

# PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK EUROPE



**2016** ACTIVITY REPORT

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## WHO WE ARE

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) was founded in 1982 and is a network of over 600 non-governmental organisations, institutions and individuals in over 60 countries worldwide working to minimise the negative effects and replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives. Its projects and campaigns are coordinated by five autonomous Regional Centres.

PAN Europe is the regional centre in Europe. Located in Brussels, it was founded in 1987 and brings together 35 consumer, public health, and environmental organisations, trades unions, women's groups and farmer associations from across 24 European countries.

PAN Europe's vision is of a world in which high agricultural productivity is achieved by truly sustainable agricultural production systems in which agrochemical inputs and environmental damage are minimised, and where local people control local production using local varieties.

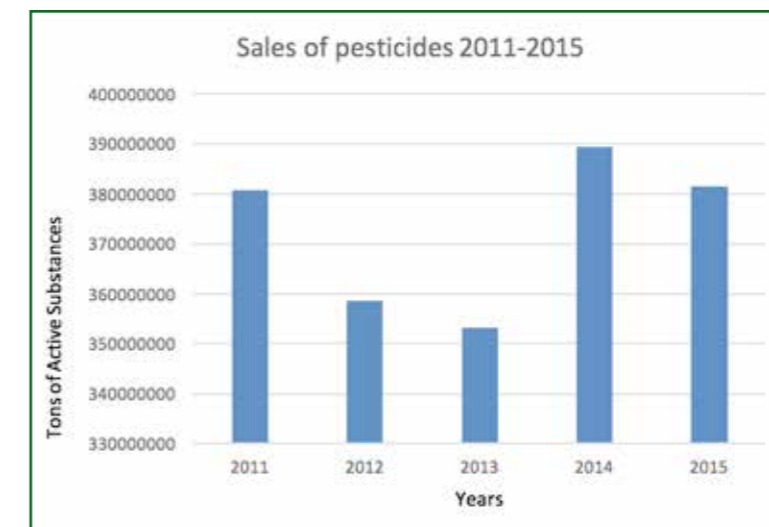
### WHY THE FIGHT ON PESTICIDES IS IMPORTANT

All of us are exposed directly or indirectly to pesticides and other agrochemicals- farm workers and their families most of all, but every consumer will be exposed to dozens of different pesticides every day through food and the environment. There are particular concerns for the strong effects of pesticides on young children and the unborn.

Many pesticides are known for their risk to cause cancer, change DNA, or for their harm to reproduction<sup>1</sup>. For many pesticides there is good evidence for endocrine disrupting properties. The consequences of endocrine disruptor exposure (cancer, cognitive and sexual disorders, mental disorders) are rising in society<sup>2</sup> and the contribution of pesticides to these effects is likely<sup>3</sup>. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure. Pesticides are products designed to kill or repel undesired living organisms. Although each pesticide is meant to target a certain pest, most can have negative side effects on non-target species, including humans. When used in agriculture, they often contaminate the air, water, soil, wildlife, and beneficial insects (like bees and predators of insect pests), soil micro-organisms, and they end up in our food too.

### PESTICIDE USE IN EU's AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

In 2015 almost 400,000 tonnes of pesticides were sold in Europe, with the vast majority used in the agricultural sector.



<sup>1</sup> European Parliament study PE 408.559, the benefits of strict cut of criteria on human health in relation to the proposal for a regulation concerning plant protection products (2008).

<sup>2</sup> Theo Colborn, Environm. Health Perspect. 112 (9):944, (2004).

<sup>3</sup> Theo Colborn, Environm. Health Perspect. 114 (1): 10 (2006).

**“Pesticides in global supply chains are a major contributor to a global public health crisis, what pediatricians refer to as a ‘silent pandemic’. The argument that current usage of hazardous pesticides is necessary to ensure food security is false. Safer alternatives are available to hazardous pesticides, including those used for European supply chains. Businesses must ensure their global supply chains transition to safer alternatives as quickly as possible in order to meet their responsibilities to respect the rights of children, workers, consumers and rural communities harmed by the ongoing use of hazardous pesticides.”**

**- Baskut Tuncak**, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and toxics

**“In the food business, there is a tremendous amount of misinformation. If you want to feed your family healthy food, you have to ask a lot of questions”**

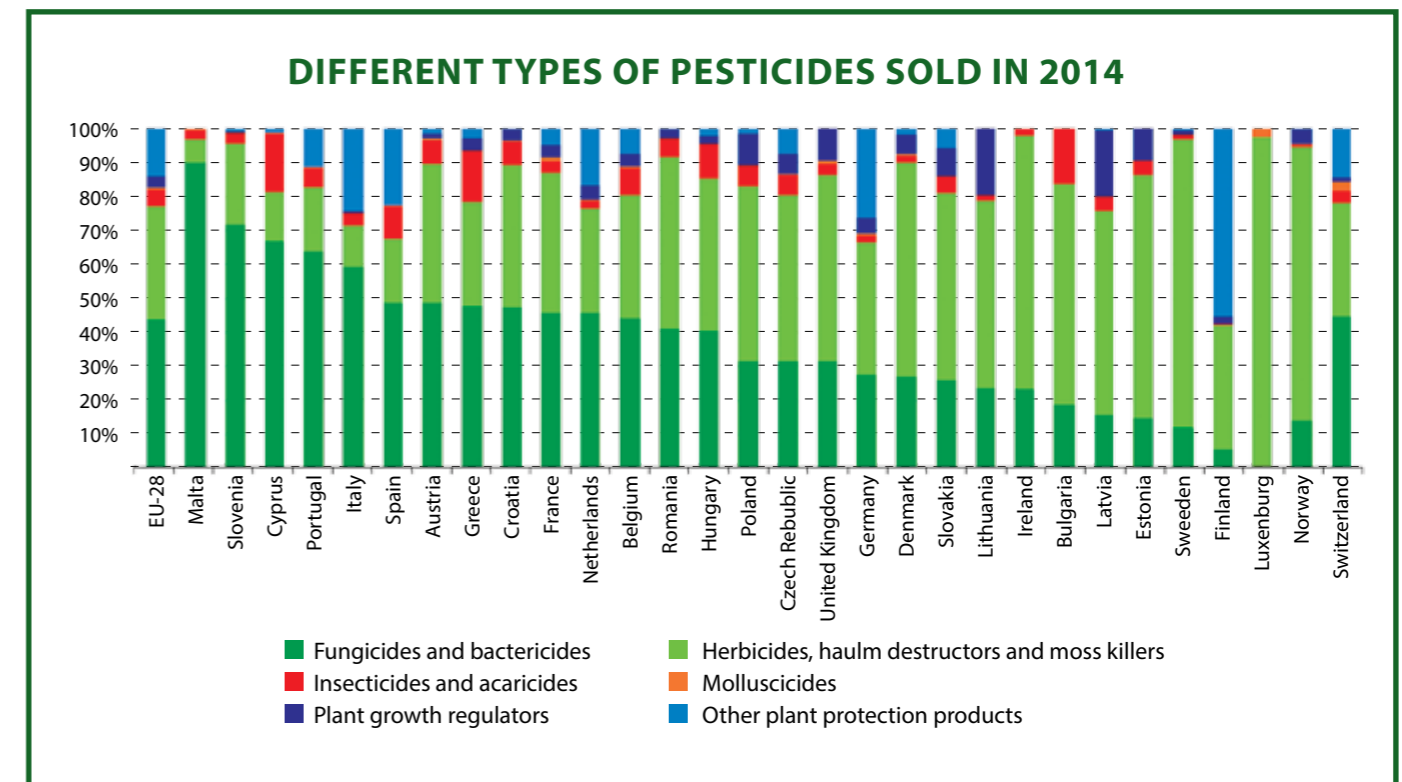
**- Patagonia**, Unbroken ground (2016)

### PESTICIDE USE ACROSS EUROPE KEEPS ON BEING HIGH WHICH IS NOT ONLY DANGEROUS BUT ALSO NOT SMART:

In a Europe-wide study in eight West and East European countries, researchers found important negative effects of agricultural intensification on wild plant, carabid and bird species diversity and on the potential for biological pest control, as estimated from the number of aphids taken by predators. Of the 13 components of intensification which was measured, use of insecticides and fungicides had consistent negative effects on biodiversity.<sup>4</sup>

In France for instance, despite reduction plans have been in place since 2008, these reductions today still remain unfulfilled<sup>5</sup>. But on the other hand, farmers could actually reduce their pesticide use by 30-40% without reducing their yield<sup>6</sup>.

