



***‘An NGO’s engagement to promote sustainable use’***  
**Expert group on sustainable use of pesticides,**  
**20 June 2012, Bruxelles**

by

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[www.pan-europe.info](http://www.pan-europe.info)

# 1. PAN Europe : who and what?

- 31 not-for-profit members in 19 European countries
- Bring together health, environmental & women associations
- Working to replace use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives
- Goal of productive + sustainable farming, minimising agrochemical inputs & adverse health & environmental impacts

## **2. What PAN Europe is doing to promote sustainable use**

- First PAN Europe is a network of NGOs and...does NGO work !
- Raise awareness on the need to use less and less dangerous chemicals in agriculture by spreading information on the effects of pesticides on environment and health.
- Promotes alternatives : IPM, Organic farming, Biocontrol methods..to reduce pesticide dependency.

## 2. What PAN Europe is doing on SUD

- Best practice NAP ([www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/NAP\\_best\\_practice.pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/NAP_best_practice.pdf))
- Studying different IPM systems (groups of farmers, regions,..). Ex : Chambre d'agriculture de l'Eure, Agrotransfert...
- Engaging with other stakeholders as IBMA and IOBC
- Working on the CAP to simplify EU action on pesticides Sustainable Use.

### **3. What PAN Europe's members are doing at national level**

- Many of our members have been invited to negotiation table (Slovenian, Slovakian, France, Dutch, Swedish..);
- Some still need to be invited
- Some (PAN Germany) has decided to leave the table of negotiations, lacking ambitions in the discussed NAP

# Situation in France

- PAN E member Generations Futures part of the national follow up group of the french NAP on PUR ( Ecophyto 2018).
- Goals of the plan good : - 50% in treatment frequency in 10 years !
- But ... 2008/2010 period the TFI raised by 2.6 % ! Bad start due to lack of political will. The plan needs a fresh start !

# Situation in Germany

- PAN Germany had been active in the NAP-Forum for years & co-ordinated environmental groups in the forum
- 2009 PAN Germany addresses lack of biodiversity conservation and called for more ambitious goals;
- 2011: **PAN Germany** together with Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Greenpeace Germany, German Association of Energy and Water Industries (BDEW ) and the German Professional Beekeepers Association (DBIB) **quit the NAP-Forum** because they did not see that the SUD goals –risk reduction for environment and human health and reducing dependency from chemical pesticides – could be reached with this NAP. **Critic:**
  - goals and measures to protect surface and ground water from pesticide remain behind legal requirements
  - no limitation of monoculture and no obligation for wider crop rotation with minimum number of crops
  - focus on “voluntary” measures
  - lack of financial support for needed non-chemical plant protection research

# 4. Why business as usual is not an option (1)

Rotated low chemical management increased net returns for continuous corn under high chemical management by:

- 70 USD/ha or even more in moldboard plow and
- 120 USD/ha or more in chisel tillage.

(Katsvairo, 1999)



# 4. Why business as usual is not an option (2)

Estimated annual economic and environmental **losses due to the application of pesticides in the USA** (Pimentel 2009):

