

PAN EUROPE REPORT 2009



Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe

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Introduction

Welcome to Pesticide Action Network Europe's 2009 report. We outline PAN Europe's role for those of you who are reading about us for the first time, provide our analysis of EU pesticide policy developments, describe some of our major activities and finally provide highlights of our network members' activities during the year.

2009 was a significant year for pesticide legislation in Europe. Since 2003, PAN Europe's small team of staff and dedicated network members have coordinated the support of around 87 organisations advocating for a new pesticide directive. The vision for this directive was to provide targets and a timetable to lead to a reduction in the dependency on pesticides and reduce exposure and risks. PAN Europe finally saw this come to fruition this year. The Framework Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, which was approved in November 2009, requires each Member State to create a National Action Plan of how it will achieve a reduction in its pesticide use within 2 years. So in 2012 there should be meaningful plans in place to achieve healthier citizens and improved protection for the environment in Europe. We will remain closely engaged on this topic and work with our members to: ensure these commitments are adhered to; promote the best National Action Plans and challenge those who are not taking rigorous enough steps.

PAN Europe only exists because of the strong support and involvement from its network of members. The second part of this report provides examples of some of the exciting activities and achievements of members from Belgium, Germany, Macedonia, Slovakia and the UK.

At the end of 2009, we received confirmation of funding for a new Chemicals Officer post from 2010. This will be a busy role because 2009 saw the approval of another key piece of legislation that revises the approval and authorisation process for pesticides. This legislation will be: implementing 'cut-off' criteria for the most hazardous pesticides; developing criteria for endocrine disrupting pesticides; making changes to use open peer-reviewed scientific data in decision-making; addressing the effect of combinations of pesticides and other vital improvements to the authorisation and approval process. PAN Europe will make proposals on these elements, and monitor the implementation of this legislation.

Please see our website at www.pan-europe.info for details if you are interested in contacting your national member or becoming a PAN Europe member, reading our research reports, receiving the newsletter or taking action!

Rachel Sutton
PAN Europe Coordinator



About PAN Europe

Who is PAN Europe?



**Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe**

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 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. It was founded in 1987, today bringing together 31 consumer, public health, and environmental organisations and other non-governmental groups in 19 countries.

PAN Europe is the focal point for NGO advocacy and public participation in EU pesticide policy, and our activities include:

- lobbying at Brussels level;
- disseminating information on pesticide problems, regulations and alternatives;
- organising workshops and conferences and promoting dialogue for change between government, private sector and civil society stakeholders.



PAN Europe AGM in 2010

What does PAN Europe do?

PAN Europe has traditionally focused on getting harmful pesticides banned. This is still essential as governments' pesticide evaluation lags behind product development by many years and Europe's pesticide approval process has yet to tackle new concerns like endocrine disruption and increased sensitivity among children and fetuses. We have also seen that the latest generation of pesticides marketed by chemical companies are not appreciably safer for the environment or our health. So replacing old pesticides with new will not do much to reduce risks. PAN Europe is therefore emphasising that better agricultural practices and management are the best way of ensuring sustainability and high food quality.

Why is the fight on pesticides and biocides important?

Much of the harm to our health caused by pesticides is only known to us though the relatively scarce body of research and the poor and inconsistent record of health effects. According to the Commission Communication on the Sixth Environmental Action Programme, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the scale and trends of problems caused by pesticides are serious and growing. Possible harm to our health effects include immunological effects, endocrine disrupting effects, neurotoxicological disorders and cancer. This raises concern, for instance, about the high prevalence of reproductive disorders in European boys and young men and about the rise in cancers of reproductive organs. Research indicates a strong connection with environmental pollution and the continuous exposure to low levels of a large number of endocrine disrupters acting cumulatively.

Concerns include:

- the contamination of groundwater and foodstuff
- the continuing accumulation of certain pesticides in plants and animals
- the effects of small quantities of pollutants which accumulate in our bodies

Adequate protection is needed for:

- vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly
- farm workers as they regularly work in direct contact with the chemicals
- rural inhabitants, who are directly exposed when for example, in their gardens, pesticides are sprayed in open fields
- people who are living in towns are directly exposed when, for example, playing with their children in public parks
- mothers directly exposed to pesticides through food, occupational use, gardening and household products. Exposure during pregnancy can cause birth defects as fetuses, infants and children can be more vulnerable to pesticides than adults, because the systems protecting their bodies from toxic chemicals are immature.



