


**Pesticide Residues –
The right to know, the need to reduce**

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European Commission:


About pesticides issues:

„Gaps in the current data on the issue make it difficult to be precise about the scale and trends of the problem but there is sufficient evidence to suggest it is serious and growing.“

[Commission Communication on the Sixth Environmental Action Programme, 2001]

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Pesticides in Water



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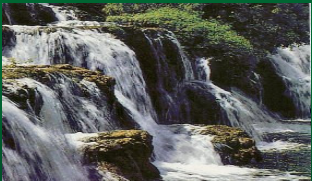
Pesticides in Food



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EU-Drinking Water Limit: 0,1 µg/l (Sum: 0,5 µg/l)
(Directive 98/83/EC)

100 g of some pesticides can contaminate up to



1 billion litres of water !

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Impact of pesticides on raw surface (rivers and lakes) resources

Country	% Resources with pesticides regularly/occasionally > 0,1 µg/l	% Resources with pesticides < 0,1 µg/l	Major problem pesticides
Belgium	100,0		Atrazine, Chloridazon, Chlortoluron, Desethylatrazine, Diuron, Isoproturon, Linuron, Metamitron
UK	88,7	11,7	2,4-D, Atrazine, Diuron, Isoproturon, MCPA, Mecprop, Simazine
Netherlands	50,0	50,0	2,4-D, Atrazine, Bentazon, Chloridazon, Chlortoluron, Desethylatrazine, Desisotrazine, Dimethoate, Diuron, Glyphosate, Isoproturon, MCPA, Mecprop, Metazachlor, Metolachlor
Germany	10,0	90,0	2,4-D, Diuron, Isoproturon, MCPA, Mecprop

Source: EUREAU Position Paper (2001): Keeping raw drinking water sources free from pesticides

Other EU-countries: Data limited and not collated centrally

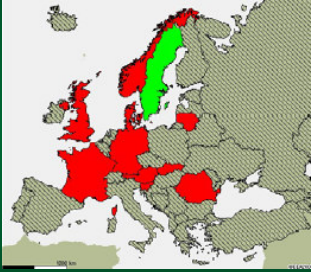
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Pesticides in Groundwater

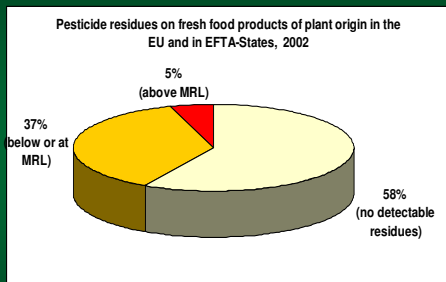
„...there is limited information and a lack of reliable data...“

„However, it appears that there is a danger of pesticide pollution“

[European Environmental Agency, 2004]



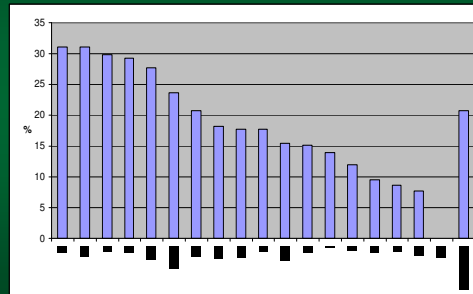
red: danger of pesticide pollution in ground water
green: no danger of pesticides in ground water
other: no statements by countries



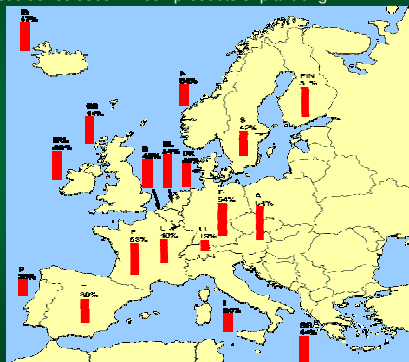
(Source: Annual EU-wide Pesticide Residues Monitoring Report, EC, 2002)

MRL: Maximum Residue Level: the maximum concentration (in mg/kg) of a pesticide legally permitted in or on food commodities or animal feed

Multiple Pesticide Residues in Food
(% samples of total samples, EC 2002)