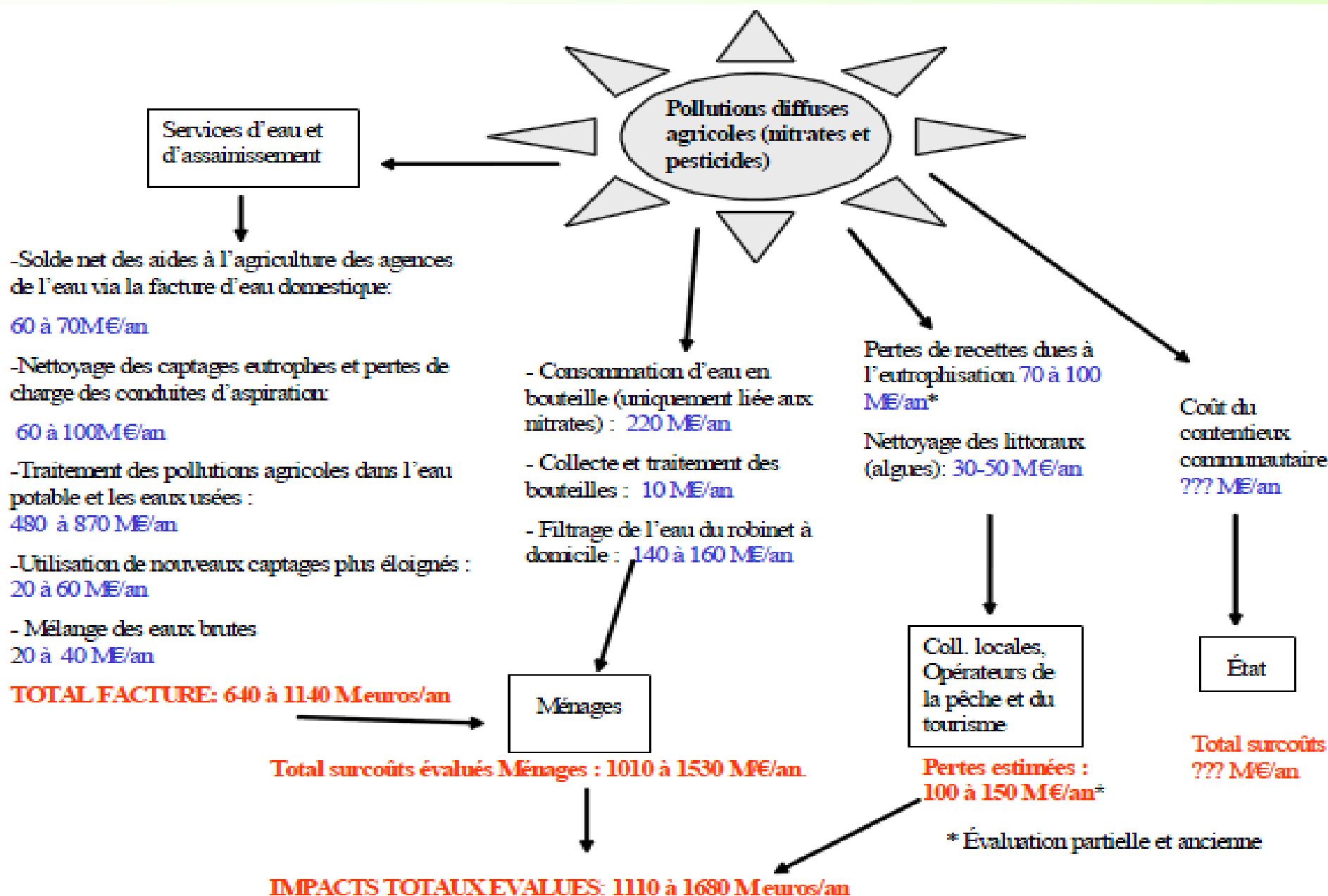
- public health, \$1.1 billion/year
- pesticide resistance in pests, \$1.5 billion;
- crop losses caused by pesticides, \$1.1 billion;
- bird losses due to pesticides, \$2.2 billion; and
- ground water contamination, \$2.0 billion.

# 4. Why business as usual is not an option (3)

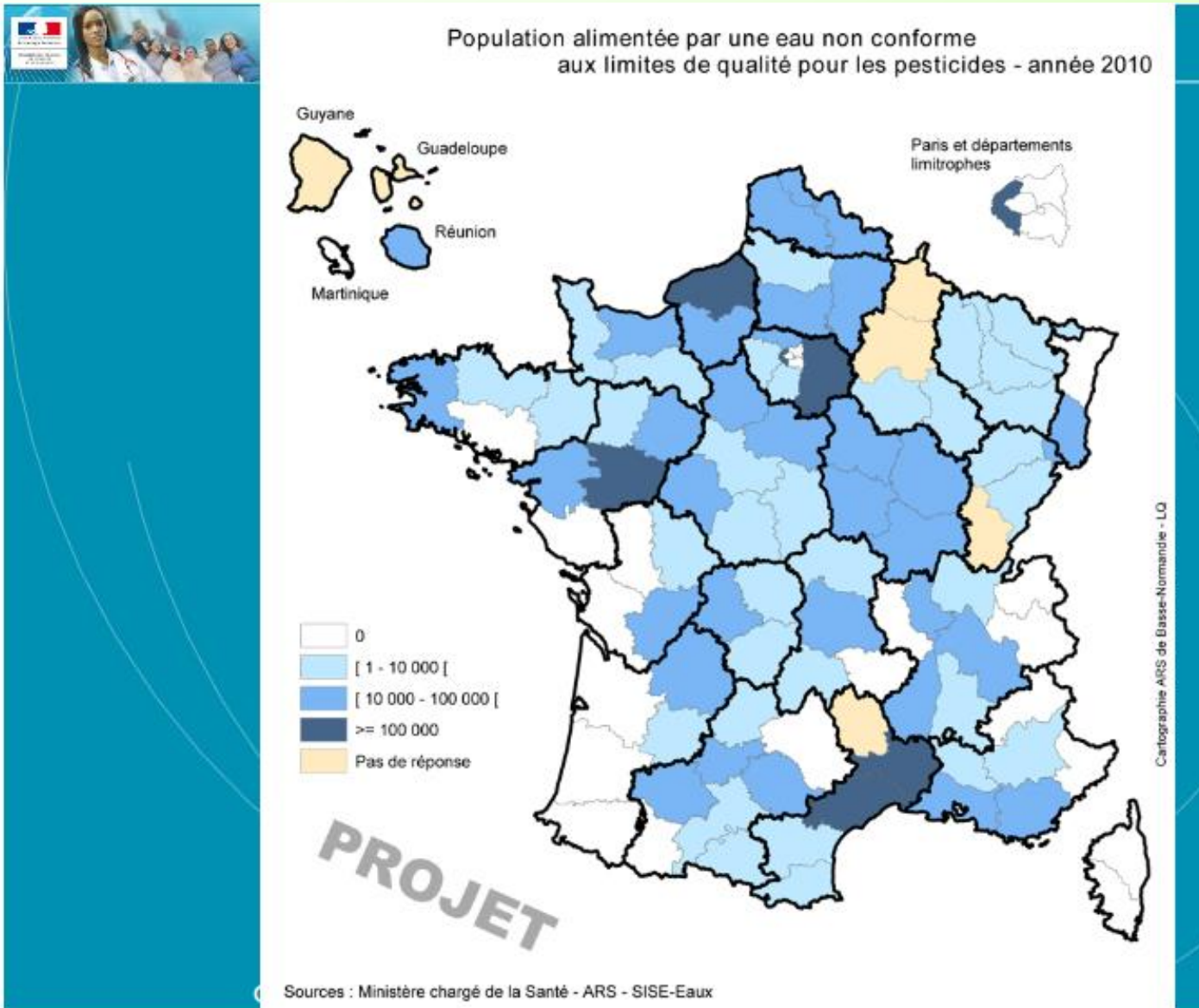
## Estimated annual economic loss caused by pesticide in the EU:

