



**PAN EUROPE  
NEWSLETTER  
Winter 2011**

# Welcome

*Note: We would like to apologize for the few language mistakes of this newsletter as it was written by non-native speakers.*

*The lacking LIFE+ funding has this year been hard on PAN Europe, making it impossible for us to organise general assembly meeting.*

*Though, according to Belgium law we need to organise an annual general assembly, which we this year decided to hold as a board meeting, finally started to make the Brussels based ASBL active. We started this by accepting membership application from a little less than half of our members. Hoping that the rest of PAN members will follow shortly, and others will decide to join too. As the fight to reduce pesticides dependency is getting more and more important every day.*

*In 2010, Alexandra Pershaw and Stephanie Williamson stepped down as board members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their great work, constantly having worked for consensus in the board. They are both honorable members of PAN Europe new structure ASBL, and we hope to see them from time to time in this new role. We would also like to welcome our new board members, Sandra Jen and Nick Mole, who agreed to replace them. We are very much looking forward to working with this new team.*

*Also we are pleased to inform you that Francois Veillerette has accepted to take over the role as president, and was elected by unanimity by the entire board earlier this month.*

*We wish you a happy reading with this latest newsletter, and kindly ask you to send us comments and remarks allowing us to improve our work.*

*Best  
Hans and Henriette*



## 1. Chemicals

### **EFSA proposal to stop toxicity testing**

Food authority EFSA proposes to substitute actual testing of chemicals by the use of a fixed exposure figure. An adult can –according to EFSA- safely eat 90 microgrammes of any chemical of a defined class every day for his/her entire life, the TTC (Threshold of Toxicological Concern). The TTC is a proposal developed by pesticide industry and is far from safe. TTC is based on old, outdated company data which EFSA did not check because the studies are non-retrievable. TTC is calculated by excluding the 5th percentile most toxic company data, allowing a certain level of harm to happen. Additionally infants, which are known to be

more vulnerable, are not extra protected by TTC and mixtures of chemicals not calculated. TTC is therefore scientifically completely flawed, puts humans/infants at great risks and only serves to get unlimited market access for chemicals. Independent literature was not taken into account in TTC and PAN-Europe could easily falsify the extreme high TTC-threshold with real scientific data. For endocrine disrupting chemicals lower toxic doses could be found being a factor 10, 100, 1000 and up to 7500x lower than the TTC value. If the TTC were used for the most dangerous class of chemicals, pesticides, a group sprayed intentionally on food, >85% of the pesticides would all of a sudden be classified “safe” for humans and no testing needed anymore. It is unbelievable EFSA, stating to be a top-class scientific institute, adopts this dangerous non-science based proposal. EFSA’s blind love for industry also allowed industry people and other known promoters of TTC in the panel adopting TTC.

See PAN website: <http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/110830.html> and  
<http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/111219.html>

## **Revised toxicity testing for pesticides with industry bias**

The present rules for toxicity testing of pesticides will be revised soon. They are outdated, do not include new insights in science and fail to protect citizens. But instead of making them stricter, Commission and member states have made the tests more flexible and cheaper for industry. No tests are required for immunotoxicity or endocrine disruption. There is no standard test even for neurotoxicity and no mention of the need to protect the developing foetus or babies during vulnerable phases. There are no tests on low doses or mixtures of chemicals, in spite of the fact that these reflect real-life human exposures. There is, however, progress on bee testing.

Health Commissioner Dalli's proposal has been developed over the last seven years in cooperation with industry umbrella organisation ECPA (European Crop Protection Association); member states like Ireland and the UK invited

them to the working groups. Other stakeholders were invited into the process only last year, when the text was largely fixed. Many of the industry proposals of ECPA and the industry lobby club ILSI<sup>1</sup> were accepted. This happened especially in the crucial area of long-term human health toxicity testing. The one-year dog study was deleted and industry was allowed to choose a different test species, as in the long-term rat test, or to waive studies like the 2-generation mouse test. In addition, EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) panels, with ILSI-linked scientists on board, issued Opinions and Guidances that contributed to a pro-industry bias in the test proposals. PAN-Europe believes that the already quite insensitive toxicity testing requirements are watered down and will not adequately protect citizen's health.

