parliamentary resolution banning the use of Glyphosate was also ignored.

Since we noticed that the NAP of the government on many points didn't meet the requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive, we started drafting an alternative plan. This alternative plan was one of the elements of the discussion in the Dutch parliament and with a new government, including Social-Democrats and Social-Democratic ministers, a new wind started blowing in the Netherlands. A resolution was adopted in November 2012 for a moratorium on the use of bee-killing neonicotinoides and as well other resolutions such as levies (taxes) for pesticides. The Netherlands moved from her traditional back-lagging position in Brussels, to a more progressive position supporting a ban. The new minister also asked for a revision of the NAP and there are some indications a ban in residential areas could be an outcome.

*Kees Beart, PAN Europe volunteer*

## **German environmental NGOs left NAP process.**

The effects of decades of pesticide use can be seen everywhere: pesticide residues in food, contaminated water bodies, pesticides in bee-hives, reduced biodiversity. In Germany 54% of the total land area is under cultivation. Therefore agriculture forms the largest habitat for wildlife. On more than 95% of the arable land, pesticides are the first choice to protect agricultural crops from competition (grasses and weeds), fungi, pests and disease.

In order to reduce risks and negative effects of pesticide use, the so called “Reduction Programme Chemical Plant Protection” was launched in Germany in 2004 and meetings of this “Forum” with participation of stakeholders involved, as ministry, farmer organizations, environmental NGOs, food and pesticide industry, etc. took place regularly. With the upcoming new EU pesticide legislation the former Reduction program’s name was changed into National Action Plan (NAP) in 2009. Adopting a NAP now is no longer voluntary. The EU Sustainable Use Directive (DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC) now obliges member states to adopt National Action Plans (NAP) to set up quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables to reduce risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and to encourage the development and introduction of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques in order to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides.

In order to meet the new requirements, work within the NAP-Forum had been intensified. Several meetings and additional working group meetings focusing on specific issues such as biodiversity, water protection, residues in food and indicators took place under the guidance of the agricultural ministry. PAN Germany, which has been active in the process since 2004 co-ordinated the environmental groups in the NAP-Forum. In 2009, PAN addressed lack of biodiversity conservation in the NAP and called for more ambitious goals. Alone and together with other environmental NGOs, PAN published position papers and concepts focusing on biodiversity and clean water, pesticides residues in food, and indicators. All documents are available on [www.pan-germany.org/deu/~news-1035.html](http://www.pan-germany.org/deu/~news-1035.html). PAN made efforts to bring issues such as a bee-bread indicator, a crop rotation index and adequate measures to reach goal of +20% organic agriculture area to the table.

After lobbying for years for improved policy action on environmental and health issues, PAN Germany decided to leave the Forum in November 2011. Though the continuous engagement of the environmental NGOs contributed to an improvement of the NAP draft, this decision had been taken because PAN Germany

did not see that the SUD (Sustainable Use Direction) goals – risk reduction for environment and human health and reducing dependency from chemical pesticides – could be reached with this insufficient NAP-Draft. Along with others, PAN criticized the lack of transparency within the process, the lack of ambitious goals and measures to protect surface and ground water from pesticides that partially do not even meet policy standards, the lack of coherence, the lack of limitation of monoculture, and the lack of obligations for wider crop rotation, a strong focus on “voluntary” measures, a lack of financial support for needed non-chemical plant protection research, and more.

PAN Germany explained this step in a letter to the agricultural minister Ilse Aigner and left the NAP-Forum together with Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Greenpeace Germany, German Association of Energy and Water Industries (BDEW), and the German Professional Beekeepers Association (DBIB). The group further made their actions publicly known. Irrespective of this step, the Federation of German Consumer Organisations (vzbv) and the German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW) also left the NAP process. That left the NAP Forum which met last time in December 2011 without a consumer NGO representatives, without participation of an environmental & protection NGO, and without a representative of water suppliers. PAN Germany and the other NGOs followed the invitation by the Agricultural Ministry to explain their decision and made it clear that just “cosmetic improvements” will not change the organizations’ decision.