The study from Geiger et al mentions a very important point: "insecticides also reduced the biological control potential". Now it is time that farmers start managing rather than killing pests and applying integrated pest management which has been mandatory since January 2014 and which means that farmers should apply good agronomic practices, monitor the fields and if needed apply non chemicals alternatives, only applying pesticides as a last resort.



<sup>4</sup> Geiger et al 2010 Persistent negative effects of pesticides on biodiversity and biological control potential on European farmland

<sup>5</sup> Laure Hossard, Laurence Guichard, Céline Pelosi, David Makowski (2017) Lack of evidence for a decrease in synthetic pesticide use on the main arable crops in France, Science of the Total Environment 575 (2017) 152–161

<sup>6</sup> Munier-Jolain et al, 2017 reducing pesticide use while preserving crop productivity and profitability on arable farms and Jacquet F. et al. 2011. An economic analysis of the possibility of reducing pesticides in French fields crops. Ecological Economics 70: 1638

**“I support PAN Europe’s work** because I believe that the toxic chemicals commonly used in conventional agriculture threaten the safety of our food, our soil, our health, and our planet.”

- **Christel Schaldemose**, MEP, Denmark

**“I am an individual member of PAN Europe** because I believe that pesticides pose an existential threat to biodiversity across Europe. The exposure of humans and animals to pesticides is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Being a PAN Europe member allows me to stay updated and active in the effort to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides.”

- **Dr. Nicolas J. Vereecken**, Professor, Agroecology & Pollination Group; Individual Member of PAN Europe

**“I am a member of PAN Europe because I’m deeply concerned** about the havoc to the land and to living creatures caused by industrialised, chemically-based agriculture.”

- **Margaret Schooling**, Retired Teacher; Individual Member of PAN Europe

**“I have worked with PAN Europe on some of the issues involving farming** and the environment deemed crucial both by the farmers and the wider public, including the neonicotinoids, the future of the pollinators or the robustness of the EU plant protection products regime. I have always appreciated the cooperation with PAN Europe experts and I am looking forward to continued work together in view of improving the sustainability of European farming.”

- **Paul Brannen**, MEP, UK

## WHAT WE DO:

PAN Europe works to eliminate dependency on chemical pesticides and to support safe sustainable pest control methods. PAN Europe is committed to bringing about a substantial reduction in pesticide use throughout Europe. Reducing pesticides (including biocides) is critical for the improvement of public and workers’ health, protection of the environment, the sustainability of future farming.

### PAN EUROPE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Encouraging citizens to make their voices heard
- Being involved in the EU decision making process
- Disseminating information and raising awareness on pesticide problems, regulations and non-chemical alternatives
- Creating reports, publications, press releases, and blog contributions to inform civil servants and the general public through our websites and social networks
- Disseminating articles through a public newsletter (4000 readers) inspiring not only policymakers but also citizens to become active themselves
- Amplifying the voices of those affected by pesticides
- Lobbying politicians on the updates of scientific research on the adverse effects of pesticides
- Organizing workshops and conferences
- Promoting dialogue for change among government, private sector and civil society stakeholders

### EUROPEAN UNION LAWS OF INTEREST TO PESTICIDES

- Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market
- Directive 2009/128/EC establishing a framework for sustainable use of pesticides;
- Regulation (EC) No. 1185/2009 concerning statistics on plant protection products;
- Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed;
- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for water policy;
- Directive 2009/90/EC on strategies against chemical pollution of surface waters
- Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards (also known as priority substances directive)
- Regulation (EC) 1305/2013 on Rural Development of the CAP
- Regulation (EC) 1306/2013 on Horizontal issues such as funding and controls of the CAP
- Regulation (EC) 1307/2013 on Direct payments for farmers of the CAP

- > The EU will soon develop an EU communication on the non-toxic environment
- > The EU’s Green Capital award will as from 2017 also give attention to pesticide use in towns

### WHAT WE DO TO ENSURE RIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED EU REGULATIONS

PAN Europe is involved in the EU’s decision making process. We are members of a Standing Committee of the European Commission on Biocidal Products, of the advisory groups on the food chain and animal and plant health, and of the Civil Society Dialogue Groups of DG Agri. We are also members of a number of technical working groups of the European Commission, of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and finally in a number of international working groups within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Documents and reports supporting our work on the above regulations can be found at [PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)

## CURRENT STATE OF EU PESTICIDE POLICY: A SNAP SHOT

There are currently several major concerns with regard to pesticide policy.

- The European Commission was meant to evaluate Member States' implementation of the EU Directive 128/2009 on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUDP) in November 2014, but the report is being seriously delayed and is now expected for publication in November 2017.
- EFSA was able to identify no safe use of neonicotinoids with regards to bees. The European Commission has thus no other possibility than ban them.
- The proposal of scientific criteria for endocrine disrupting chemicals was presented in 2016, 2,5 years passed its deadline. The European Commission went beyond its mandate by changing elements of the law and the proposed criteria will offer little to no protection of human health and the environment. Member States have not reached agreement and the discussions will continue in 2017.
- Eurostat has since 2011 been publishing annual statistics on sale of pesticides, while in 2016 was meant to publish a report on pesticide use across the EU. This report is being delayed among others as DG SANTE is not collecting the statistical information from Member States as foreseen in article 67 of the EU Regulation No 1107/2009 on authorisation and marketing of plant protection products.
- The licence of the world's most used herbicide active ingredient glyphosate was extended for a year instead of renewed for 15 years due to the concerns of the civil society and member states on the safety of this chemical. A second evaluation this time by ECHA, will take place in 2017. The European Commission recommends to Member States to stop using it in public areas and for desiccation of crops.

So in short, the European Commission has not been very proactive on implementation of EU Regulation.

EU Directive 1107/2009 on authorisation of plant protection products and EU Directive 128/2009 on Sustainable Use of Pesticides, giving a worrying signal of lack of urgency in addressing the pesticides issue and, by extension, related issues of human health, water and biodiversity protection.

PAN Europe is not alone in worrying about this lacking implementation:

**“Plant Protection Products could also contribute to the (amphibian) decline**, because amphibians use different habitats due to their complex life cycle and annual cycle. This means that they may come into contact with PPPs in food, water, land and air.”

**- Aldrich et. al. Amphibians and plant-protection products: what research and action is needed?** Environmental Sciences Europe, May 2016

**“Despite considerable progress in reducing the discharge of pollutants into Europe’s waters in recent decades**, nutrients, pesticides, industrial chemicals, and household chemicals continue to affect the quality of surface, ground and marine waters. This threatens aquatic ecosystems and raises concern about potential human health impacts.”

**- European environment Agency**, State and Outlook 2015, Safeguarding people from environmental risks to health

### OMBUDSMAN'S DECISION

PAN Europe has been deeply concerned about the EC's lacking implementation of EU Regulation 1107/2009 and consulted the European Ombudsman (complaint 12/2013/MDC). The verdict came out in June 2015 saying:

'the Ombudsman considered that the Commission, which has the duty to ensure that the active substances it approves are not harmful for human health, animal health, or the environment, may be too lenient in its practices and might not be taking sufficient account of the precautionary principle.'

The Ombudsman requested the Commission to submit to her a report covering a number of specific points within two years of her decision.