*1. ILSI, the International Life Science Institute, states to have a mission to provide science that improves public health and well-being. Behind this façade hides an industry-sponsored lobby club which works to redesign risk assessment to make it less rigorous and cheaper. ILSI was restricted from activities in the international health organisation WHO because of its track record of putting the interest of its corporate members first.*





## ***Discussion in European Parliament on the use of science***

***Hearing organised by Ms. Lepage/Parvanova 9th November 2011 in collaboration with PAN-Europe/EOS.***

The public is reassured by industry and governments that risky products like pesticides, chemicals, and genetically modified foods are strictly regulated. But approvals for such products depend on a few limited studies, paid for by the same companies that stand to profit from the product's approval and sale. Studies not only have an inherent bias, but they are also old and outdated. Often, they are unpublished and commercially confidential, meaning that they cannot be evaluated by independent scientists or the public. At the same time, regulators ignore or dismiss large numbers of peer-reviewed independent studies in their assessments of risky products – even though such studies are less likely to be biased, are of better quality, and use the latest scientific methods and insights. Regulators rely instead on small numbers of industry studies that are claimed to be safe? This has been the case with aspartame, genetically modified foods, bisphenol A, and glyphosate/Roundup. In sum, science has separated into two diverging strands: industry science and independent sci-

ence. While billions of Euros of taxpayer money is poured into independent research, it is still not properly taken into account in regulatory assessments. The EU Parliament and Council have made progress in addressing the problem. They passed new pesticide and chemicals regulations stating that assessments will no longer rely solely on industry studies. The regulation forces regulators to take account of independent science. But an EFSA Guidance has compromised the new regulation and RA culture ensures that REACH dossiers also will hew to industry data, enabling industry to dismiss any independent study it wishes on the grounds that it is not “relevant” or “reliable”. The loopholes in this Guidance are reinforced by the draft data requirements of DG SANCO, which, if adopted, could undermine the intent of the new regulation to protect public health and the environment. Independent scientists and civil society groups are fighting to make the voice of independent science heard in public health and environmental regulation. But each individual or group is fighting their own corner – no one is addressing the bigger picture. This is in spite of the fact that the crisis in independent science crosses over into many areas that directly affect the public – from food quality to public health and environmental sustainability.

## *PAN Europe proposal on mixtures*



Risk assessment on chemicals ignores the exposure of human and the environment to mixtures since decades. Regulators still act as if people were exposed to one single chemical while the reality is a daily exposure to hundreds of chemicals at the same time.

A few EU scientific committees now are considering taking mixture effects into account.

Most proposals from these committees accounting for health effects of mixtures however only cover the tip of iceberg. Some focus on common mechanism of action (Food Authority EFSA), some on concentration addition in case of known substances (SCHER-committee). But these approaches will miss the overwhelming majority of the cases of mixture exposures in practice which happen by exposure through air, food, dust, cosmetics, etc. Therefore these proposals are not protective enough and continue to put people, especially the vulnerable, at risk. We propose not to take into account the whole iceberg, in trying to cover risks of the millions and millions possible combinations of chemicals in daily life. The best option to

do this is the use of an extra uncertainty factor in risk assessment (UF-mix) in addition to the ones used presently. The actual used uncertainty factors in risk assessment (10x10) are an underestimation of the actual risks and do not cover the effects on vulnerable groups like children. Based on academic studies available the extra uncertainty factor would be estimated to be at a level of 100. We propose to use this extra factor until good independent science provides for a better estimate.

## 2. AGRICULTURE

### *How is the implementation of the SUD going in Denmark?*

In the last newsletter of PAN we explained that the implementation of the sustainable use of pesticide directive is being implemented slowly but surely in Denmark, of which the most revolutionary so far are

- the establishment of non farmed 10 metre buffer zones along watercourses and lakes
- the voluntary agreement to seriously reduce use of pesticides on golf fields will become mandatory, with the longer term aim of phasing out the use of pesticides.