The inter-ministerial consultation of the NAP-Draft has recently begun. In addition to leaving the NAP-Forum, we will carry out a critical evaluation of the provisions as soon as the official proposal is released.

***Susan Haffmans, PAN Germany***




## The new European Biocidal Product Regulation: Opportunities and Obstacles

In May 2012, the Council of the European Union formally adopted the EU's new Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), which will to replace the EU's existing Biocidal Products Directive 98/8/EC. The provisions of the Regulation will go into effect on September, 2013.

The BPR, which regulates the marketing and use of household insecticides, disinfectants, preservatives and preservatives had previously adopted by the European Parliament in January this year. PAN, HEAL and the WECF criticised the results of the revision in a common [press release](#), for a variety of reasons including the wide range of "derogations" and the lack of substitution plans for hazardous biocides as well as too little added value for public health, especially concerning the likely risks of antibiotic resistance from unbridled growth of biocide use.

In Germany for instance, more than 35,000 biocide products exist on the market. Most of them in the fields of hygiene, material protection, preservation, and pest control. Simultaneously, we observe an increasing number of everyday products that are treated with biocides, including leather articles treated with anti-mould products, mouse pads or other synthetic materials treated with antibacterial coating or textiles with "anti-odor" labels. With the new legislation consumer rights are however strengthened through e.g. specific labelling requirements for such treated articles and biocidal products containing nanomaterials.

The new fact sheet "[The European Union's new Regulation on biocides](#)", published by PAN Germany, provides a summary of substantial improvements and shortcomings of the BPR from the perspective of environmental and consumer protection. It aims to help the interested public, NGOs and the media to get a clear and quick picture of future provisions or to find an easy understanding of the complex legislative text.



PAN Germany advocates stricter approval procedures to increase transparency, better consumer information as well as a sustainable use of biocides including the promotion of harmless alternatives. The fact sheet is available in English and German as a printed version as well as a free PDF-document on the PAN Germany website:  
<http://www.pan-germany.org/gbr.htm>.

*Susanne Smolka, PAN Germany*

## **Show pesticide companies the red card! Stop highly hazardous pesticides!**

*- Take action and sign the letter against highly hazardous pesticides -*

The multinational chemical companies BASF, Bayer, and Syngenta control nearly half of the world pesticide market. Because of their huge distribution networks, these companies have an enormous influence on how and with which pesticides crops are produced. Further, because independent extensions services are rare, pesticide companies often advise farmers on the local level and promote their products in the process.

Many of their pesticides are however highly hazardous. Each of these three companies market more than fifty highly hazardous pesticides that endanger and harm people and the environment worldwide. Such pesticides can, for example, cause cancer, damage the nervous system, make people infertile, or kill bees, and they endanger people, animals, and ecosystems worldwide. This has been shown in an international investigation conducted by PAN Germany.

Enough is enough! Join the online effort against highly hazardous pesticides by signing the letter at <http://action.pan-germany.org/gbr/~aktionsmail.html> calling on the corporations to end sales of highly hazardous pesticides. The online initiative will run through October 2012. Ask your friends join in via email, Twitter, or Facebook and to also sign the letter.  
(There is a convenient way to share this action with friends by email at: <http://action.pan-germany.org/gbr/~freundeinfo.html>).

*Susanne Smolka, PAN Germany*

## **Reducing the use of hazardous pesticides in Georgia**

From August 2010 until July 2012 the project “Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries: potential of implementing safer chemicals including non-chemical alternatives - tools for Georgia and the EECCA region“ was implemented by the Georgian NGO Greens Movement Georgia, SEMA, the Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association (GEBMA) and coordinated by WECF. The project received financial support of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The aim of the project was on of various initiatives to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture in Georgia (Caucasus), to improve legislative regulation and to identify and demonstrate the usage of non-hazardous bio pesticides in agriculture.