In February 2016, The EU Ombudsman ordered DG SANTE to change their practices and apply the law strictly

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S MOBILISATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON PESTICIDES ISSUES

#### MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAVE SUBMITTED NUMEROUS WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ASKING FOR SERIOUS IMPLEMENTATION; INCLUDING

- Written question E-000226/2016 by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE) on interpretation of 'available means' in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009
- Written question E-001788/2016 by Pavel Poc (S&D), Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Jytte Guteland (S&D), Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL), Karin Kadenbach (S&D), Benedek Jávor (Verts/ALE), Paul Brannen (S&D), José Bové (Verts/ALE), Eleonora Evi (EFDD), Marco Affronte (EFDD), Marco Zullo (EFDD), Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D), Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu (S&D) on report on the implementation of the sustainable use of pesticides directive
- Written question E-001950/2016 by Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL) on question on pesticides prompted by new findings
- Written question E-002045/2016 by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE) on clarification of EU Directive 2009/128 (Article 12)
- Written question E-008770-16 by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE) on banning certain active substances of plant protection products

**“The only way to make sure that EU laws regulating the use of chemical products like pesticides and herbicides are being upheld, is to remain vigilant and to create a counter lobby. As a politician I therefore consider it as my task to work together closely with civil society, independent scientists, farmers and citizens to make sure European regulations are respected and properly implemented. Given the current toxic agricultural system and the short term profits for agro-chemical multinationals linked to that, we need to connect and work together. This is crucial for protecting the general interest, public health and biodiversity on the longer term. The knowledge and expertise of organisations like PAN are vital to be able to win battles ahead. The recent example of glyphosate shows we can come a long way and move Europe slowly but surely to a more sustainable food system.”**

**- Bart Staes, MEP, Belgium**

## PAN EUROPE'S HISTORY AND ACTION ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE DIRECTIVE

PAN Europe started in 2002 a campaign on pesticide use reductions called PURE, which resulted in the EU Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUDP) approved in 2009.

The SUDP provides a good policy framework to ensure a serious move towards society which is less dependent on pesticides, and does encourage uptake of low impact management in both farming and public areas.

### ACCORDING TO EU DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC MEMBER STATES:

- set up quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables to reduce pesticides use<sup>7</sup> by developing national action plans by November 2012.
- take all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods, so that professional users of pesticides switch to practices and products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment among those available for the same pest problem as from 1 January 2014.

As part of the SUDP Member States needed to develop so-called National Action Plans (NAPs) back in 2011 explaining how they were going to ensure implementation of the SUDP, by answering among others on how to fulfil above requirements. Unfortunately, these NAPs suggest little or limited ambition.

The European Commission – who is the watchdog of the EU laws – was meant to send a report to the European Parliament and the European Council on the implementation in November 2014 but this has been delayed and is now expected for publication in November 2017, a three year delay!

Member States are meant to revise their NAPs in 2017. But without serious EU guidelines and monitoring we wonder if Member States will finally set quantitative targets, timelines and serious actions as foreseen in the SUDP.

PAN Europe has been active in inspiring Member States to seriously engage in the uptake of SUDP, for instance back in 2010 we published a report with examples of best practice on pesticide use reductions.

PAN Europe is also active in pushing the European Commission to do its job as the watchdog of EU law and as part of that pursuing Member States to get serious in the implementation of SUDP, for instance back in 2013 PAN Europe analysed all the NAPs and proposed actions that the European Commission should do to proceed with the implementation.

But as not much is happening on this front, we have developed specific campaigns on both agriculture and towns, while keeping on sending letters to European Commission, DG SANTE asking for action.

You can follow our work here:

<http://www.pan-europe.info/eu-legislation/directive-sustainable-use-pesticides>

**“Some forms of pollution are part of people’s daily experience.** Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths. People are sick, for example, from breathing high levels of smoke from fuels used in cooking or heating. There is pollution that affects everyone, caused by transport, industrial fumes, substances which contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrottoxins in general. Technology, which, linked to business interests, is presented as the only way of solving these problems, in fact proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others.”

- **Pope Francis**, Encyclical letter – June 2015

**“I lived in the countryside for 70 years. I’m therefore not frightened by the slightly muddy roads or rugged terrain.** However, for some time I have been fighting two cancers. The municipality of Fernelmont, where I reside, is surrounded by agricultural land and inundated by the spraying of pesticides. In addition to my own, I noticed an abnormally high case of cancers in my neighborhood: 20 of which 8 in the same street. For the past eight months, I have been carrying out various actions to challenge local authorities and the population on this subject so that preventive measures are put in place such as buffer zones. The local and regional authorities are launching investigations but have not been taking into account the actual figures for cancers and other pathologies.”

- **Marie-Thérèse Gillet** (Belgium, Citizen)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.pan-europe.info/sites/pan-europe.info/files/public/resources/reports/nap-best-practice.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.pan-europe.info/sites/pan-europe.info/files/public/resources/reports/pane-2013-reducing-pesticide-use-across-the-eu.pdf>.

## AGRICULTURE

The EU Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUDP) states that Member States shall take all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management (including integrated pest management-IPM) giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods, so that professional users of pesticides switch to practices and products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment among those available etc.

Many aspects of IPM are not new and have been practiced by generations of farmers as part of routine crop husbandry. Practices such as crop rotation, use of resistant varieties, under sowing, intercropping, protection of pollinators (and some predators), physical and mechanical weed control, build up and enhancement of soil organic matter, soil structure and water retention capacity have been part of good farm practice for centuries and are key principles of IPM.

Since 2012 PAN Europe has annually together with scientists united in International Organisation on Biological Control (IOBC) and companies producing alternatives to pesticides united in International Biocontrol Manufacturer Association (IBMA) been annually organising joint symposiums in Brussels illustrating what IPM showing that this is a viable alternative to chemically-based agriculture:

You can find presentations and conclusions of earlier symposium here:  
<http://www.pan-europe.info/conferences>

Since 2015 we increased joint effort to also include an exhibition 'IPM – working with nature' where we in 11 posters and a little accompanying booklet are explaining what IPM working with nature means in specific crops. This exhibition has so far been shown in three Directorates General of the European Commission (Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, DG for Health and Food Safety, DG for the Environment), the Federal Belgium Ministry of Health and Environment, Mundo B, COPA-COGECA, and the European Economic and Social Committee. The brochure 'IPM – working with nature' has been translated into French and reprinted in 6.000 copies in English and French and has continued to be distributed.<sup>9</sup>

In 2016, building on the IPM exhibit "Working with Nature, we have put together short technical videos presenting the main posters, as well as testimonies of farmers (in arable crops as well as apple and grape production) on their experience with IPM. In 2016 we also organised two farm visits one to philippe Rothberger's farm in France (Strasbourg) showing IPM uptake in apples and wine, and one farm visit to Vallecchio in Italy (Veneto) showing IPM uptake in maize growing.

However, IPM will not be seriously taken up by farmer across Europe if its principles are not fully included into the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In annex 2 of the 2013 CAP reform it was clearly specified that the Farm advisory service (FAS) needs to be able to advise farmers about IPM as from January 2015, and that the agricultural related criteria of the SUD will become part of the statutory mandatory requirements for receiving direct payments once Member States have defined which IPM requirements they are asking farmers to do.

As part of the CAP greening measures farmers need to establish ecological focus areas (EFAs) to promote biodiversity. However, farmers can so far use pesticides on these areas, making no sense, and in 2016 the European Commission took a logical move and proposed a ban on use of pesticides in these areas. We organised an important and well needed debate:

<sup>9</sup> The PDF of this brochure is available for free download on our website PAN-Europe.info: <http://www.pan-europe.info/sites/pan-europe.info/files/public/resources/reports/integrated-pest-management-working-with-nature.pdf>

### DEBATE: "MAKING BIODIVERSITY WORK FOR FARMERS: BRINGING ECOLOGY BACK INTO ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREAS"

In December 2016, PAN Europe organised a lunchtime debate at the European Parliament on the use of Pesticides in Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs): "Making biodiversity work for farmers: Bringing ecology back into Ecological Focus Areas". On the occasion of the debate, PAN Europe released a position paper on Pesticide Use in EFAs highlighting that to ban use of pesticides in productive areas of the Ecological Focus Areas is a logical step to put biodiversity at the heart of EFAs and urged all Member States to support it.

For more information on our activities including conferences, please visit [PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)

All this material is now being presented on a new website dedicated to low impact farming campaign.