*Others parts of the Sustainable use directive have now been converted into law in Denmark, for an overview see: <http://www.mst.dk/English/pesticides/>*

*Especially:*

*<http://www.mst.dk/English/pesticides/Reducering+the+impact+on+the+environment/> with the different items that the Danes are working on presented as:*

*<http://www.mst.dk/English/Pesticides/Reducering+the+impact+on+the+environment/Intiatives+under+the+Green+Growth+Action+Plan/>*

Of special relevance to the CAP debate is of course the Danish interpretation of the requirement Under Integrated Pest Management, see:

<http://www.mst.dk/English/Pesticides/Reducering+the+impact+on+the+environment/Intiatives+under+the+Green+Growth+Action+Plan/Integrated+Pest+Management/>



### *The Common Agricultural Policy*

PAN Europe urges the EU to put sustainable agricultural practice with biological control (rather than chemical) at the heart of Europe's agriculture policy reform.

When the reform proposals were published on the 12 October 2011 PAN Europe and HEAL made a joint press release insisting that the reform proposal as it stands is half-hearted. While the proposal recognises the much-needed environmental shift, the measures proposed to make the shift are insufficient (and unable to ensure the needed change) to reduce external input dependency, such as pesticides and fertilisers, and to ensure long term food security.

At the same time we highlighted the fact that reductions in external inputs are possible :  
"A study released in July this year (Florence Jacquet et al, An economic analysis of the possibility of reducing pesticides in French

field crops, Ecological Economics (2011), doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2011.04.003) shows that French farmers can reduce their pesticide use by 30% without reducing their income. The two main reasons for not implementing less intensive techniques are farmers' aversion to risk and the anticipated labour and skill requirements for implementing these techniques."

So while it is positive that the European Commission is proposing that all EU farmers will have to apply a mandatory package of agronomic measures to obtain direct payments as from 2014, the so-called green component, which is calling on all farmers to diversify their agricultural production, and reserve 7% of their land for ecological focus areas, it is sad that the proposals do not go further. Fact is that the proposals as they stand still will allow farmer to apply monoculture, same crop on the same land year after year, on 70% of their land.



## ***What we are asking for concretely ?***

### ***A faster inclusion of the sustainable use directive on pesticides in cross compliance:***

Farmers should respect the rules of both the water framework directive and the sustainable use of pesticides directive as of January 2014, and not wait until these directives have been “properly applied” in all EU Member States.

### ***Crop rotation as part of green payment of the first pillar:***

Crop rotation would reduce the need for chemical inputs, such as fertilisers and pesticides, and promote biodiversity. Each farmer will be obliged to apply a package of agricultural measures, such as diversification of crops, but the present proposal does not include crop rotation.

### ***Biological control as the model for sustainable innovation:***

Each farmer applying for rural development funding should take a „system approach” to farming. This starts with the delivery of a (certified) plan to drastically change methods and deliver advances in agricultural practices. These will prioritise harm prevention, resistant crop varieties and use of biological control. The starting point for knowledge transfer must be organic farmers spreading their knowledge to conventional farmers.