## **Process of liberalisation of pesticides in Georgia**

Before 2003, the legislation of Georgia was mainly based on approaches and norms from the Soviet period, which were fairly strict with regard to requirements for production, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals. After 2003, in line with general liberalisation of the regulation in the country, the laws in the field of production use and disposal of the hazardous chemicals were also loosened, which had a negative influence in the issues of protection of human life, health and economic interests. The project observed a loosening of legislation in the field of hazardous chemicals in Georgia has been done through a very simplistic approach, and in many cases the only action was elimination of this or that law. During the same period, Georgia became party to number of international conventions and treaties, and the country made important commitments, including a number in the field of hazardous chemicals.

Based on the above reality, the Stockholm Convention (adopted in 2001, entered in force in 2004) should serve as a legal milestone in the field of production use and disposal of the hazardous chemicals. Despite the fact that in Georgia, issues covered by the Stockholm Convention are regulated by not less than four ministries, and many lower level state authorities, there is still not a single legal act in place that would aim towards regulating these products. For example, there is structural relationship between these institutions, and the rights and responsibilities of the Focal Point are not defined. Further, yet to be addressed are defined requirements for accountability and creation of unified national database.

Serious deficiencies in the field of informing consumers in process of sale of the registered pesticides and other chemicals have been identified.

### **The Georgian pesticide market**

The Georgian market is saturated with various chemical pesticides. Currently, in such a small country as Georgia, up to 190 active substances and about 400 their various derivative complex preparations have been registered. Most of them are low quality, chemical pesticides produced in China, India, Turkey and Bulgaria. Also on the Georgian market there are various pesticides from Europe, produced by the companies like BASF, Syngenta, Bayer, Newfarm, and Dupont. The total yearly quantity of imported pesticides is about 1300-1500 tons, a large increase when one considers that in 2010 approximately 8000 kg chemicals regulated by Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were imported to Georgia (Based on the Customs Office data).



According to statistical data, the total area of tilled soil in Georgia is 472 thousand ha, with 100,215 ha under perennial crops. Up to 370,000 ha of this area (excluding the farms with small parcels up to 0.2 ha) are potential users of pesticides (approx. 4 kg/ha)

Year	Insecticides (kg)	Fungicides (kg)	Herbicides (kg)	Germicides (kg)	Rodenticides (kg)	Other (kg)	Total (kg)
2011	264 589	773 051,6	328 076,2	32 917	25 775	84 920,4	1 509 329
2010	240 337	804 266	166 387	780	39 054	54 640	1 305 464

*Table : Overview of import of pesticides in 2010 into Georgia by types.  
(Source: web page of the Ministry of Finance)*

In the experts’ opinion, the European products are high quality, technologically pure and respectively expensive. As for Chinese, Indian and Turkish products, both, their price and quality are quite low and hence their reliability is doubtful. Further, for the purpose of importing cheap chemical preparations, some importers registers several analogues of one and the same preparation produced in China, India or Turkey.

Though there are about 150 specialized pesticide shops, farmers’ houses, and distribution networks. Consumers are generally unaware of the risks related to pesticides’ application. Further packaging and marking (Georgian text and application instructions on the labels) of pesticides are not regulated neither controlled.

**Adequate measures are needed**

To mitigate the risk of harmful environmental impacts of the pesticides the project identified, among others, the following required measures are needed:

- The strictest regulations of marking and labelling the harmful chemicals should be established, providing maximum information about harmful properties of such substances;
- Current regulations of storage, packaging, distribution and application of



- harmful chemicals and chemical substances should be reviewed;
- An extensive campaign should be arranged to improve the population's awareness of pesticides' application safety rules;
  - Personal protection means should be available at the specialized shops and such personal protection equipment should be offered together with the application instructions;
  - Before application of the pesticides the equipment should be tested;
  - Reliable data base on the properties of authorized pesticides should be made available in Georgian language to importers, retailers, authorities and farmers
  - A campaign on the substitution of harmful pesticides should be started