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016:

- Launch of the low impact farming website: [www.low-impact-farming.info](http://www.low-impact-farming.info)
- Factsheet on pesticide use in EFAs
- Reflection paper on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) risk management tools in agriculture
- Database on Member States pesticide statistics
- 1 joint letter coordinated with inputs from other NGOs to DG SANTE calling on the importance of implementation of the SUD



### MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-001787/2016 by Pavel Poc (S&D), Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Jytte Guteland (S&D), Karin Kadenbach (S&D), Benedek Jávor (Verts/ALE), Paul Brannen (S&D), José Bové (Verts/ALE), Marco Zullo (EFDD), Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D), Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu (S&D) on general principles of integrated pest management in National Action Plans



## PESTICIDE FREE TOWNS

Pesticides are not only used in farms to produce food but also in the towns and cities in which we all live. They are used in green areas of schools, playgrounds, kindergartens, parks, private gardens, sport fields, sidewalks and cemeteries. Workers that apply pesticides must wear protective clothing, yet immediately after application, kids and families come play, picnic, and lounge freely on the grass where they come in direct contact with the pesticides.

PAN Europe's evaluation of the level of implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUDP) from 2013 (available on PAN-Europe.info) demonstrates that Member States' lack of effort to reduce pesticides must sometimes be compensated by decisions at town-level. This elimination of pesticides at the town level is a critical step in the development of more sustainable and green towns.

### PAN EUROPE'S ACTIONS ON PESTICIDE-FREE TOWNS

Since 2015, Pan Europe has been running a campaign on Pesticide Free Towns with a dedicated website in 5 languages. More and more member states and municipalities around Europe are taking actions to ban the use of pesticides in public areas including cemeteries, sidewalks, parks, schools, kindergartens, sport fields, railways, just to name a few. Towns making the effort to become pesticide-free represents a significant step in reducing our dangerous exposure to pesticides.

In May 2016, as a part of EU Green Week, Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) conducted a European-wide webinar to exchange practical information on how towns across Europe can become pesticide-free. Hosted by the city of Ghent - which has aimed to reduce pesticide use since the early 90's and has been pesticide-free since 2009 - this webinar allowed greenspace workers, political leaders, NGOs, and citizens, to exchange information and ask questions about the pesticide-free management of towns across Europe.

#### In 2016, PAN Europe's Actions on Pesticide Free Towns:

- The pesticide free town campaign website was translated into Portuguese and is available now in five languages: [www.pesticide-free-towns.info](http://www.pesticide-free-towns.info)
- Map of Europe collecting maps of pesticide free towns in Belgium, Denmark, France and the Netherlands identifying a number of pioneering towns that others could learn from.
- Collecting good practice and spread on our website – exchange with green local services especially from Belgium, France and Denmark.
- We established a facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pesticidefreetowns> that we regular updated with news on towns around the world going pesticides free as inspirations for others to get started and/or proceed. We also spread best practice policy experiences around the world on pesticide-free towns via social media
- The pesticide free campaign was expanded in 2016 with a number of new testimonies
- We expanded the pesticide free campaign in 2016 including an overview of national campaigns of NGOs working on pesticides free towns



**“If you want real reduction in pesticide use, give the farmers the information** about how to replace them,” said Munier-Jolain. “This is absolutely not the case at the moment. A large proportion of advice is provided by organisations that are both selling the pesticides and collecting the crops. I am not sure the main concern of these organisations is to reduce the amount of pesticide used”

**- Munier-Jolain**, at France's National Institute for Agricultural Research, in an interview by the Guardian, 6 April 2017

**“Today, around 20 years on, our pesticide-free approach has become Ghent's universal policy.** The results are clear to see, all around the city. The streets are obviously greener as we are no longer using chemical weedkillers: poppies, buttercups and daisies are peppering the edges of our pavements. Until recently, it was very difficult for bees to survive in our city. Now, Ghent has several beekeepers, who have found the city to be a healthy environment for keeping bees.”

**-Daniel Termont**, Mayor of Ghent

#### The first policy changes as a result of PAN Europe's work started to occur:

The EU green capital awards recognise that being pesticide-free is also a topic of environmental importance.



## BEES, CONTINUALLY THREATENED BY NEONICS



**“My name is Marco Frasnelli, I’m an Italian citizen and I live in Val di Non,** in Trentino Region. In the last years, the industry of orchards has invaded the valley, with no respect for the environment and human health. Since 2008, I live in this house with my wife and my daughter of 5 years old. The house borders with conventional orchards. Between April and September, life becomes impossible because of the frequent application of very toxic pesticides, which are applied every week or even more often. Pesticides are used without any consideration of the few existing laws that should regulate them. The regulators that have established these laws doesn’t even control if they are respected! I try to protect myself and my family as much as I can. I take refuge in the woods or I live the village, I prohibit my daughter to play in the garden and to walk next to orchards. I built up a plastic barrier of 3,5 meters bordering with the orchards but I know it won’t prevent the total drift effect of pesticides. The industry of orchards deprived us of our freedom. Children cannot enjoy of their innocent age as they cannot play in the gardens, they can’t smell the flowers or admire butterflies’ colors - also because there are no more butterflies in this area. Unfortunately, many parents are not aware of these problems yet. When I look at my daughter in the eyes, a tear falls down and inside me my anger arises.”

**- Marco Frasnelli** (Italy, Citizen)

2016 saw little progresses at EU-levels with regards to neonicotinoids.

In November, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published its assessment of the confirmatory data provided by the industry. In the frame of the 2013 ban, Bayer and Syngenta were to provide by end of 2016 so-called ‘confirmatory’ data concerning the toxicity of the 3 restricted neonicotinoids on bees. Based on these data, the EFSA confirmed the high risk these pesticides pose to bees. Interestingly, Bayer and especially Syngenta were not able to provide sufficient data for the EFSA to assess all the risks they pose to bees. Data gaps thus still exist. These new EFSA assessments are in PAN’s view sufficient to impose a full ban to Member States.

In preparation to these EFSA Opinions, PAN Europe initiated a Bee Coalition in 2016. We gathered potential members to mobilize citizens across Europe to put pressure on our decision makers in order to obtain a full ban on neonicotinoids. Scientific evidence is there: there is no safe use of neonicotinoids!

Elsewhere in Europe and in the world, things are also moving with regards to neonicotinoids. France voted a full ban of neonicotinoids for 2020 while Health Canada indicated its ambition to fully ban imidacloprid within 5 years. Interestingly, the Canadian agency found no safe use of imidacloprid, not even in greenhouses, with regards to water ecosystems. This again indicates that neonicotinoids have dramatic consequences on entire ecosystems, killing water macro-organisms, leading to the disappearance of the fishes and birds that feed on them. Clothianidin and thiamethoxam have not been assessed yet by Health Canada.

In reaction to the 2015 authorisations of flupyradifurone and sulfoxaflor, PAN Europe has edited a factsheet, giving a definition to ‘neonicotinoids’. Bayer and Dow invented new pesticide categories for these two substances in order not to have them classified as neonicotinoids. PAN Europe tracked the strategy of the industry and published a scientific factsheet to define what a neonicotinoid is and highlight the strategy from the pesticide industry to fool decision makers and have new neonicotinoids on the market, putting at risk the health of our pollinators.

In 2013, PAN Europe has intervened in the court case initiated before the European Court of Justice by Bayer and Syngenta against the European Commission, contesting the legality of the restrictions on neonicotinoids. The end of 2016 was dedicated to the preparation of the hearing taking place on 15-16 February 2017. We could really observe the usefulness of our intervention to support the Commission, together with Bee Life, Greenpeace Europe, Bug Life and Client Earth. This team work was very constructive and helped us rebutting the lies provided by the pesticide industry to the Court.