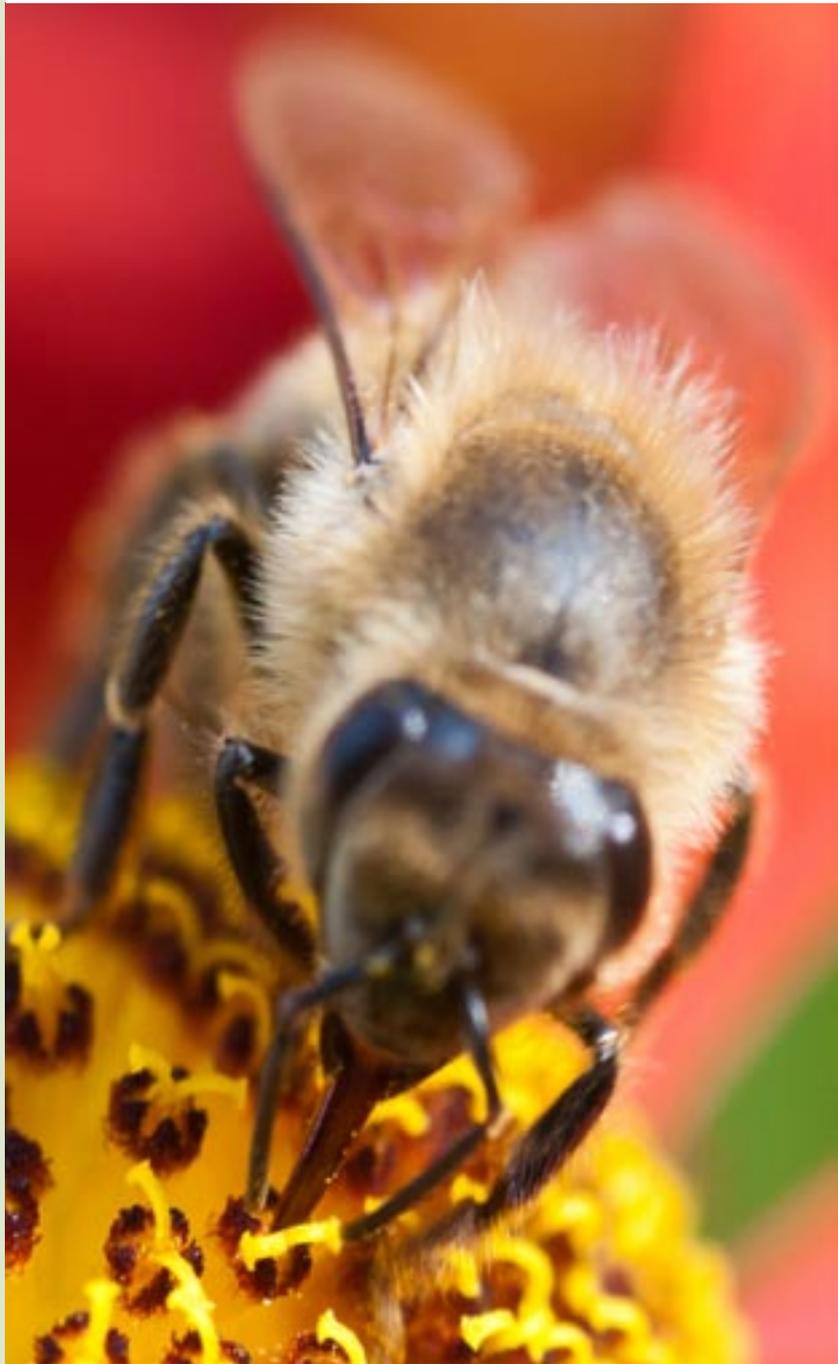


### 3. BEES

#### ***GM crops polluting honey not allowed according to European Court.***

In 2005, the honey of an amateur beekeeper, Mr Bablok, from the German region of Bavaria, was found to be contaminated with GM pollen, derived from Bt corn fields (MON810) that this region was testing. According to European legislation (Regulation (EC) 1829/2003), any food-product containing GM material must go through an approval process to prove it is safe for consumers. Since Mr Bablok was worried that the GM test-crops had contaminated his honey with GM material and GM toxins, and he initiated legal proceedings before the German Court of Justice. The European Court of Justice has now asserted three critical findings in its judgement, of September 6th 2011, namely:

- Pollen derived from GM crops, that is found in the beehive, is not considered a GM organism (GMO)
- Beekeeping products containing pollen derived from GM crops are considered as “produce from GMOs”
- The presence of GM material in honey, pollen and beekeeping products cannot be tolerated, it is illegal.



*Europe's beekeeping industry now is in trouble. Beekeepers, cannot possibly control where their bees forage or which crops they visit, and will now be forced to prove that their products have not been contaminated with GM material. Laboratory tests will now be needed on every batch of honey and pollen, to certify that they are "GM free" which is a high burden for beekeepers. A political solution is needed urgently to prevent GM polluting bee products.*

## The European Parliament's report on bee health

On the 15 November 2011, the plenary session of the European Parliament voted on an Initiative report about bee health and the future of the beekeeping sector.