### **Steps moving forward: Establishing a pesticide database in Georgian language**

Due to the observed illegal importation and the low awareness on the risks of pesticides among authorities, users and other stakeholders, the project took it upon itself to develop a handbook with a pesticide database in Georgian language. The Handbook will present the basic principles on pesticides toxicity and safe use, and safe alternatives of hazardous pesticides. For each in Georgia, registered pesticide information is given on its chemical formula, CAS, IUPAC numbers, physical and chemical properties, preventive and first aid measures, etc. It is intended for practitioners, agricultural workers, toxicologists, health physicians, teachers and students of universities, scientists and others. Synonyms and trade names of pesticides will be provided alphabetically.

### **Steps moving forwards: Substitution of harmful pesticides**

In Georgia, there are some officially registered bio-pesticides. However up to now there is no market for alternative pesticides. Distributors state this is due to their high prices and low demand, while low demand actually is caused by lack of information among the public. Therefore accurate information about alternative pesticides, their reliability and effectiveness should be provided.

In addition to developing informational materials on substitution of harmful pesticides, the project established a demonstration plot on organic farming and a safe pest management for the cultivation of such products as potatoes and cabbage.

*Anna Samwel, WECF and Ketikiria, Greens Movement Georgia*

## **Go Organic! Many fruits and vegetables not safe for pregnant women and young children!**

WECF Netherlands and PAN-Europe published the results of their study regarding hormone disrupting pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables as a press release just before Christmas. WECFs MargrietSamwel analysed the official residue data from the government, and the results were shocking, among others 90% of Dutch apples contained hormone disrupting pesticide residues. The press release warned - in light of the Christmas dinners - that pregnant women and children should avoid such EDC residues, and eat organic fruits and vegetables instead.

The press release generated a lot of traffic to the website (1450 extra unique visitors the first day) and various facebook pages and articles on the issue were published on over 20 popular websites, such as Babybegood.nl, Duurzaamnieuws.nl, GreenJump.nl, Motherbook.eu., and many others. We encountered a great deal of resonance via social media and from some papers and we gave a few radio interviews. A few journalists are considering further TV programs and articles later this spring.

***Chantal van den Bossche,***  
***WECF***



### **Illegal pesticide waste storage in Gdansk leads to DDT, atrazine and HCB pollution**

HCB and DDT waste is stored 60 meters away from Gdansk Bay (Baltic Sea), on property owned by the incineration company, Port Service. The TV crew of VTN found out that most of the toxic HCB waste has been imported from the Ukraine. 14,000 tons, some has been stored in some bags, some completely improperly contained.

The hazardous waste storage methods of the Port Service company in Gdansk do not fulfill the minimum requirements of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (BC) and ignores goals of the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous wastes. The company's waste storage and packaging practices breach the Basel Convention in a variety of regards. Highly hazardous HCB's and other toxic pesticide dust are polluting the area which is not only gravely dangerous to aquatic environment but also hazardous to people in the area. HCB is banned under the Stockholm convention, because of its high toxicity and the fact that it accumulates in the bodies of living organisms, including humans.

Greenpeace has taken samples from around the area of Port Service in Gdansk. According to the Basel Convention guidelines, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) waste should be stored in closed buildings or in containers and absolutely no leakage is allowed. In this case, hazardous waste - including POP wastes- are stored in loose, leaking plastic bags, causing major environmental pollution. According to the BC guidelines waste types should be stored separately. On Port Service's site in Gdansk, all waste types have been stored together.

