

Presentation of New Study of Pesticide Drift
by the authors
Caroline Linhart, Fiorella Belpoggi, Koen Hertoge
February 10th 2021

10 – 11.15 o'clock (a.m.)

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87502309687?pwd=K010SW9XeE5HNU5RM2FoeUwyUGVJZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 0230 9687

Passcode: 392630

Speakers:

English: 10.05 - 10.10 a.m. **Elisa Mussio**, PAN Europe, Brussels/B

German: 10.05- 10.15 a.m. **Koen Hertoge**, Board Member PAN Europe, Brussels/B, Zurich/CH

German: 10.15 – 10.25 a.m. **Caroline Linhart**, Lead author, biologist, environmental epidemiologist, Ayent/CH

Italian: 10.25 – 10.45 a.m. **Fiorella Belpoggi**, Director of the Research Center Cesare Maltoni, Ramazzini Institute, Bologna/IT

English: 10.45 – 10.55 a.m. Koen Hertoge – summary

English/german/italian: 10.55 – 11.15 a.m. Questions and answers

New Study: Children's Playgrounds Contaminated with Pesticide Drift

Within the Italian province of South Tyrol, 32 different agricultural pesticides were detected on children's playgrounds. An international team of scientists strongly advises to take action for public health.

Scientists from Italy, Austria and Germany have proven the all year round contamination from pesticides. In 2018, 96 samples of grass were taken from 19 children's playgrounds, four schoolyards and one marketplace and were analyzed by the Sanitary Services of the Province of South Tyrol. This public institution also selected the playgrounds as well as the specific time of collection of the samples. The authors of the study work at the Cancer Research Centre, Ramazzini

Institute, Bologna, at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna as well as for Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe).

„Once again, evidence has been provided to prove that the topic of pesticide drift is of absolute importance. This study is yet another scientific proof calling on those responsible to find solutions in order to protect public health“, says Hertoge. He regards

„the content of this study as an elemental contribution for more factuality around the issue“.

The pesticide concentrations found have proven to be relatively low. However, in the case of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) the level of concentration has no relevance at all because endocrine disrupting substances do not function on a dose-response pattern. The majority of the examined substances (76 percent) were EDCs. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals are associated with several types of cancer, infertility, developmental and behavioural disorders and diabetes. According to Caroline Linhart,

„former samples of grass give evidence to the fact that this exposure has occurred over the last decades already“.

The researchers see an urgent need for action in order to reduce the drift of pesticides. Alternative possibilities to protect public health would be the improvement of application techniques, the strict observance of wind conditions and a change towards farming methods free of pesticides.

Languages Press Conference: German, English, Italian

Link Study

„Year-round pesticide contamination of public sites near intensively managed agricultural areas in South Tyrol“

<https://enveurope.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s12302-020-00446-y>

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