### PAN EUROPE ACTIONS ON BEES

- Advocacy towards EU institutions to obtain a full ban on neonicotinoids
- Creation of a Bee Coalition to mobilize citizens towards a full ban
- PAN Europe informed the general public about scientific findings and EU policy developments though our homepage: [savehoneybees.info](http://savehoneybees.info)
- Support of the current restrictions before the European Court of Justice

### MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT PROTECTION OF BEES TO PUSH THE DEBATE FORWARD, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-000030/2016 by Tonino Picula (S&D) on extending the ban on the use of neonicotinoids
- Written question E-001829/2016 by Frédérique Ries (ALDE) on report on pollinators by International Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Written question E-004151/2016 by Mariya Gabriel (PPE) on ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides
- Written question E-005046/2016 by Arne Gericke (ECR) on bee deaths and the use of pesticides
- Written question E-007887-16 by Georgios Epitideios (NI) on bayer’s pesticides kill bees

# ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS (EDCs)

Pesticides that are endocrine disruptors (EDs or EDCs for Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals) are currently being sprayed on European fields and public green areas and may be the cause of a wide range of endocrine-related diseases that have been observed in farmers, their children, residents, bystanders and consumers. They also contribute to the environmental and ecosystem degradation we witness today.

After the failure of the European Commission to present scientific criteria to identify EDCs by 2013 to protect human and environmental health from these chemicals- as it was requested in the Pesticide and Biocide Regulations- PAN Europe has been following closely the actions of Commission's Health and Food Safety Directorate General, DG SANTE, who is now in charge for the "regulatory" definition of EDCs.

The European Commission's intention not to select strict scientific criteria for EDCs but to incorporate socio-economic elements that will avoid having EDCs banned, was first publicly revealed in 2014, when it announced that it will carry out an Impact Assessment on different criteria options. At the same time the EDCs dossier was taken away from DG Environment, who had been developing a strategy on human and environmental protection from these chemicals and had also developed a set of scientific criteria following collaboration of scientist on human toxicology and Member State experts. The EDCs dossier was given to industry-friendly DG SANTE.

PAN Europe did its own impact assessment study showing, which pesticides that are currently on the market are endocrine disruptors and which ones will be banned according to the Commission's impact assessment. The study includes a critique on the "biased" impact assessment versions of the industry claiming that banning EDCs in agriculture will cost billions, as well as a proposal on alternatives.

PAN Europe published a report on "opinions from the scientific community on EDCs", with a compilation of written opinions and summary presentations of scientists and regulators, expressing the state of the science on endocrine disruptors and the need to take action.

In June 2016, 2,5 years passed its deadline, the EU Commission proposed a set of 'scandalous' criteria to identify endocrine disrupting pesticides and biocides that in effect will fail to ban any such chemicals, leaving Europeans unprotected. The criteria proposal reveals that the EU Juncker regime is actually dismantling the democratically agreed rules set to protect people against endocrine-related health effects (e.g. breast and prostate cancer; metabolic diseases as obesity and diabetes; reproductive disorders and infertility) and child health (e.g. mental disorders), in order to reduce costs for industry, increase their profit and please the US, Canada, Australia and others in the trade negotiations (e.g. TTIP/TTP, CETA, Codex etc). Not only the proposal requires a high level of proof to identify a pesticide as an EDC, but in total disrespect with the EU law, the Commission modified the legal text, so that even when a pesticide is identified as an EDC it can still be used.

The criteria will be implemented only if a qualified majority of EU Member States votes in favour, but some Member States have expressed their concerns on the criteria and an agreement is still to be reached. To reach out to Member States, as a first step PAN Europe organised a capacity building meeting on EDCs in Madrid during the summer, where member organisations and allies were invited to present their work on EDCs and discuss future actions. One outcome was the "EU tour on EDCs" project, which invites organisations to organise meetings in their country on the health effects of EDCs directed to policy makers prompting them to take action. All the information on the events together with related documents, factsheets and material is collected on a website.

PAN Europe also organised a roundtable event at the European Parliament in autumn, where experts from the Endocrine Society, the legal organisation Client Earth and Swedish Ministry of Health and the Environment presented their legal and scientific criticism in relation to the proposed scientific criteria and text amendments.

PAN Europe is also following which pesticides are currently assessed and have to be banned according to the scientific evidence and the requirements of the European law. Our work helped getting two ED pesticides banned, amitrole and isoproturon, which were included in our list of the "dirty-six"

## PAN EUROPE ACTION ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS

- An impact assessment study on endocrine disrupting pesticides, including a proposal of agricultural alternatives
- A report on "Opinions from the scientific community on EDCs"
- Creating a "dirty-six" pesticides list for regulators and achieving in getting two pesticides banned.
- Sending letter of our concerns to Health Commissioner Andriukaitis and Commission President Juncker on the EDC criteria proposal, failure to apply the interim criteria (which are in force while the EDC criteria are missing), changing the legal text and failing to comply with EU law.
- One capacity building meeting on EDCs for a member and colleagues in Madrid
- An experts' conference at the European Parliament where experts from the Endocrine Society, the legal organisation Client Earth and Swedish Ministry of Health and the Environment presented their legal and scientific criticism in relation to the proposed scientific criteria and text amendments.
- Creation of the "EU tour on EDCs" project and website, with fact sheets, political, legal and scientific documents related to EDCs and a map with the events in relation to EDCs organised by PAN take place across Europe.

Evidence and documents relating to PAN Europe's work on EDCs can be found at [PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)

## MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAVE SUBMITTED WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON EDCS, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-000528/2016 by Marc Tarabella (S&D) on endocrine disruptors
- Written question E-003457/2016 by Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL) on the Commission and its defence of endocrine disruptors
- Written question E-006191/2016 by Norbert Erdős (PPE) on criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors - exclusion of hazard characterisation elements

# GLYPHOSATE

PAN Europe has been deeply engaged and active the re-authorization of glyphosate since the International Agency for Research on Cancer, an agency of the World Health Organisation, declared that Glyphosate, the most used herbicide in the world, is “a probable carcinogen.”

Unlike IARC, the European Food Safety Administration (EFSA) concluded that glyphosate poses no health risk for humans and the commission moved to reauthorize the use of Glyphosate for an additional 15 years period. PAN Europe worked with partner organisations to fight against this re-authorization through the publication of many letters, press statements, and lobbying tools. As a result, in 2016 the Commission postponed the decision until the European Chemical Agency finalises its harmonised classification, particularly in relation to its carcinogenic potential. The decision on glyphosate reauthorization will be taken in 2017. In addition, the Commission concluded to ban glyphosate products that contain tallowamine (POEA), a highly toxic co-formulant and recommended the Member States to stop using glyphosate in public areas and as a crop desiccant for early harvest.

In the meantime PAN Europe together with other civil society organisation started working together on an European Citizens Initiative to ban glyphosate and toxic pesticides from use in agriculture and public areas and open the path for a pesticide-free Europe. The ECI, which intends to collect 1,000,000 signatures from 7 Member States, will be submitted in early January 2017 to reach its goal before autumn 2017.

PAN Europe together with PAN International launched the “glyphosate monograph” in 2016, a compilation of scientific studies reporting the adverse effects of glyphosate on human health, the environment, its ecosystems and on the future of agriculture.

PAN Europe was a supporter of the Monsanto Tribunal and presented the “glyphosate monograph” at the People’s Assembly which was taking place in parallel. During this 3-days event, several workshops were organised for the participants and PAN Europe was the co-organiser of a 3 workshops series. People from all around the world were given the opportunity to present their stories on the harmful effects of pesticides use and work together to create a strategy on how to reduce the use of harmful pesticides in agriculture and replace them with ecological alternatives. The final workshop focused on creating alliances and discussing future actions we can take together.