EU legislation of relevance to pesticides

During 2009 the European Union approved four new piece of legislations directly related to pesticides

- REGULATION (EC) No 1107/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC
- DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides
- DIRECTIVE 2009/127/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 amending Directive 2006/42/EC with regard to machinery for pesticide application
- REGULATION (EC) No 1185/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides

The sustainable use on pesticides directive – a major success for PAN Europe

Back in 2000 PAN Europe's members developed a proposal to reduce the impact of pesticides on human health and the environment. The idea was to form these into a specific European Union (EU) directive which is legally binding on Member States. In early 2001, a PURE Working Group was established, and by December 2003, PAN Europe had gained the support of 87 organisations in 29 countries representing the environment, food, public health, consumers, farming and trade unions, who signed up to support our campaign for a Pesticide Use Reduction in Europe (PURE) Directive.

Our key goal was to change EU law, with the aim to develop a legally binding directive, with concrete targets and timetables to ensure that every member state adopts measures which would lead to dramatic reductions in pesticide use, exposure and risks, as well as outright bans, over a short period. Reduction of dependency and exposure would be ensured through a new PURE directive.

The Board of PAN Europe would like to acknowledge the incredible work of Gretta Goldenman and Catherine Wattiez in being the drivers behind the PURE campaign. Europe can to a very large extent thank these two fantastic women for their efforts, dynamism and expertise. As a result, their work made a significant contribution to the adoption of some effective measures in the Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

Essential slogan from the PURE campaign:

Rather than waste even more years to agree on standard risk indicators, some governments have run programmes since the 1980s which removed much of the exposure to pesticides in the first place and hence their direct, as well as indirect, impacts on health, environment and biodiversity.



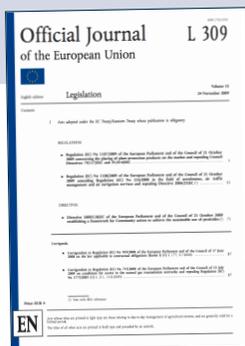
Photo by Giel Kattenbelt

In November 2009, we saw the approval of the Framework Directive called Directive 2009/128/EC. The most concrete elements from the framework directive are, that 'Member States shall adopt National Action Plans (NAP) to set up their quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables...' (article 4 of the Framework Directive), and have to target a number of instruments, of which the most important **beyond setting quantitative use reductions**, are:

- 1) **Implementation of IPM**, for all EU farmers to apply from 2014, '...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.' (article 14)
- 2) **Give priority to non chemical alternatives** now asking 'Member States shall take all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods' (article 14).
- 3) Encouragement of **minimised or prohibited use of pesticides in specific areas** (article 12), and
- 4) Establish **appropriate-sized buffer zones** for the protection of non-target aquatic organisms and safeguard zones for surface and drinking water (article 11).

Even though PAN Europe would have liked the final legal text to be more ambitious, we still think it is a positive step in the right direction, and we intend to follow the implementation at Member States level closely in the years to come. However, there seems to be considerable differences between Member States regarding how they work to establish their National Action Plan and convert the new framework directive on sustainable use of pesticides into law within three years.

Some Member States have already developed a detailed plan before the new framework directive was approved, while others still have to start.



Time table for implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive:

Overall implementation

- 26 November 2011, MS to convert Directive 2009/128/EC into national law (art. 23)
- 26 November 2012, MS shall communicate NAP to Commission and other MS (art. 4.2)

Monitoring and surveying health and environment impacts

- 26 November 2012 Commission in collaboration with MS make guidance document (art 7.3)

National penalties:

- 26 November 2012, MS to inform Commission about penalties for infringements (art. 17)

Evaluation:

- 26 November 2014, Commission submit report on NAP implementation to EP and Council (art. 4.3)
- 26 November 2018, Commission submit report on NAP implementation to EP and Council.