- Studies in the UK and Germany US\$257m and \$166m, respectively, paid by sufferers of pesticide-related poor health, the environment and citizens (Pretty & Waibel, 2005).
- UK water companies spent £189 million removing nitrates and £92 million removing pesticides from their water supplies between 2004-2005 and 2008-2009 (National Audit Service, 2010) (+/- 350 M €)

## 4. Why business as usual is not an option : official french study (4)



# Nearly 2,5 millions french with non conform tap water / pesticides in 2010



# Pesticides in water and health: atrazine in drinking water has negative impact on the foetus

	Groups of urinary metabolites quantified in urine samples	Major congenital anomalies			FGR			SHC		
		n	OR <sup>f</sup>	(95% CI)	n	OR <sup>g</sup>	(95% CI)	n	OR <sup>h</sup>	(95% CI)
	None	62	ref		117	ref		65	ref	
Atrazine and its specific metabolites <sup>a</sup>	At least one	26	1.2	(0.7, 2.1)	61	1.5	(1.0, 2.2) <sup>e</sup>	38	1.7	(1.0, 2.7) <sup>e</sup>
	At least atrazine or atrazine mercapturate (Direct exposure)	6	1.0	(0.3, 3.1)	14	1.6	(0.8, 3.1)	6	1.3	(0.5, 3.3)

***Urinary Biomarkers of Prenatal Atrazine Exposure and Adverse Birth Outcomes in the PELAGIE Birth Cohort.***

***Env Health Perspectives, mars 2011. Cécile Chevrier et al (Inserm)***

# 5. What is to be done next?

**Seriously reform the CAP, now:**

- **Cross compliance (SMRs):** SUD and WFD to become a requirement as from when implemented in all member states
- **Cross compliance (GAEC):** Crop rotation to be withdrawn from GAEC
- **Introduction of a green component:** encouraging each EU farmer to apply a simple package with diversification, ecological focus areas, and permanent

## 5. What is to be done next (2)?

### The CAP towards 2020 – how it should be

- **Cross compliance (SMRs):** SUD and WFD to apply as from 1 January 2014
- **Cross compliance (GAEC):** Crop rotation to remain a requirement
- **Green component:** to apply as a simple mandatory package of measures including crop rotation, ecological focus areas and no grubbing up of permanent grass land
- **RDR:** More advanced agronomic

## **Conclusion**

Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for climate action, 15th June 2012 :

« It is not possible to continue the business as usual ...make it expensive to be stupid and get the right targets for what to reduce. It is not easy but the alternative is much worse »



## **The way forward to SUD**

- Integrate NGOs into national debates (new partnerships)
- Integrate SUD fully into the CAP ( CC, GAEC Green component, and RDR)
- Strict authorisation of pesticides
- Consider a pesticide tax to make low input agriculture more profitable;
- Ensure solid evaluation of results.

Thank you for your attention