More documents relating to PAN Europe’s work on Glyphosate can be found at [PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)



**International Monsanto Tribunal  
In The Hague - October 2016**

## MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAVE SUBMITTED A LARGE NUMBER OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION RELATED TO GLYPHOSATE, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-003458/2016 by Soledad Cabezón Ruiz (S&D) on reports on the glyphosate industry
- Written question E-001831/2016 by Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), José Bové (Verts/ALE) on glyphosate and its co-formulants
- Written question P-002321/2016 by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Karin Kadenbach (S&D), Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL), Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL), Kateřina Konečná (GUE/NGL), Martin Häusling (Verts/ALE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL), Gilles Pargneaux (S&D), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Pavel Poc (S&D) on biased glyphosate residue levels in food
- Written question E-009579/2016 by Nicola Caputo (S&D) on wheat and glyphosate
- Written question E-008770-16 by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE) on banning certain active substances of plant protection products
- Written question E-007464/2016 Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL) on EFSA and raw data
- Written question E-006957/2016 by Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL) on transparency and glyphosate
- Written question E-006733/2016 by Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), José Bové (Verts/ALE), Martin Häusling (Verts/ALE), Maria Heubuch (Verts/ALE) on glyphosate-tolerant genetically modified crops and the resulting health impacts
- Written question E-005850/2016 by Pavel Poc (S&D), Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Karin Kadenbach (S&D) on glyphosate - implementation and enforcement of the recommended restrictions

## EU DEBATE ON COMBINATION TOXICITY

Up to this point, combination toxicity has still not been calculated and citizens in Europe are not protected against this very serious risk--especially children and the unborn. We wish to change this as soon as possible and urge the Commission to implement the rules and force EU-institutes such as EFSA to stop delaying the implementation.

Regulation 396/2005/EC on maximum residue levels in or on food and feed of plant and animal origins specifies harmful effects of pesticide mixtures on health and the environment. Even though methods of assessment have been available for more than 10 years, EFSA continues to postpone taking actions on combination toxicity. Methods are analysed by EFSA and research programs to undermine the provision in the Regulation. As solid methods to assess combination toxicity have been available for many years, we will promote this fact as a significant input to the general debate on chemical mixtures.

We will focus our advocacy work on using a deterministic approach and the introduction of extra safety factors since current methodologies can only cover a small part (the known) of combination toxicity.

## COURT CASES

PAN Europe has a long history in bringing 'pesticide issues' to the European Court of Justice, and 2016 was an important year.

First of all, in February 2016, following a case filed by PAN Europe in 2013 to the European Ombudsman (complaint 12/2013/MDC), Ombudsman published its decision accusing Commission's Health Directory DG SANTE for "maladministration" one of the reason being giving authorization to pesticide active substances while important safety data are missing known as "confirmatory data procedure". Another reason was the lack of important data related to environmental safety.

In September 2016, PAN Europe won a legal case at the European Court of Justice (Case T-51/15) against the EU Commission (DG Trade), for refusing to provide access to documents with information on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). The Luxembourg court rejected EU Commission's overused argument of "an ongoing policy" to deny the right for the public to access documents of Community institutions and bodies. This was one of the main arguments of the Commission's Trade Directorate, for refusing to provide full access to 36 out of the 55 documents PAN Europe had requested on EDCs. According to the Court, these are "general, vague and imprecise claims" and miss the overall objective of the Reg. 1367/2006 to create "an even closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizens". The "ongoing policy" argument is being used increasingly not only by EU Commission but by other institutions like Food Authority EFSA, to deny the public access to specific documents. This undermines the European law, for a united Europe, where European citizens have public access to information, participate in the decision-making process and have access to justice in environmental matters.

In November 2016, Pesticide Action Network Europe and Greenpeace Nederland finally won the case against the European Commission (C-673/13 P, in appeal), which had started in 2011, for refusing to provide the documents related to the assessment of glyphosate (toxicity testing of the active ingredient and the formulas of the tested products). The European Court of Justice confirmed that this is "information which relates to emissions into the environment" and should be provided by the Commission. According to the EU's access to documents laws, public authorities, including the EU institutions, cannot disclose information that would harm the commercial interests of a third party unless there is an overriding public interest in doing so. According to the court's decision if the information relates to emissions into the environment, there is an irrebuttable presumption that disclosure is in the public interest.

Information relating to PAN Europe's court cases can be found at [PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)



**“The more I learned about the use of pesticides, the more appalled I became...** What I discovered was that everything which meant most to me as a naturalist was being threatened, and that nothing I could do would be more important.”

**-Rachel Carson**, 1962 Biologist and Author of *The Silent Spring*

**“We have a Christmas tree farm surrounded by huge agricultural fields.** Some of these fields are over 250 acres in size. We grow mature trees next to young trees and mix a range of different types and varieties. Our plantation is surrounded by hedges with rich flora and fauna. Since about ten years ago we have observed intensification in the use of pesticides on the surrounding fields, associated with plough-less tillage and non-compliance of balanced crop rotation. We have informed our neighbour farmers (conventional farmers) about the damage to our fruits, vegetables and Christmas trees caused by the use of pesticides. We have also documented the damage. The bird population is dwindling, and bees are now very rare.”

**- Johannes Meisser**, Near Schwerin, Germany

# VAT AND PESTICIDE TAXATION

The thematic strategy on pesticides<sup>10</sup> says “taxation should be investigated further in order to establish a ‘banded’ taxation system as a proxy for true externalities in the future”.

Country/Region	Instrument	What	Amount €/ha
IT/Emilia Romagna	F&V CMO	use of selected pesticides combined with an integrated production system	Arable: €100/ha Vegetables: €300/ha Fruit €550/ha
Austria (*)	Agro-envir. in Rural Development	crop rotations (annual crops), restrictions on fertiliser and pesticide use, training and record-keeping	Potatoes: €150/ha, Strawberries: €250/ha, fruit and hops: €300/ha, vines: up to €400/ha
France	AE	biological control agents, beneficiaries, sexual confusion	vegetables: 105€, fruit trees: 70 €, grapes: 79€
Belgium (Flandre)	AE	sexual confusion against the codling moth (min 5 years and 1 ha)	pipfruit: 250 €
Luxembourg	AE	biological control agents to fight <i>Cochylis</i> + <i>Eudemis</i> on grapes	120 or 200 €/ha depending on the exact intervention needed

Recital 4 of the Sustainable Use Directive of Pesticides highlights that ‘Economic instruments can play a crucial role in the achievement of objectives relating to the sustainable use of pesticides. The use of such instruments at the appropriate level should therefore be encouraged while stressing that individual Member States can decide on their use without prejudice to the applicability of the State aid rules.’

Certain Member States within the European Union are still offering farmers a lower VAT level for the use of pesticides, see table below, despite their increased cost to public health and environment. Lower VAT rates for pesticides represent an environmentally harmful indirect subsidy.

## VAT LEVELS APPLIED IN THE MS FOR PESTICIDES AND FERTILISERS<sup>11</sup>

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IE	IT	CY	LV
Pesticides	12/21	20	21	25	19	20	13	10	10/20	25	23	22	5	21
Fertilisers	12/21	20	21	25	19	20	13	10	10/20	25	0/23	4	5	21

	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK
Pesticides	21	15	27	18	21	20	8	6	24	9,5	20	24	25	20
Fertilisers	21	3	27	18	21	10/20	8	6	24	9,5	20	24	25	20

The Scandinavian countries have a long tradition in the taxation of pesticides. In July 2013, Denmark introduced a pesticide tax, where taxation is not linked to the nominal value of the insecticides, but linked to their environmental and health toxicity. Also Norway has a pesticide tax, while Sweden argues that they prefer banning active substances rather than taxing them, an argument difficult to contradict.

<sup>10</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ppps/pdf/pesticides\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ppps/pdf/pesticides_en.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/resources/documents/taxation/vat/how\\_vat\\_works/rates/vat\\_rates\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/taxation/vat/how_vat_works/rates/vat_rates_en.pdf)

## A FEW OTHER ACTORS HAVE DECIDED TO EXPERIMENT WITH VARIOUS FORMS OF PESTICIDE TAXATION:

### GERMANY - SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN GERMANY: INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE A RISK-BASED PESTICIDE TAX

Since 2001, domestic use of pesticides in Germany has increased by almost a third while the area of treatable land has remained largely unchanged. In addition, the 2015 targets for water protection are not being met.

PAN Europe members PAN Germany expressly welcome the initiative taken by Dr. Robert Habeck, the Minister of Agriculture for Schleswig-Holstein, to introduce a pesticide tax. The rationale behind the introduction of a risk-based tax on pesticides is that pesticides should not only be more expensive to account for the harm they cause to the environment, but that the tax should be levied in such a way that products which constitute a higher health risk are more heavily taxed. This would mean that the least harmful products would become comparatively cheaper and thus more attractive and that harmful products would be replaced by less harmful alternatives. The tax revenue could then be used for specific purposes.