It may be accompanied, if necessary, by appropriate legislative proposals (art. 4.4)

Development of a new Regulation on approval and authorisation of pesticides – a significant step in the right direction

Implementation - a big challenge

PAN Europe has been actively lobbying for this new pesticides legislation (Regulation 1107/2009) for many years and looks forward to seeing the changes in the approval of pesticides at European level and the authorisation at national level (in zones) enacted. The changes will, however, be challenged again in the implementation phase by commercially interested parties and PAN Europe will closely monitor implementation of the Regulation prevent delay, misinterpretation and new non-transparent arrangements conducted 'behind closed doors'.

The main topics for the implementation of the Regulation will be:

- The use of the "cut-off" criteria for banning the most hazardous pesticides (carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction, endocrine disrupting pesticides). Sweden has already produced a list of pesticides which meet these criteria.

- The criteria for endocrine disrupting pesticides. The Commission has to make a proposal in 4 years time for these criteria. These criteria will also be used for other chemicals in general (REACH legislation). Commercially interested parties have already organised several 'scientific' meetings to play down the need for criteria for endocrine disruption.
- The use of science. One main provision in the new Regulation is the obligation to use open, peer-reviewed scientific literature in decision taking. In the past the decisions were largely based on results from industry-run tests. This will have to change.
- The candidates for substitution. The Commission has to place on a list those harmful pesticides which will not be banned under the 'cut-off' criteria. EU member states will have to substitute the pesticides on this list by other methods or chemicals if feasible.
- Combination toxicity. In decision taking the effects of combinations of pesticides (addition, synergy) have to be taken into account. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) plays an important role in defining methods. The process is slow. PAN Europemember Natuur en Milieu already in 2002 published a method to account for addition effects of organophosphates (see below "Have we lost our heads").
- Zonal authorisation and mutual recognition. Europe is divided in three zones and pesticide authorisations will take place in one zone, in one member state, while the other countries have to recognise the authorisation. 'Shopping around' by industrial applicants for the 'weakest' country to submit applications to needs to be prevented.

Endocrine disruption

The Commission has to develop criteria for endocrine disrupting pesticides. PAN Europe has proposed how to set these criteria to the Commission. PAN Europe's paper proposed a definition, testing requirements, criteria for a ban on the basis of effects seen in tests and suggested independent scientists to be involved to prevent too much industry bias. In a subsequent OECD meeting in Copenhagen PAN Europe also advocated these proposals.

The on-going approval process of pesticides has been strongly disrupted in this transfer process

In 2009 the approval process continued and – disturbingly - a backdoor was opened (the so-called "re-submission") which allows industry to regain approval on the basis of the old Regulation. Lufenuron, a very persistent pesticide, was approved, while Bifenthrin, also very persistent and bioaccumulative, was banned. Also Carbendazim (proposal of Germany), a reprotoxic chemical was allowed to have an approval for another year. PAN Europe has been advocating for the most harmful chemicals to be banned.

Cumulative exposure to pesticides, another EU policy which need careful attention

Consideration of cumulative exposure to pesticides was already accepted at the political level in the form of the Residue Directive of 2005 after persistent lobbying by PAN Europe in Parliament.

PAN-Europe has been lobbying DG SANCO and EFSA promoting methods for different groups with similar effects (organophosphates, triazoles, pyrethroides, endocrines, etc.) which are already present and being widely used (in the US since 2002). PAN Europe has advocated that failure to use these assessment methods in the EU so far is unacceptable because this means people will probably be exposed to unsafe combinations of pesticide residues.

Revising the EU's Biocides Legislation

On 12 June 2009, the European Commission introduced a draft regulation to revise current EU biocide legislation.

Biocides do not just kill or deter harmful organisms, particularly in homes, public spaces and factories. Once released they can also have long-lasting and harmful effects on human health and the environment. Many of these products are better known as risky pesticides such as Carbendazim or Diuron and their notoriety has led to their use in agriculture being severely restricted. Active substances and their hazardous metabolites have even been detected in ground-water. It is estimated that some 400,000 tonnes of biocides are sold in Europe each year.