Greenpeace took 9 samples: one from an open bag next to the fence (not results we got from the lab), one soil sample from inside the facility near the fence, and seven from the outside area. In all samples even 20-50 meters from the fence, HCB was found. Despite the area not being used for agriculture, we found several other pesticides in the top of the soil. The maximum DDT concentration was 0.564 mg/kg and the maximum HCB 4.214 mg/kg and the maximum atrazine concentration was 2.537 mg/kg. We can say with extremely high certainty that the pollutants came from the Port Service facility, and the pollution is the consequence of the inappropriate storage.

The most dangerous substances were alpha-HCH, HCB and DDT. All of these substances have been restricted for many years and HCB and DDT are banned under the Stockholm Convention. The measured values breach the legal limit of most EU countries (though disappointingly, there are no common European soil limit values). The Polish HCB limit is surprisingly high for industrial areas. In many countries, the maximum limit value is 1 mg/kg, but Polish law allows 15 mg/kg. For atrazine which is also a hazardous substance, but does not accumulate in human tissues, the limit value is just 0,05 mg/kg. For that reason HCB levels did not breach the limit value for industrial areas, but atrazine exceeded the Polish maximum limits almost 20 times outside the plant and 50 times inside the plant. Stricter alpha-HCH and DDT industrial limits exceeded the limits in the sample from inside the plant. We measured several other pollutants like prometryn and simazine. Tragically, there is no limit value for most the most hazardous pollutants.

- Greenpeace demands
  - Immediate complete monitoring of the whole area for all pollutants
  - A clean-up of the contaminated area inside and outside the plant
  - Repackaging and proper storage and handling of hazardous substances at Port Service
- Greenpeace recommendations to Polish decision makers
  - Coherent limit values for all pollutants
  - Stricter limits for such dangerous substance like HCB
  - Set limit values for many more chemicals, or at least general limit values for groups of chemicals (like pyrethroid insecticides, or triazine herbicides)

**Gergely Simon**, *Regional toxic expert - Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe*  
*PAN Europe Board member*



**Table:** Testing results. Above threshold is marked with red.

Substance	Alpha-HCH mg/kg	HCB mg/kg	DDT mg/kg	Atrazine mg/kg	Prometryn mg/kg	Simazine mg/kg	Propachlor mg/kg	Chlorfensfen mg/kg
Info	Byproduct of lindane (-HCH) Carcinogen: IARC 2B, Possible	<u>Fungicide and byproduct Banned by the Stockholm Convention. 2B carcinogenic, teratogenic, Endocrine disrupting: EU, Colborn, Keith list), reproductive/developmental effects, vPvB, "extremely hazardous" (WHO), very toxic to aquatic organisms</u>	Banned insecticide Carcinogen: IARC 2B, Possible, EPA B2, Probable Endocrine Disruptor: Keith, Colborne and EU Com. List Reproductive and Developmental Toxin, Persistent and bioaccumulative POP Restricted in EU having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists.	Herbicide Banned in EU since 2007 to use, produce. Endocrine Disruptor: Keith, Colborne and EU Com. List At 100 ng/l atrazine concentration caused 32–40% of male tadpoles to turn into hermaphrodites - frogs Priority Substances	<u>Not approved in the EU in 2002.</u> Endocrine Disruptor: EU Com. List U.S. TRI Developmental and Reproductive Toxin	<u>Not approved EU in 2004</u> Endocrine Disruptor: Keith, EU List. U.S. TRI Reproductive Toxin	<u>Not approved in EU since 2008</u>	<u>Not approved in EU since 2002</u>
Limit values	0.0025 mg/kg in protected areas by Water Law 0.025 Protected areas by the protection of the environment law 0.25 Industrial grounds, mining grounds, transport/communication areas	15 mg/kg in Industrial grounds, mining grounds, transport/communication areas 0.01 mg/kg in all other areas	0.0025 mg/kg in protected areas by Water Law 0.025 Protected areas by the protection of the environment law 0.25 Industrial grounds, mining grounds, transport/communication areas	0.00005 mg/kg in protected areas by Water Law 0.05 Protected areas by the protection of the environment law 0.05 Industrial grounds, mining grounds, transport/communication areas				
1. from the bag - (8th sample) P1020333								
3. outside close to the fence (3rd) - P1020329	0.0670	0.517	0.2127	0.534	0.132	0.042	0.128	
4. outside, about 20m far from the fence (4th) - P1020330	0.074	0.0100						
5. outside about 10 m far from the fence (1st) - P1020325, 326		0.376	0.1081			0.046		0.019
6. outside about 50 m far from the fence (6th)		0.019	0.0100					
7. other side of the factory (9th)		0.768						
8. outside at the fence at the end of the wall (5th)	0.0283	0.162	0.1261	0.154	0.042	0.350		
9. inside close to the fence (2nd) - P1020328	0.2622	4.216	0.5640	2.537	0.443	0.103		
10. outside close to the fence (7th)	0.0525	1.034	0.2302	0.949	0.050	0.070		