Two initiative reports had been presented: one by the Socialist Csaba Tabajdi (voted and accepted at Com AGRI), and an alternative one by the Green Bas Eickhoud.

Initially, the text proposed by the ComAGRI was the one that was going to be voted in plenary session. However, an alternative coalition was established because certain MEPs considered that the AGRI report was not rigorous enough on certain points. Since the parliament has specific rules for plenary amendments, the only possibility for them was to table an alternative motion for resolution (AMR).

*The points included into the alternative resolution are as follows:*

- *an objective critique of pesticide toxicity, in particular the banning of systemic neurotoxins (such as neonicotinoids and phenyl-pyrazoles and pyrethrinoids) on the basis of a lack of a proper risk assessment, in line with the precautionary principle;*
- *the implications to the beekeeping sector of GMO contamination of honey and beekeeping products, as well as consequent costs of testing for contaminants and loss of income for beekeepers;*
- *on the interaction of agriculture and beekeeping, a critique of monocultures, and the idea that wide-scale changes are needed in agriculture, including crop rotation to reduce (the need for) pesticide use, in order to reverse the sharp decline of pollinator populations.*

*We need sustainable agriculture everywhere, and buffer strips and wildflower/melliferous beds are not enough on their own.*

Both reports were voted in plenary session after discussion, and even though 25% of the MEPs voted in favour of the alternative resolution, presented only very shortly before the vote, it was the Com AGRI (Tabajdi) report which was approved.

So, while the alternative resolution was not approved, it still allowed important concepts on the impact of GMOs, pesticides and the agricultural model on bee health, to be touched upon in plenary of the European Parliament.

You can find more details about the not very ambitious report approved on:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2011-0359&language=EN>

You can find more details on how the MEPs voted on the alternative bee resolution on:

[http://www.votewatch.eu/cx\\_vote\\_details.php?id\\_act=2312&lang=en](http://www.votewatch.eu/cx_vote_details.php?id_act=2312&lang=en)

See clip on the consequences of regional bee extinction in rural China (FR sound) - key fact: one hive can pollinate 3 million flowers/day for free versus one worker pollinating 30 fruit trees/day by hand:.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3U4hQIY494>

## ***Evidence from Italy on crop rotation as the real alternative to neonicotinoid pesticides***

In the EU honey bees play a key role in the successful production of 80 million tonnes of food every year - that is approximately 160kg of food per EU citizen. Though, the neonicotinoid pesticides have been implicated in the death of bees since they were introduced into agricultural use on the early 1990s. In the winter of 2008/2009 around 1/5 of honey bee hives in the UK were lost. In Germany in 2008 60% of their bees were lost. In 1999 France banned the use of the neonicotinoid based product Gaucho after the loss of 1/3 of French honey bees.

In Italy, the ban is temporary, running on an annual basis, though since September 2008 the ban has been confirmed in both 2009, 2010 and has recently been confirmed to apply until autumn of 2012.

Thought what is interesting in the case of Italy, is that since September 2008, where the Italian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture decided to apply the precautionary principle, and suspended use of the neonicotinoid and systemic insecticides clothianidin, thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and fipronil on maize treated seeds on an annual basis. They also established APENET, the official Italian monitoring network to monitor the results of the ongoing suspensions on pesticide treated maize seeds and the effects on bee deaths, pest attacks and follow potential productivity changes in maize caused by the ban.

APENETs monitoring is composed of surveillance modules, with at least one module for each Region and Autonomous Province. Every module consists of 5 stations (apiaries), each of which is in turn made up of 10 hives, located in representative geographic areas of each Region. To date, the network is composed of 20 modules, 94 apiaries and 940 hives.



The function of the monitoring network is to gather information on the health status of the bee families contained within the modules by means of periodic surveys and subsequent laboratory analyses performed on the different matrices collected (dead bees, live bees, brood, wax, pollen). In addition to routine analyses at pre-established dates, the programme also specifies that special surveys, sample collection and analyses should be carried out at any time if abnormal mortality is reported.