Although the current Biocidal Product Directive (BPD) of 1998 introduced an EU-wide mechanism to list and authorise biocides, much remains to be done. Over 350 old substances in some 50,000 products can be sold in the EU because a review of most of these biocides has not been held. Much has also changed in EU law since 1998 via implementation to better protect consumers. Biocide treated clothing can only be sold if it contains approved biocidal products and carries a special label. PAN Europe has also identified some slight changes which benefit animal welfare (making animal testing a last resort) and which consider biodiversity protection. However, the draft new Regulation fails to provide any real movement towards more consistent protection of the environment and human health.



Sexual confusion in fruit trees, Emilia Romagna

Revising the EU's biocides legislation

PAN Europe with the help of PAN Germany has identified some major drawbacks:

- The cut-off criteria (criteria for non-authorisation) do not address substances with hazardous environmental effects
- 'Low-risk' products can be sold in the EU despite containing highly toxic substances
- Biocides can receive approval in perpetuity once their authorisation is renewed
- National discretion will be limited so competent authorities may not ban marketing of hazardous biocides within their own borders

PAN Europe spent the second half of 2009 proposing five key revisions:

1. Strengthen the precautionary and substitution principles; ensure coherency with objectives to protect the environment and human health
2. Include regulations on nano-biocides and products treated with biocides
3. Maintain national room for manoeuvre
4. Improve transparency and participation
5. Use phase: Ensure binding reduction of biocides in EU and promote alternatives

See our key demands and recommendations at: www.pan-germany.org/deu/~stellun_gnahmen.html



Rape with weeds, Midloe Grange Farm, Cambridgeshire photo by PAN UK



Plebejus idas, Dyrö, Sverige, photo by Jerzy Glücksman

PAN Europe Activity Report 2009

Examples of PAN Europe activities

At the beginning of 2009 we carried out an analysis of the pesticide policies in the Brussels arena, on our own strength and weaknesses and on the resources available. Given the many topics we prioritised the revision of Directive 91/414 and the new Framework Directive on sustainable use and within that, a focus on National Action Plans, Integrated Pest Management and the Common Agricultural Policy. We carefully analysed the outcome of the co-decision procedure for the Regulation and the Framework Directive and based our work on this assessment. What follows are examples of some of PAN Europe's activities, followed by examples of some of our members national activities.

Film showing of 'Our children will accuse us' in the European Parliament – example of an awareness raising activity

On 7 January 2009, a week before the European Parliament vote on the pesticide policy 'package', French Socialist MEP, Anne Ferriera, in collaboration with PAN Europe, hosted a screening of the French film 'Nos Enfants nous Accuseront' ('Our Children will Accuse Us') in the European Parliament. The film, made by the French director Jean Paul Jaud, examines the consequences of intensive agriculture and explores possible alternatives.

PAN Europe brought together the director of the film, Jean Paul Jaud, the president of MDRGF, Francois Veillerette, and the president of WWF France, Serge Orru, for the screening.

MEPs, including the Socialist Shadow Rapporteur of the pesticides package dossier, Dan Joergensen, and their assistants, European Commission officials, Belgian parliamentarians, NGOs and farmers unions attended, as well as representatives from the German chemical manufacturer, BASF and the European Pesticide Association. Jean Paul Jaud introduced the film while the two presidents chaired a rich debate afterwards.

The subtitled trailer for the film can be found at: www.nosenfantsnousaccuseront-lefilm.com



EU-wide supermarket pesticide residue testing

PAN Europe launched its supermarket 'residue testing' project in 2008. The programme ends in mid-2010. The project's goal is to work with PAN network members Europe-wide to initiate, coordinate, support and partly fund the establishment of national supermarket testing programmes. Our aim is to obtain substantial media coverage at national and EU level, on the presence of pesticides in the EU food chain leading to rising public awareness on the issue. We hope our projects will result in many supermarkets adopting a greater focus on pesticide residues in the formulation and implementation of food-sourcing policy. We encourage supermarkets to adopt food-sourcing policies which exceed EU legal requirements.