## Sharing biodiversity? with whom?

Noa Simon (European Beekeeping Coordination) and I attended to a two-day symposium in the European Parliament organized for the European Bees and Pollination Week. This conference was supported by BASF and we could hear the ECPA representative in his presentation explain that “pesticides help biodiversity”. The word “pesticide” was nearly never uttered by the speakers, carefully chosen because they wouldn’t blame chemicals... Hereafter is EBC’s press release of June 8:

**“Once again, the chemical industry and the big cereal and seed cooperatives have organised a remarkable communication exercise at the European Parliament. This time the subject was biodiversity and pollination, terms that they have appropriated as own flag. This was done in a conference with title “Biodiversity, a culture to share” organised by the French “Réseau pour la biodiversité” (5-6 June) from which they are all the main partners.**

The first part of the biodiversity conference intended to summarise the problems of honeybees and biodiversity. The second part dealt with biodiversity management. Philippe Lecomte, president of the Réseau and maybe the only beekeeper in Europe defending that the intensive agricultural model poses no problem to biodiversity, enumerated the problems of honeybees: pathologies (Varroa, mainly, and Nosema) and lack of food resources. One could wonder what is happening with the other pollinators. Why they are disappearing if there is not varroa killing them? A mystery...

Some interesting presentations showed the status of biodiversity in Europe with a worrying picture for the centre-north of the continent. The ideas and messages treated were presented in a seemingly equilibrated way, without one noticing that there were some pieces not shown in this puzzle, namely the loss of habitat or the impact of the intensive agricultural model with a prophylactic or systematic use of pesticides.

Several chemical companies are working on the subject: how to increase food sources for pollinators while continuously obtaining the same yields. Others are working on biodiversity management. Despite of the fact that this is a positive approach, one wonders if the inclusion of some patches of flower mixtures here and there in a sea of oilseed rape or wheat will be useful. Will we not be just postponing the collapse of our environment? We really need to change the production paradigm and work on the alternatives to chemicals. This, however, was not one of the main take-home-messages from yesterday’s conference.”

*The European Beekeeping Coordination*

## The Idiot Cycle

The Idiot Cycle is the 2009 award-winning independent documentary about the links between the chemical, GMO and cancer industries. It was produced without any commercial partnerships, financial support from broadcasters or distributors, or state funding, The Idiot Cycle is independent of all financial conflicts of interest that could sway or influence the content of the film.

The film interviews scientists, researchers, and doctors (university professors and researchers and advisors to their respective governments) to reveal the vast conflicts of interest, lack of testing and scientific studies and absence of government enforcement that have been a detriment to protecting the public's health.

In light of the upcoming GMO authorizations in Europe this fall and the GMO labelling campaign in California, a number of non-profit associations have asked to screen the documentary to ignite a conversation with the public about the lack of health studies. We have also been approached by cancer associations and student groups who wish to highlight the need for more cancer prevention and more investigation into the causes of cancer, a subject sorely overlooked, with good reason.<sup>14</sup>

Because of these requests, we have decided, with the public's help, to launch a campaign to transfer "The Idiot Cycle" into the public domain where it will belong to everyone.