So far, the results of the monitoring carried out by APENET have shown that notifications of bee deaths in maize growing areas reduced to zero during the sowing period March – April 2009 compared to 185 cases that were notified in the spring of 2008 and that there were no bee deaths notified in the years following in relation to the sowing of maize. The results have also shown that the losses in Italian winter beehives have declined from 37.5% in 2007-2008 to around 15% in 2010-2011.

The monitoring has revealed what had already been suspected, namely that bees can come into contact with bee toxic pesticides in a number of ways and at many different times throughout the year. In particular the dust emitted by seeding machines can be lethal to bees if they come into direct contact with it. It has also established that even very low dose ingestion of these pesticides by bees can cause immense damage to their brains. Other potential sources of exposure for bees include the exudates of plants in their early growing stages which, mixed with morning dew provide

a water source for bees. Residues of systemic pesticides have also been found in pollen and nectar following seed treatments, an indication that sources of nutrition for bees are also contaminated with pesticides.

Of further concern is the long persistence of imidacloprid in the soil. Research has shown that imidacloprid residues can remain in the soil at a high enough level to be taken up by non seed treated plants for up to a year. Though another fundamental issue concluded from the APENET monitoring, is the crop rotation as the alternative to seed treated maize seeds has had no negative effect on the yield and productivity loss of the maize crops in the areas monitored. More than 180 fields were monitored in most important Italian maize producing regions. No major ground-based pest attacks were observed even without using treated seed (also due to the precautionary suspension). The presence of visible attacks (below 10% of plants, with no impact on overall production) affected less than 3% of the sample. These results are statistically fully in line with a damage risk below 1%, as demonstrated by previous research.

The conclusions from the work of APENET are very clear and should be heeded by the regulatory authorities; banning these maize treated seeds has seriously reduced the bee death and that application of crop rotation has been able to keep pest attacks under control and at the same time keep yield unchanged.



# 4. THE PERMANENT PEOPLES TRIBUNAL

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal was founded in 1979 and grew out of the work by Senator Lelio Basso of Italy. The PPT is an international opinion tribunal that aims to raise awareness of situations of massive human rights violations when such situations receive no institutional recognition or response. Starting in 1979, the PPT has held 35 sessions exposing various forms of human rights abuses through alternative judgements and legal articulations. It was created as an institution to compensate for the absence of access to justice for all people; where barriers to justice exist, the Tribunal serves as a grassroots, ad hoc court to consider charges and to issue verdicts.

From 3-6th December 2011, the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) will convene in Bangalore, India, to hear cases brought against six multinational agrochemical companies who stand accused of violating human rights by promoting reliance on the sale and use of pesticides known to undermine internationally recognised rights to health, livelihood and life. Known as the 'Big 6', the indicated agrochemical corporations are Monsanto, Dow, BASF, Bayer, Syngenta and DuPont. Collectively, these companies control 74% of the global pesticide market, making the pesticide/agri-

cultural biotechnology industry one of the most consolidated sectors in the world.

The World Bank estimates that 355 000 people die of pesticide related illness every year <sup>2</sup>. "The aim of taking the Big 6 to the PPT is to give a voice to the otherwise voiceless victims of pesticides around the world who have suffered as a result of the relentless promotion of toxic poisons by these multinational companies." Cases from the UK and Europe will focus on the loss of bees due to neonicotinoid pesticides developed and sold by Bayer; Graham White, a beekeeper said, "Bee losses in the UK and Europe have been catastrophic, with over a million colony deaths since 1993; there is a massive body of peer-reviewed scientific evidence from European universities, which indicate that neonicotinoids are having a lethal impact on bees and other pollinating insects. It is high time that the companies that manufacture these toxic pesticides are held to account for the damage they have done."

Cases from the UK will also focus on the damage that has been done to the health of UK citizens by organophosphate (OP) pesticides, most notably sheep dips. In the UK many hundreds of individuals and their families have had



*2. World Bank, World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2007)*

their lives devastated by exposure to OP pesticides and have had no recognition or compensation for their suffering. “We hope that by taking these companies to the PPT we will raise the issue of OP poisoning in the UK and bring to the attention of the public and politicians the suffering that has been caused” stated Elizabeth Sigmund of the Organophosphate Information Network.