PAN Germany has been calling for the introduction of a pesticide tax in Germany for many years and hopes that the proposed concept will be further fleshed out and implemented to ensure that non-chemical methods of weed and pest control will be used more frequently and that pesticide producers and the biggest polluters, not the general public, bear the costs of pesticide use.

In 2016, PAN Europe has created a database on best practice in pesticide taxation, providing an overview of different taxation schemes.

### THE DANISH PESTICIDE TAX

In 2013 the former Danish Government launched a campaign to reduce the pesticide load by 40% by 2015 from the 2011 load level. The plan has just been prolonged until the end of 2016. The main reasons for reducing pesticide use are to ensure a clean environment, good ecological conditions in nature, healthy food, better health and safety at work as well as more green workplaces. The goal is based on a new indicator, the Pesticide Load Indicator (PLI), as there is no target set for treatment frequency index (TFI) as earlier.

Where the TFI mainly reflects the intensity of pesticide use, the PLI is an indicator of the load on the environment and human health resulting from the actual use (sales) of pesticides. The main instrument is the pesticide tax, which in 2013 was increased and differentiated according the load indicator. The pesticides causing the highest load will thus be the most expensive, and will encourage users of pesticides to comply with the integrated pest management - IPM principles (Art 14, annex III Dir. 128/2009), to use fewer pesticides and to use the pesticides causing lowest load.

The tax is differentiated according to indicators of relative health and environmental impacts of the different pesticides. Effective from July 1 2013, the law is differentiating the tax on approved pesticides; the tax is paid on pesticides according to how large the impacts from the pesticides are on health, nature, and groundwater.

PAN Europe has been discussing how to reduce pesticide-use through taxation. While PAN Europe’s members all agree on the need to eliminate reduced VAT levels, our members are divided as to whether pesticide taxation (the stick approach) or more funding on rural development (the carrot approach) is the way forward. Often it is members in the new MS where CAP support levels are still being phased in who are reluctant to introduce taxation.

As a result we – together with our members and other Brussels based NGOs– will work together so that the low VAT on pesticides is stopped, in some MS we will work for introduction of a pesticide tax, while in others working for development of solid rural development measures.

This conversation helps come closer to reaching the objectives from the Communication of the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe: to reduce resource inputs in food production by 20% by 2020 (page 18), and sets specific targets on introduction of environmental taxes (page 11).

**“Based on our re-evaluation of the overall costs of pesticide use for the United States in Sect. 2.8.3 , the benefit-cost ratio in this country** (at the start of the 1990s) was 0.70. In 1992, Pimentel et al. concluded ‘complete long-term cost/benefit analysis of pesticide use would reduce the perceived profitability of pesticides’. The re-analysis of their data shows that the profitability of pesticides has, indeed, undoubtedly been overestimated in the past. Hence, pesticide use, at the doses applied, may have entailed costs exceeding the profits generated.”

- **Bourguet & Guillemaud**, 20 February, 2016 The Hidden and External Costs of Pesticide Use. Sustainable Agriculture Reviews.

### PROGRESSIVE TAX AS THIRD PILLAR OF NEW COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

“On West European farmland the diversity and abundance of wild birds, insects and vascular plants declines dramatically. This loss of diversity has serious consequences for services that nature provides to farmers such as biological pest control and pollination.

This development is driven by agricultural intensification. Immediately after World War II agricultural policy focussed – for obvious reasons – on a rapid increase in food production and low consumer prices. This policy resulted in huge production-linked financial support to farmers, spending 70% of the total budget of the European Community. Nowadays, this support has decreased to 40%, but should be reduced further, due to the financial pressures the EU experiences.

I propose that the new Common Agricultural Policy starting in 2020, will be composed of three pillars. Pillar 1 should only guarantee a minimum income to farmers, protecting small farms and slowing down depopulation of the European countryside. Pillar 2 should support the development of new sustainable farming systems.

But the most important step is pillar 3: a progressive tax, based on purchased quantities of pesticides, imported animal feeds (e.g. soybeans) and antibiotics per unit of area. If this tax is sufficiently progressive, it compensates for lower production by lower costs and an increased market share. Food prices will increase, but presently the costs that result from pollution and biodiversity loss are not included in the prices that consumers pay. This new pillar will lead to substantial, price driven shifts in the sales of sustainable products. Each small step of farmers towards using less pesticides, imported feeds and antibiotics will be rewarded with increased sales, higher incomes and much broader societal respect.”

- **Frank Berendse**, Professor of Nature Conservation, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

## VOICES OF PESTICIDES

Worldwide, citizens are more and more concerned about the impact of pesticides on their health and the environment. PAN Europe has a campaign aiming at spreading the message of those who have a story to tell: the Voices of Pesticides, gathering national initiatives and as well as adding new stories on from other parts of Europe. A dedicated campaign webpage collects these “voices” and shares these stories allowing them be heard and actively promote the significant reduction of use of pesticides in all areas.

### HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016:

- In December 2016, PAN Europe organised a workshop, “Victims of pesticides tell their story” allowing European victims of pesticides to exchange their stories for the first time ever.
- Inspired PAN Europe members, Members of the European Parliament and other related organisations to organise exchanges and debates on pesticide victims. As a result, in December 2016, MEP Jose Bove organised a big conference “The Health Scandal Behind Pesticides in Agriculture” for victims of pesticides in the European Parliament building on work done by PAN Europe and its members on collection of victims of pesticides. PAN Europe was strongly involved in the organisation and used this to gather for the first time 50 victims of pesticides from IT, BE, FR, ES who took part in the workshop in Mundo B on 7 December.
- Identified 16 new voices of pesticides adding to the 61 testimonies identified last year, from across Europe

The Health Scandal Behind Pesticides in Agriculture” Conference in, December 2016, brought together farmers and workers from all over Europe to give their testimonies as victims of pesticides, or the written testimonies of whom was not able to attend the conference because of serious health problems. Members of the European Parliament and policy makers from the European Commission have been invited to hear their stories and the serious consequences of pesticides on human health. This conference was a chance to look for possible solutions to support victims of pesticides and prevent further exposure. For the first time, farmers had the chance tell their stories in the European Parliament and to be heard at the European level.



**“Having met my children’s father in 1995 our daughter was born in 2002, closely followed by her brother 16 months later in 2004.** The children took longer than normal to talk and walk, our son still does not talk at age 13. He was diagnosed with low functioning Autism in 2010 at age 6. In 2015 he was admitted to hospital for a routine dental procedure for which he received a general anaesthetic, while under which, some bloods were taken for the purpose of a genetic screen as advised by the paediatrician. The genetic test results returned a diagnosis of a gene deletion called NRXN1-2p16.3 and as a result of this the rest of the family were also genetically screened. Their father was also diagnosed with the same gene deletion as our son and our daughter was similarly diagnosed with 2p16.3 deletion, additionally she has also received the diagnosis of an extra gene deletion not present in the males being, location NRXN1-Chromosome 19, on q arm, at band 11 or 19q11 for short. Both deletions are paternally inherited; there is a 50% chance of passing these deletions on to future generations. Very little is known about the NRXN1 location being it was only discovered in the last decade. It has been associated with Autism, intellectual disability and a range of other severe symptoms. Since then, the children’s father has been diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome/Autism; our daughter awaits an Autism assessment for same. Following this blanket diagnosis I have discovered that when my children’s paternal grandmother was 7-8 years of age she was accidentally exposed to a relatively large amount of E605 Parathion while she was in the family vineyard in Germany. Other generations of this family are being screened.