Duch supermarket sign telling customers they have the lowest pesticide residues

In our first round of testing in autumn 2008, we tested 124 grape samples from supermarkets in France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands. Media coverage of our press release (www.pan-europe.info/Media/PR/081124.html) was quite good. We also published a background paper. Our partners in France and Italy have subsequently been in contact and held meetings with supermarkets involved in the study to begin discussions on reducing the use of pesticides in their supply chains. In 2009, France (MDRGF) decided to suspend its supermarket testing project until legal issues were resolved with French farmers.

The second round of testing was only held in Hungary (by Clean Air Action Group, CAAG). We tested imported peppers and Hungarian strawberries. Since we identified samples which greatly exceeded MRLs we received wide media coverage, as a result of which some supermarkets initiated meetings with CAAG.

The third round of testing was in November 2009. We sampled lettuces and mandarin oranges, and issue a press release on 17 December (www.pan-europe.info/media/pr/091217.html). Bulgaria (FoE), Hungary (Clean Air Action Group) the Netherlands and Slovakia (CEPTA) participated. Our aim is to broaden our scope as we try to involve NAPs in our communication.

Establishment of a working group on agriculture and pesticides

The success of the pesticide package still depends on the rigorousness of its implementation. The implementation of the framework directive on sustainable use of pesticides will, to a large extent, depend on Member States' willingness to take serious action.

PAN Europe decided to arrange a workshop on National Action Plans (NAPs), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to enable PAN Europe to work for meaningful implementation of the directive at Member States level.

The workshop was held on 21-22 January 2009 in Brussels. The programme and presentations are available on: <http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/NAPandIPM.html>

In this workshop we invited PAN members but also representatives from the European Commission, from national administrations, national researchers, the European Water industry and other European NGOs. A large participation showed that there is a strong interest across a range of organisations to start debating more on agricultural and pesticide related issues. As a result of the meeting PAN Europe members decided to establish a NIC working group with NIC standing for National Action Plans, Integrated Pest Management, and the future of the Common Agricultural Policy. 15 members from 15 different member states currently take part.



Presentations from the PAN Europe workshop in Brussels

Training day on “Sustainable Use Directive: from words to action” 4th September 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria

The new framework directive states that Member States need to involve national stakeholders in the development of the national/regional NAPs. PAN Europe held its NIC meeting in conjunction with our annual conference in September, dedicating a day to training PAN Europe members for national/regional stakeholder meetings and allowing members to exchange views and information on national implementation.

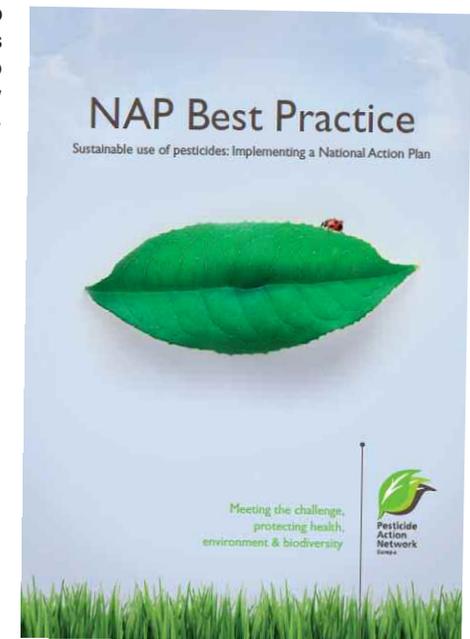
For programme and presentations see: <http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/AGM09.html>

The members of PAN Europe decided to elaborate a “good practice NAP” as inspiration for the Member States on how to apply the different elements of the new framework directive. PAN Europe will be taking an active part in the implementation at member states level, starting by using our good example NAP to get debates started and generate new ideas on national and regional level.

Information on best practice exchange see: <http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/NAPs.html>

The members of PAN Europe also agreed about the need for a number of PAN Europe perspective papers, providing more technical information on sustainable agricultural practices, showing how both organic and integrated production can help to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and help to ensure long term food security around the world.