**THE IDIOT CYCLE CAMPAIGN**

**When?** Starts September 10th, 2012.

**Where?** [Indiegogo.com/IdiotCycle](http://Indiegogo.com/IdiotCycle)

**Why?** To raise money for Greenpeace's GMO campaign & the Organic Consumers Association's Label It campaign & stream The Idiot Cycle worldwide.

**What?** For every \$2,000.00 raised, we will stream The Idiot Cycle for 24 hours worldwide (on [www.theidiotcycle.com](http://www.theidiotcycle.com)) and donate 25% to Greenpeace & the Organic Consumers Association's GMO campaigns.

**How?** Stay updated: [www.facebook.com/jpsfilms](http://www.facebook.com/jpsfilms)

JPS Films

But because JPS Films bears the sole financial responsibility of the film, we need to reimburse the costs of film before the rights can be transferred into the public domain. JPS Films has donated 90,000 euros and both the director and



producers have donated their salaries to help this campaign. We have made the first six minutes of the film available, along with other information, on the campaign site: [www.indiegogo.com/theidiotcycle](http://www.indiegogo.com/theidiotcycle)

If 7,000 people donate \$25 each, the film will make it into the public domain.

If the funding goal is NOT REACHED, everyone is refunded their contribution AND everyone gets to keep the perk that corresponds to their contribution (JPS Films retains the copyright of the film). If the funding goal is reached, The Idiot Cycle will belong to everyone.

**Emmanuelle Schick Garcia**, *Director of The Idiot Cycle*.



More information about the film: [www.theidiotcycle.com](http://www.theidiotcycle.com)  
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### **The debate on indicators beyond GDP also discussed in Rio+20**

At the UN level, the Global Sustainability Panel have to formulate a “new vision for sustainable growth and prosperity along with mechanisms to achieve and measure it” before the so-called Rio +20 World Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.

The UN has received Bhutan which is calculating a Gross National Happiness Index already for many years <http://www.uncsd2012.org/nationalpreparations.html> RIO+20 was expected to be a highlight for the UN and major international players have agreed to initiate work to develop new indicators leading us towards a more sustainable and fair world. While the UNCSD zero draft still had a reference to the ‘limitations of GDP as a measure of well-being (Article 111), the final text approved at the Rio+20 UNCSD conference simply states (Article 104) “...We recognize that goals, targets and indicators, including where appropriate gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress.

“There is no mentioning of the need to move beyond GDP and it falls short of any concrete commitments to a working process with clear targets and action plans. It also does not address the need to measures economic, social, and environmental dimension in a balanced manner.

However, numerous side events on Measuring what matters (A4S, IIRC), appropriate measurement of progress (IIED), Green European Budget (GBE),

social and environmental sustainability (FAIR), et al are advocating to work towards a coherent global framework which allows to align performance indicators for global sustainable development, national beyond GDP metrics and improved corporate reporting. Many encouraging initiatives exist such as Ecosystems Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA), Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), Genuine Progress Indicator, (GPI), Index for Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) - all trying to do that by strengthening the links between poverty and green development tools, such as natural capital accounting.

For example, the people of Ecuador approved a new Constitution in 2008 that included rights for “Nature or Pachamama to exist, persist, maintain itself and regenerate its own vital cycles, structure, functions and its evolutionary processes,” and stating that “[a]ny person, people, community or nationality, may demand the observance of the rights of the natural environment before public”. Another initiative is the invitation by the [www.sustainabilitytreaties.org](http://www.sustainabilitytreaties.org), which has issued a set of treaties for example the Right of Mother Earth, Sustainable Production and Consumption. The treaty on Sustainable Economies suggests implementing a strategy to deploy the Genuine Progress Indicator world-wide and restitution of natural capital. They are open to participation and the hope is that convergence among different actors can speed up a shift in course.

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