We await the test results to determine the extent of this condition throughout the family and whether this may have resulted from the exposure to Organophosphates which occurred 3 generations ago

- **Frances Kelly**, Ireland



## PAN EUROPE'S OUTREACH

In 2016, we continued restructuring PAN Europe's website. Pan-europe.info reaches roughly 7,950 users and delivers about 17,490 page views each month

- We increased the number of newsletter subscribers to more than 1000
- We increased the number of Facebook "likes" to 2,300 and a rating of 4.9 out of 5 possible stars
- We increased the number of followers on Twitter to 1330 followers @EuropePAN
- More than 20 quotes of PAN in the press
- 21 press releases sent out in 2016
- Increased visibility and knowledge of PAN work topics to Brussels citizens, Belgians and foreigners living in Belgium through the realisation of the pesticide free towns campaign. Since launching of the Pesticide-free-towns.info in 2015, the page was visited <5000 times It reaches roughly 1,440 users and delivers about 3,180 pageviews each month.
- New campaign website for low impact farming was launched and was visited <5000 times. It reaches roughly 1,440 users and delivers about 3,210 pageviews each month.

### HOW IS PAN EUROPE FINANCED

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### ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH AND FOR OUR MEMBERS:

In 2016, PAN Europe commissioned a project looking at the internal organisation of its Secretariat in Brussels, its fundraising strategy and both internal and external communications. We identified ways of how to strengthen the organisational structure to allow PAN Europe to show its effectiveness externally, e.g. to donors, increase visibility, and improve our members' engagement.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF PAN EUROPE!

### BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF PAN EUROPE

What you get as a member:

- Access to PAN Europe's Member listserv, an important resource for sharing information about current events, strategy, legislation, national actions, campaigns, reports, and European activities on Pesticides.
- Invitations to member-only events such as:
  - Capacity building workshops
  - Webinars
  - Trainings
  - Seminars
- Voting power at the PAN Europe Annual General Assembly.
- Continuous updates on the political developments at the EU level in relation to the regulation of pesticides in Europe and the promotion of alternatives.
- Technical expertise and support for your local initiatives.
- Links to members in other European nations to help collaborate and share best-practices.
- Opportunity for joint fundraising and sponsorship with PAN Europe.
- Access to Members-Only publications such as newsletters, policy documents, lobbying strategy documents, etc.
- Opportunity to represent PAN Europe at civil society dialogue meetings and groups.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER,  
PLEASE CONTACT SEDA ORHAN, PARTNERSHIP MANAGER,  
SEDA@PAN-EUROPE.INFO**

## PAN EUROPE MEMBERSHIP

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**Global 2000**  
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**ClientEarth**  
Belgium, United Kingdom,  
Poland

**Inter-Environnement  
Wallonie**  
Namur, Belgium

**Nature et Progres**  
Bruxelles, Belgium

**Velt**  
Berchem, Belgium

**National Movement of  
Friends of the Earth**  
Sofia, Bulgaria

**Danmarks  
Naturfredningsforening**  
Copenhagen, Denmark

**Eco Council**  
Copenhagen, Denmark

**Estonian Green Movement**  
Tartu, Estonia

**The Finnish Association  
for Nature Conservation  
(FANC)**  
Helsinki, Finland

**Generations Futures**  
Paris, France

**PAN Germany**  
Hamburg, Germany

**Ecocity**  
Athene, Greece

**VOICE**  
Dublin, Ireland

**PAN Italy**  
Italy

**Accademia delle Erbe  
Spontanee**  
Ancona, Italy

**Centre for Ecological  
Learning Luxembourg**  
CELL, Luxembourg

**Milieudefensie**  
Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Women Engage for a  
Common Future (WECF)**  
Utrecht, Netherlands

**PKE**  
Gliwice, Poland

**Spoleczny Instytut  
Ekologiczny**  
Warsaw, Poland

**Quercus**  
Lisboa, Portugal

**Adept**  
Saschiz, Romania

**EchO**  
Domava, Slovenia

**Institute for Sustainable  
Development (ISD)**  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

**CEPTA**  
Zvolen, Slovakia

**Fundación Alborada**  
Madrid, Spain

**Fundación Vivosano**  
Madrid, Spain

**Swedish Society for  
Nature Conservation  
(SSNC)**  
Stockholm, Sweden

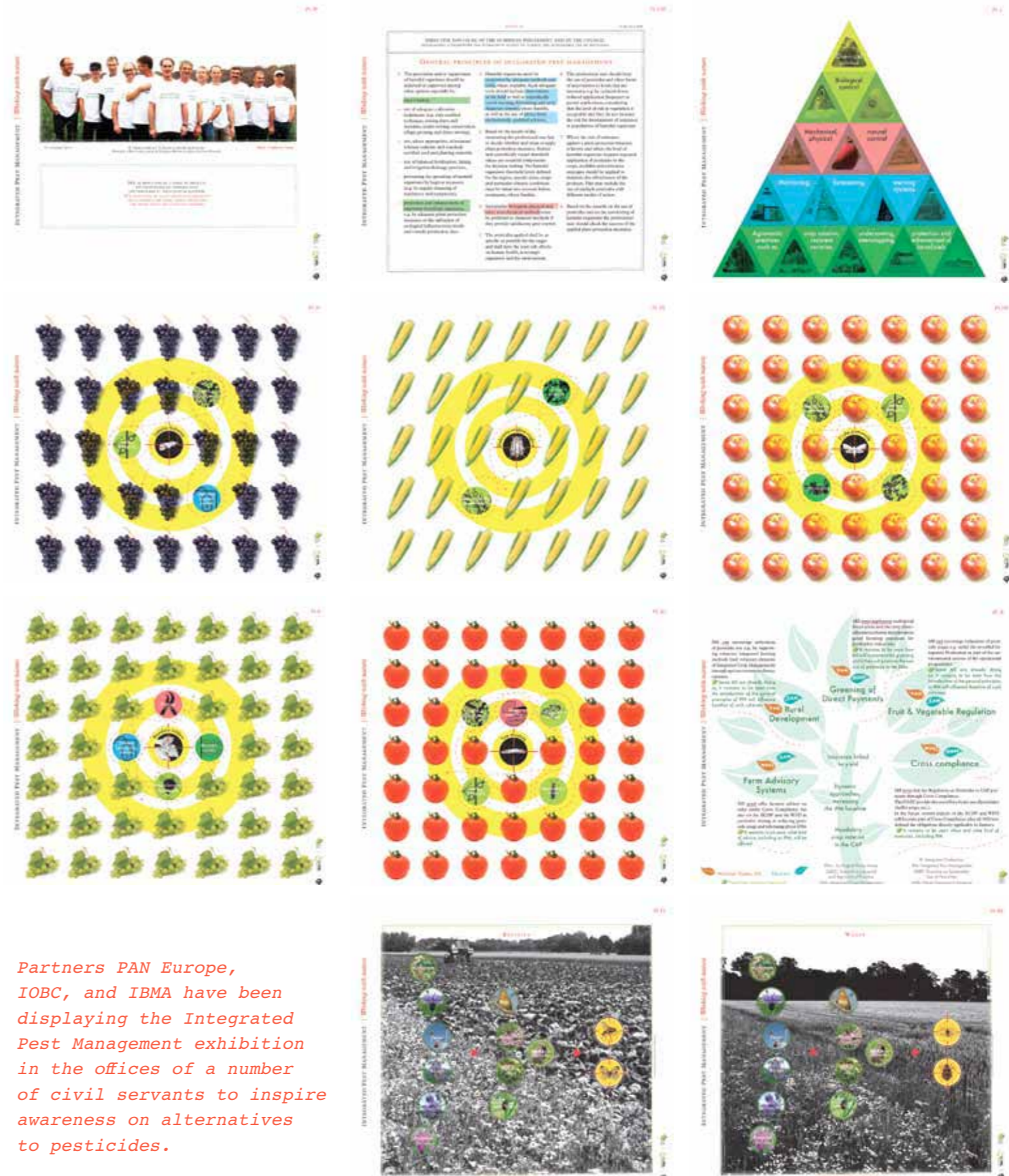
**Center of Sustainable  
Development and  
Ecological Education**  
Kiev, Ukraine

**PAN UK**  
London, United Kingdom

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**TOURING EXHIBITION/CAMPAIGN  
FOR FURTHER EXPLANATIONS PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE:  
PAN-EUROPE.INFO/IPM-EXHIBITION-GUIDE**



Partners PAN Europe, IOBC, and IBMA have been displaying the Integrated Pest Management exhibition in the offices of a number of civil servants to inspire awareness on alternatives to pesticides.

# INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PYRAMID