You can read these perspective papers at: <http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html>



PAN Europe's NAP Best Practice guide was produced following the Sustainable Use Directive training day

From our Network Members

Celebration of the Week for Alternatives to Pesticides

Launched in 2006, Alternatives to Pesticides Week 2009 celebrated its third anniversary. This event, initiated by ACAP (Citizens' Action for Alternatives to Pesticides), a network of French NGOs, and coordinated by PAN Europe member MDRGF (Movement for the Rights and Respect for Future Generations), reminds us that it is both urgent and feasible to make the shift from reliance on pesticides on farms, in the garden or at home.

During the *Semaine sans Pesticides*, in Europe and elsewhere, hundreds of associations, communities, businesses and other groups put on lectures, debates, exhibitions, film screenings, performances and tours of gardens and farms, to raise awareness of the dangers posed by pesticides and to present alternative options.

All these activities demonstrated that the issues and environmental and health risks associated with pesticide use are unacceptable and that alternatives to chemical treatments exist and are viable. For more information about the events visit: www.semaine-sans-pesticides.com

2009 *Semaine sans Pesticides* was notable for the diversity of groups taking part. In addition to NGOs these included garden centres and shops, local communities and institutions as well as schools. These hundreds of organisations held a wide range of events to educate the public on health and included 118 movie projections, of which 77 were followed by debates; 56 events in markets or schools; 53 visits to farms or green spaces; 51 stands or exhibitions and 50 organic meals.



2009 Semaine sans pesticides poster

MADE (Macedonia) raises awareness of the hazards of pesticides at a local level

Macedonian Association of Doctors for the Environment (MADE) took part in *Semaine sans Pesticides* for the first time this year. Activities were organised by the group for every day of the campaign starting on 20 March 2009 with an interview for a local TV station about their plans for the week.

In advance of local elections, on 25 March 2009 MADE organised a round table event with local mayoral candidates to find out their views and ideas on organic food production. Overall they were impressed with the candidates whose ideas included giving incentives to farmers to farm organically. MADE encouraged the candidates to strengthen their views in this area and discussed with them the benefits of organic produce.

On 21 March 2009 members of MADE visited an agricultural store to raise awareness and inform the workers there about the consequences of careless pesticide use. This visit was important because, in Macedonia, it is very easy for farmers to buy pesticides. They are available without restrictions from any agricultural store. MADE used the visit to highlight to the workers the dangers of pesticides to people, animals and plants.

MADE also visited village farmers to see what their pesticide storage facilities were like. They found pesticides were stored in unspecialised containers in areas everyone has access to, including children. MADE advised the farmers to improve their pesticide storage by keeping the chemicals in a secure area, away from homes and animals.

For *Semaine sans Pesticides* MADE also :

- took part in a country-wide campaign to mark the first day of Spring called 'Plant a tree, plant your future';
- Published an article in the local paper about the week without pesticides;
- Held information session in General Hospital informing doctors about the consequences of accidental pesticide poisoning in the homes
- Help information session for Primary School on the use of pesticides in agriculture



MADE visited an agriculture store and spoke to the workers.

PAN Germany: Happy without Pesticides

For *Semaine sans Pesticides* PAN Germany distributed badges bearing the slogan 'Happy Without Pesticides!'. The campaign behind the badge aims to raise public interest in pesticide issues and to inform the public about alternatives. The badge was initiated in partnership with three other European NGOs: ECHO in Slovenia, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment in Armenia, and Friends of the Earth Bulgaria.



CEPTA (Slovakia) call for food producers to decrease pesticide use

For the 2009 *Semaine sans Pesticides* CEPTA took part in the annual meetings of both the IP wine and vegetable producers. CEPTA took this opportunity to promote IPM; introduce PAN Europe's work; and discuss the new EU pesticides package with both groups of producers. CEPTA followed up this meeting by organising training courses for the producers.

CEPTA also organised a public meeting to discuss local and pesticide-free products, including Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). The meeting was held together with activists from the French group URGENCY and included tasting of local and regional products.

On 23 March 2009 Daniel Lesinsky from CEPTA represented the organisation at the Ministry of Agriculture's Monitoring Committee meeting for the Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013. The committee supports integrated production in Slovakia and has more than 30 members deciding on how the money for the Rural Development Plan should be spent.

Daniel called for measures to be introduced to make IP greener

- through the use of more strict conditions and compulsory controls such as pesticides residues control; or
- by cutting IP subsidies and moving funds to organic farming

CEPTA also arranged an all-evening radio discussion with farmers broadcast on the national radio station Radio LUMEN.