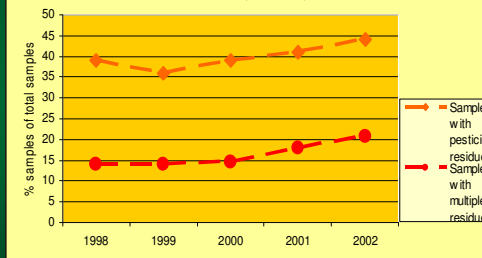


Percentage of pesticide residues in fresh products of plant origin in Europe



(EC: Annual EU-wide Pesticide Residues Monitoring Report, 2002)

National Monitoring Results 1998 - 2002 for fruit, vegetables and cereals (EC, 2002)



EU co-ordinated monitoring programme (2002):

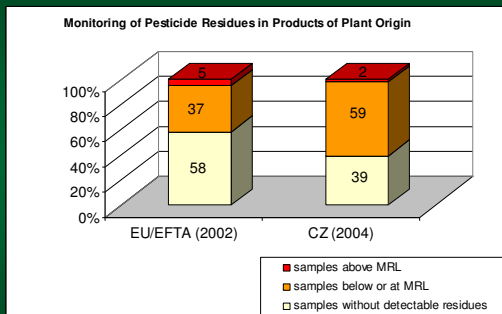
".. for the assessment of acute exposure, the data show that the acute RfD was exceeded in a number of cases and health risk cannot be excluded, in particular for vulnerable groups."*

* acute Reference Dose (RfD)
is the estimate of the amount of a substance in food, expressed on a body-weight basis, that can be ingested over a short period of time, usually during one meal or one day, without appreciable health risk to the consumer. It therefore reflects the acute toxicity. At present, acute Reference Doses have been fixed for a limited number of pesticides.

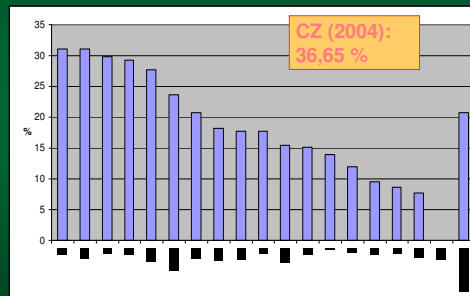
Pesticide Residue Monitoring Results of the Czech Republic for 2004

CAFIA-Report (2004)	EU/EFTA (2002)
Number of different pesticides sought: 119	170
Number of different pesticides found: 64	74
Number of samples analysed: 723	722 - 8095*
(22,5% domestic, 58,3% EU-import, 19,1% third countries)	

*Excluding Lichtenstein, Luxemburg
[Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA):
<http://www.szpi.gov.cz/eng/about/article.asp?id=57821&cat=2209&ts=6ec41>]



Multiple Pesticide Residues in Food
(% samples of total samples, EC 2002)



MRL-Regulation (396/2005/EC)

on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin

(5): „.....public health should be given priority over the interests of crop protection, thus it is necessary to ensure that such residues should not be present at levels presenting an unacceptable risk to humans and, where relevant, to animals“.

MRL-Regulation (396/2005/EC)

(5): „..... MRLs should be set at the lowest achievable level consistent with good agricultural practice for each pesticide with a view to protecting vulnerable groups such as children and the unborn“.

MRL-Regulation (396/2005/EC)

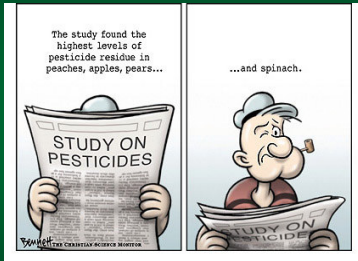
(34): „To ensure that consumers are kept adequately informed, Member States should,....., publish the results of national monitoring residues annually on the Internet, providing all individual data, including the place of collection and the names of retailers, traders and/or producers“.

Conclusions:

- According to the precautionary principle, consumers should be protected against pesticide residues in total food and exposure from other environmental sources
⇒ Pesticide Use Reduction Initiatives are needed.
- The pesticide monitoring systems have to be improved throughout Europe in order to identify hot spots, lacks of risk assessment and risk management, and to set indicators and targets for Pesticide Use Reduction Programmes.
- Monitoring results as well as all documents regarding evaluation and decision-making processes have to be published completely and timeliness, because transparency is one fundamental precondition of an effective public participation.

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www.pesticide-residues.org



Thank's for your attention