During the course of the tribunal, Pesticide Action Network will invite witnesses including scientists, medical doctors, and lawyers, to prove the charges through expert testimony on pesticides, genetic engineering, intellectual property rights, and other subjects germane to the cases at hand. The PPT will also hear testimony from farmers, farm workers, beekeepers, mothers, young people, scientists and consumers from around the world. The defendants will be served and summoned to offer their perspectives and responses.

Also under indictment are the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organisation; these entities are charged with facilitating corporate concentration of power through their policies and programs. Additionally, the governments of Switzerland, Germany, and the United States – the home nations of six defendant companies – have been indicted for colluding with, and failing to regulate, corporate power.



You can read the preliminary verdict on:  
[http://www.votewatch.eu/cx\\_vote\\_details.php?id\\_act=2312&lang=en](http://www.votewatch.eu/cx_vote_details.php?id_act=2312&lang=en)

## 5. NEWS FROM THE PAN EUROPE NETWORK



### ***Water pollution from agricultural pesticide use, joint project from Hungary and Slovakia***

Since EU accession water pollution came under stricter control from industry and from sewage, agriculture became the largest water polluter in the region. Clean Air Action Group from Hungary and Slovak NGO Centre for Sustainable Alternatives (CEPTA) started project AGROWATER (HUSK/0901/2.1.2/0076) supported by Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013.

The project is focused on good agriculture practice preventing water pollution, including water samples and analyses, as well as ecotoxicological analyses of soil taken from different farming practices – conventional, integrated and organic, then training and publishing different infomaterials. The aim of the project activities is to decrease water pollution coming from the agriculture sector.

There are four major routes through which pesticides reach the water: it may drift outside of the intended area when it is sprayed, it may percolate, or leach, through the soil, it may be carried to the water as runoff, or it may be

spilled, for example accidentally or through neglect. They may also be carried to water by eroding soil <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil\\_erosion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_erosion)> . Factors that affect a pesticide's ability to contaminate water include its water solubility <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solubility>> , the distance from an application site to a body of water, weather, soil type, presence of a growing crop, and the method used to apply the chemical.

### ***Serious pollutions***

Every year, pesticides are possibly responsible for several dead fish. This pollutions origin is rarely known, some of them should be because of illegal disposal or using methods.

The measurements, and water services suggest that the drinking water is absolutely safe. This illusion has been lost at the end of 2010.

## Winter measurements in HUSK project, 2011

The first round of Danube sample analyses took place in February 2011. 11 samples were taken in a two-week period from Heinburg through Bratislava to Dunaújváros, central Hungary. In February there is no actual use of pesticides, but surprisingly all samples contained pesticide residues, but below official limit values. We found residues of hazardous, persistent pesticides, including (2,4-D, alachlor) ingredients. One sample even contained 6 different residues, including several hazardous chemicals. 5 out of 11 samples contained alachlor – a substance banned in the EU for many years. Alachlor and 2,4-D are both potential carcinogen and endocrine disrupting substances. In this measurement other monitored pesticides were obsolete pesticides, no more in use.

## Summer samples, 2011

The second water sampling period took place between the 26th of May and the 21st of June; during the period of intensive herbicide use in agriculture. We took 31 samples in the Danube rivers-basin: 19 river, 4 lake and 8 drinking water samples in 28 spots – 5 samples from Slovakia and 26 from Hungary. The results were worrying, as we found high concentration of pesticides even banned pesticides in the samples and we found the same pesticides in a bit smaller concentration in the drinking water samples:

- All of the 31 samples contained pesticide residues. The most often identified substances were: acetochlor, metolachlor and phased out (banned) atrazine and trifluralin. Same sample were polluted with 4–5 different pesticides.
- Two drinking water samples from Budapest contained pesticide acetochlor above the 100 ng/l limit value (drinking water limit is 100 ng/l for each pesticides and 500 ng/l for all pesticides). One sample contained 221 and the other 173 ng/l acetochlor. Furthermore all except one of the 31 samples contained acetochlor. California EPA considers acetochlor as carcinogen and the EU as an endocrine disrupting compound.
- 7 out of the 31 samples including 4 drinking water samples contained banned herbicide atrazine. Atrazine is a highly hazardous substance, and it has been phased out in the EU several years ago. Studies showed that atrazine poses danger to human health and to the environment also there are some concerns regarding its carcinogenic effect. Beside the Hungarian drinking water standard for atrazine is 2 ng/l, some of the Hungarian drinking water samples contained atrazine above 20 ng/l.
- 20 out of the 31 samples were polluted with metolachlor, a substance classified as carcinogen category C by the US EPA.
- 7 samples contained trifluralin which also has been phased out from use in the EU's agriculture. We measured trifluralin 3 times above, EU's surface water maximum annual average, what is 30 ng/l for trifluralin. Trifluralin is also an EPA C carcinogen and it is on EU's endocrine disrupting list.
- More than half of the samples contained herbicide 2,4-D, which is classified by a possible carcinogen (2B) by the IARC.
- 5 samples contained diazinon. This substance should not be used in the EU and it also on the US TRI's developmental toxin list.



**Get involved in the  
“Pesticide Action Week”  
2012, March 20th–30th!**

From March 20th to 30, 2012 will be held the 7th Pesticide Action Week. This event aims

- **to raise awareness on the health and environment risks of synthetic pesticides**
- **to highlight alternative solutions**
- **to build a global grassroots movement for a pesticide-free world**

Every year, hundreds of citizens, associations, farmers, companies, teachers, local governments etc. organize hundreds of various grassroots events: conferences, film shows, theatre shows, outings, open doors, exhibitions, workshops, information booths, farmer markets, organic meals

With the continuing success of the original French campaign that has been running since 2006, we’re working at building an even bigger and stronger movement in new countries throughout Europe and globally every year. In 2011, this event represented nearly a thousand grassroots events across France and 16 countries:

- In Europe: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Spain, Switzerland
- In Africa: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia

## Some key events in 2012



- 50th anniversary of “Silent Spring” publication by Rachel Carson
- A Congress on Pesticides and Health on March 23-24th in the French National Assemblée
- Symbolic marches. In 2011, 16 marches were organized across France, Belgium and several Africa countries.

**Help us to build an international event that gathers together thousands of grassroots events with the**

**same message: we want a pesticide free future!**

The more countries that take part in the event, the stronger the message will be. It is when we come together that we truly feel the strength and power of this movement. The event takes place during the first 10 days of spring. We want to call for a pesticide free spring as spring is the main period for spraying pesticides (in the Northern hemisphere).

**Add your voice to this expanding international movement: get involved!**

No need to have lots of money, lots of logistics or a seasoned experience, every single action is important and amplifies the movement. Every single person, association, company, local government, teacher etc. can participate at their own scale. Actions can range from 10 persons visiting an organic garden to a 500 persons attending an international congress!

Be inspired to hold your own creative action and plan an event for 2012 March 20th-30 2012!

## ***How to participate?***

You can start register your events on [www.pesticideactionweek.org](http://www.pesticideactionweek.org)

1. Go to the official website: [www.pesticideactionweek.org](http://www.pesticideactionweek.org)
2. Sign the Participant Chart online
3. Register your action online (date, description...). Whenever you want, you can add changes to your action description.
4. Discover our communication tools: posters, web banners, videos, websites, press releases...

Please send us photos, videos and documentation of your events.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## ***For further information:***

[www.pesticideactionweek.org](http://www.pesticideactionweek.org)  
Générations Futures Association - coordination  
[contact@pesticideactionweek.org](mailto:contact@pesticideactionweek.org)  
Tel : +33 970 40 57 90



## ***Who we are***

This event has been initiated in France by the association “Generations Futures” and a collective of 170 organizations: WWF France, National organization of gardeners, National Organization of Beekeepers, City of Paris ... In Belgium, the association Adalia coordinates the event, funded by the Walloian government.

Internationally, it is supported by Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN), Patagonia, Health and Environmental Alliance.

### **Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)**

Rue de la Pépinière 1, B-1000, Brussel  
Tel. + 32 2503 0837  
Fax. + 32 2402 3042  
<http://www.pan-europe.info/>