Participants at the annual vegetable producers meeting attended by CEPTA

Adalia (Belgium) campaigns for pesticide-free Wallonia

The Wallonian region of Belgium took part in *Semaine sans Pesticides* for the second year running in 2009. The campaign was coordinated by Adalia with the support of the Wallonian Ministry of Environment. The objectives of all the events organised were simple: to inform about the dangers of pesticides and show that there are effective alternatives to their use.

To begin *Semaine sans Pesticides* the Adalia association organised an opening evening on the grounds of the Acinapolis cinema complex in Jambes with a preview of the film "Nos Enfants nous Accuseront" (Our Children will accuse us).

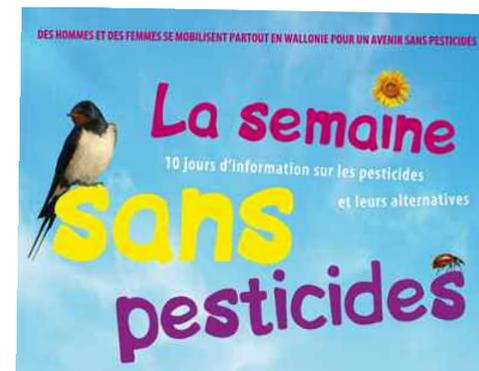
The film was followed by a lively debate involving many questions from the audience.

The ten days included a great variety of activities and organisations from all over the Wallonian territory. About 120 events were organised: 33 by communities and provinces; 30 by environmental associations; 12 by schools; and 42 by professional groups, particularly garden-centres.

Activities included 28 conferences and debates, 20 open house events, 15 shows in schools, 38 information stands (many in garden-centres) and 5 articles were published.

The Adalia association are hoping to repeat the campaign next year and show that it is possible, even crucial, to live in a pesticide-free environment. This year's results highlight the expectations of the groups involved and of the Wallonian population as a whole to be informed when it comes to pesticides.

For more information about the Adalia association's work for *Semaine sans Pesticides* visit www.semainesanspesticides.be.



Detail from Adalia promotional material

PAN UK compares pesticide policies of UK supermarkets

PAN UK are often asked 'which UK supermarkets are the best on pesticides'? So, on Wednesday 25 March 2009 PAN UK published a comparison of UK supermarket pesticide policies. This new comparison, undertaken over six months, shows which supermarket companies are taking the most positive steps for change: the three doing most to address different issues of concern on pesticide use and contamination of food are The Cooperative, Marks & Spencer, and Sainsbury's. At the other end, Aldi, Lidl and Morrisons appear to be doing nothing. In the middle, Asda, Somerfield, Tesco and Waitrose are making some efforts but could go a lot further, particularly on removing specific hazardous pesticides from use and reducing residues in their food.

PAN UK welcomes targets and actions to reduce levels of pesticide contamination in food, however, residues are just one part of the picture. It is just as important to consider pesticide exposure of farmers and farm workers, wildlife and the environment. Taking measures to phase out or eliminate specific hazardous pesticides makes a real contribution to reducing health and environmental impacts. We are disappointed that no retailer has yet prohibited the use of the insecticide endosulfan or the herbicide paraquat, both toxic and highly problematic pesticides. Although neither is now permitted for use in the EU, there is widespread use in other parts of the world, linked to high levels of poisoning in developing countries, which is why PAN globally is campaigning for their banning. PAN UK calls on retailers to provide more information on plans, progress, successes and challenges in pesticide hazard and use reduction.

One area that all companies do badly on is reducing use of pesticides to produce cosmetically perfect fresh produce. Many agronomists agree that less pesticide could be used if retailers and consumers were more willing to accept minor blemishes or spotting in their produce such as on citrus fruit and apples. PAN UK is keen to explore ways of educating consumers and buyer staff in supermarkets on this issue and to support ways for growers to sell more of any cosmetically imperfect produce at a fair price. Nick Mole, Policy Officer at PAN UK, is calling for supermarkets to improve their stance on pesticides:

Supermarkets that PAN UK have spoken to were very supportive of the study and, since publishing the comparison table, two further UK supermarkets have established contact with the group and agreed to be interviewed.

"supermarkets lower down the PAN UK league table need to find means and ways of improving their performance. All supermarkets need to look again at reducing pesticide residues in food items by supporting farmers in cutting back on pesticide use throughout the supply chains."

To reduce reliance on pesticides and promote safer alternatives, growers need technical advice and a supportive relationship with their retailer customers to help them change practices. Setting up action groups of growers and crop advisors to work together and test different methods for phasing out particular problematic pesticides and develop effective Integrated Pest Management strategies is one of the most useful ways to do this, as well as funding research. Experience sharing and developing best practice for pesticide reduction in specific cropping systems is much needed since all European growers will need to adopt Integrated Pest Management by 2014 under new EU legislation.

For more information and copies of the comparison tables please visit: www.pan-uk.org/Supermarkets

| Pesticide policy criterion | ALDI | ASDA | COOP | LIDL | M&S | MORRISONS | Sainsbury's | Somerfield | TESCO | Waitrose |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----------|-------------|------------|-------|----------|
| Publish its residue testing results? | ☹ | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | ☹ | ☹ |
| Action plans to tackle residue problems beyond legal compliance? | ☹ | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | ☹ | ☹ |
| Commit to phase out specific hazardous pesticides? | ☹ | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | ☹ | ☹ |
| Stated aim and actions to reduce use of pesticides? | ☹ | 😊 | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 |
| Pest management strategy promotes alternatives to pesticides? | ☹ | 😊 | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 | 😊 |
| Technical support for growers to reduce reliance on pesticides? | ☹ | 😊 | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | 😊 |
| Information for consumers on pesticide use issues? | ☹ | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | ☹ | ☹ |
| Engage with consumers on unnecessary use of pesticides for cosmetic appearance of fruit & vegetables? | ☹ | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | 😊 | ☹ | ☹ | ☹ |

PAN UK comparison table of UK supermarket policies

PAN Europe members



AEGU
Vienna, Austria
www.aegu.net



AWHHE
Yerevan, Armenia
www.awhhe.am



Bond Beterleef Milieu
Brussels, Belgium
www.bondbeterleefmilieu.be



Centre for Environmental Studies
Budapest, Hungary
www.ktk-ces.hu



CEPTA
Zvolen, Slovakia
www.cepta.sk



Danmarks Naturfrednings
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.dn.dk



ECH-o
Dornava, Slovenia
www.ech-o.org/



Eco Council
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.ecocouncil.dk



Friends of the Earth, Bulgaria
Sofia, Bulgaria
www.friends-of-earth.org



Friends of the Earth, EWNI
London, United Kingdom
www.foe.co.uk



FWFF
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
www.fwff.org



GAWI asbl
Visé, Belgium
www.Asblgawi.com



Green Doctors
Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine
www.unimethod.eu



Greenpeace Germany
Hamburg, Germany
www.greenpeace.de



Inter-Environnement Wallonie
Namur, Belgium
www.iewonline.be

MADE
Kumanovo, Macedonia



Legambiente
Rome, Italy
www.legambiente.eu



Levegó
Munkacsoport / Clean Air Action Group
Budapest, Hungary
www.levego.hu

MDRGF
Paris, France
www.mdrgf.org



Milieudéfensie
Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.milieudéfensie.nl

Foundation for Realization of Ideas
Minsk, Belarus



MNGM
Bunnik, Netherlands
www.mngm.nl



Natuur en Milieu
Utrecht, Netherlands
www.natuurenmilieu.nl



PAN Germany
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V.

PAN Germany
Hamburg, Germany
www.pan-germany.org



PESTICIDE
ACTION
NETWORK UK

PAN UK
London, United Kingdom
www.pan-uk.org



PKE
Gliwice, Poland
www.pkegliwice.pl



Social Ecological Institute
Warsaw, Poland
www.sie.most.org.pl



SSNC
Stockholm, Sweden
www.snf.se



VOICE
Dublin, Ireland
www.voice.buz.org



WECF
Utrecht, Netherlands
www.wecf.org



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