

## ***Open letter to the European Commission on agri-business mergers***

We, the undersigned organisations, call on the European Commission to reject the impending mergers of the world's biggest agrochemical and seed companies.

In an already concentrated market, the world's largest agri-business companies are proposing mergers – of Dow Chemical with DuPont, Monsanto with Bayer AG, and Syngenta with ChemChina. These mergers would exacerbate the problems caused by industrial farming – with negative consequences for the public, farmers and farm workers, consumers, the environment, and food security.

These mergers risk major monopoly outcomes that would further:

- **Increase corporate control of agriculture**  
The three resulting companies could control around 70% of the world's agro-chemicals and more than 60% of commercial seeds. Through dominant market share and sheer political power, they would unduly influence our agriculture and food system.
- **Restrict farmers' choices**  
Reduced competition and increased market dominance would further restrict the diversity of seeds, harm farmers' freedom of choice and their rights to save their seeds, and increase their reliance on chemical inputs. These companies are moving to promote technology packages and management systems that increase farmer dependence. The three resulting giants would be able to strengthen their intellectual property control, squeeze out the remaining small seed companies, and raise prices for farmers – hurting rural economies and food businesses.
- **Curb consumer choice**  
More market control would reduce Europeans' food choices; and reduce the ability for farmers to meet consumer demand for diverse, healthy, cost-effective, quality food produced in an ecologically sound manner. Any costs passed on to the public could hit the most vulnerable hardest.
- **Increase chemical use and harm the environment**  
Reduced diversity of farming, and greater dominance of monoculture farming highly reliant on chemical inputs including hazardous pesticides, would further harm the environment, biodiversity, and human health – including that of farmers and workers. We urgently need to increase crop and landscape diversity, also making our food system more resilient to climate change.
- **Damage Europe's food sovereignty**  
A growing movement of farmers, consumers and businesses are building new vibrant, fairer and greener food and farming systems. Corporate giants increasing their control over farming would endanger the future of these businesses and initiatives, and with it the diversified and multi-functional farms which are a cornerstone of the European style of farming.
- **Harm countries in the Global South and the right to food**  
The impact on farmers, rural communities and consumers of concentrating power would impede the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 2, to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. These impacts would be especially severe in the Global South, where the right to food is already under threat.

We urge the European Commission to reject the mergers, prevent the damage caused by these corporations, and urgently take steps to support just and sustainable food systems less dependent on agri-business, by:

- Considering the impact of all three proposed mergers together;
- Addressing the existing concentration in the food and farming sector and setting clear limits to the market share a corporation can control;
- Shifting support and subsidies away from agri-business towards rewarding and incentivising small-scale and sustainable agroecological farming;
- Increasing environmental and social safeguards to ensure agri-business reduces its impact on citizens, farmers, workers, and the environment.

Yours sincerely,



Magda Stoczkiewicz  
Director, Friends of the Earth Europe  
Tel: +32 2893 1001, [magda.stoczkiewicz@foeeurope.org](mailto:magda.stoczkiewicz@foeeurope.org)

***On behalf of the undersigned :***

**International & EU**

ACT Alliance EU  
ActionAid  
Avaaz  
Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination  
BirdLife Europe  
CIDSE  
Compassion in World Farming  
CONCORD  
Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt e.V.  
ECOAR)))  
EFFAT (European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions)  
European Coordination Via Campesina  
European Environmental Bureau  
European Secretariat of the World March of Women  
Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO)  
Food & Water Europe  
Friends of the Earth Europe  
GRAIN  
Greenpeace  
IFOAM EU  
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe  
SAVE Foundation  
Slow Food  
SumOfUs  
Transnational Institute (TNI)  
WeMove.EU

**Austria**

Get Active - for a Sustainable Planet  
GLOBAL 20000  
Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau  
ZIMD

**Belgium**

Aardewerk  
Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network (AEFJN)  
CADTM Belgique  
Climaxi  
CNCD-11.11.11

Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA)  
FUGEA (Fédération Unie de Groupements d'Éleveurs et d'Agriculteurs)  
Inter-Environnement Wallonie  
Les Amis de la Terre Belgique  
Mouvement d'Action Paysanne (MAP)  
Mouvement politique des objecteurs de croissance (mpOC)  
Netwerk Zelf Zaden Telen  
Quinoa  
SOS Faim Belgique  
Woningen123Logements  
"Cense équi'voc" asbl

### **Bosnia & Herzegovina**

Center for Environment

### **Bulgaria**

Balkan Institute for Labour and Social Policy  
Za Zemiata

### **Croatia**

Brod Ecological Society-BED  
Centar za mirovne studije  
Centar za zdravo odrastanje Mali Losinj  
Code for Croatia  
EKO Ekološko društvo Oroslavje  
Eko-Eko  
GONG  
Udruga za samozastupanje  
UOKOLO udruga za građanstvo okoliša  
Zelena akcija/FoE Croatia  
Zeleni dan  
Zeleni Osijek  
Ženska mreža Hrvatske

### **Cyprus**

Friends of the Earth Cyprus

### **Czech Republic**

AREA vi va, z.s. - spolek pro ekologii a zemědělství  
Asociace Místních Potravinových Inicativ, o.p.s.  
Ekumenická akademie, z. s.  
Hnutí DUHA  
PRO-BIO LIGA, pobočný spolek  
Záhony Pro Školky (Gardens for Schools)

### **Denmark**

NOAH

### **Estonia**

Estonian Green Movement

### **France**

ActionAid France - Peoples Solidaires

Amis de la Terre France  
Attac France  
CCFD-Terre Solidaire  
Comité pour l'Abolition des Dettes illégitimes (CADTM)  
Confédération paysanne

### **Germany**

Agrar Koordination  
AGRECOL (Verein zur Förderung standortgerechter Nutzung in Afrika, Asien, Lateinamerika und Osteuropa)  
Aktion Agrar  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL) e.V.  
BI lebenswertes Korbach e.V.  
Biosicht Redaktionsbüro  
Bluepingu e.V., Nürnberg  
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)  
Bündnis für gentechnikfreie Landwirtschaft Niedersachsen, Bremen, Hamburg  
FDCL - Forschungs- und Dokumentationszentrum Chile-Lateinamerika e.V.  
Förderverein Trostberger Rosengarten e.V.  
Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung / NGO Forum on Environment and Development  
Gen-ethisches Netzwerk e.V.  
INKOTA-netzwerk e.V.  
Interessengemeinschaft gegen Nachbaugebühren (IG-Nachbau)  
Kampagne Meine Landwirtschaft / Wir haben es satt!  
Klimagarten Tübingen  
Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU) e.V.  
Obst- und Gartenbauverein Bengel e.V.  
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. (PAN Germany)  
Querbeet Leipzig  
Rebsortenarchiv Südpfalzweinsberg  
Rettet den Regenwald e. V.  
Rosa Rose Gemeinschaftsgarten  
Save Our Seeds  
Slow Food Deutschland e. V.  
Ton, Steine, Gärten e.V.  
Umweltinstitut München e. V.  
Verein zur Erhaltung der Nutzpflanzenvielfalt e.V.  
Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft

### **Hungary**

Beklen a Nagykunsági Civil Társadalomért Alapítvány  
Beretzk Péter Természetvédelmi Klub  
Bodrog Association  
Bors Foundation  
Börzsöny - Ipoly-mente Polgári Természetőrség  
Cserhát Értékeiért Alapítvány  
EcoOne Hungary  
E-misszió Természet- és Környezetvédelmi Egyesület  
Energia és Környezet Alapítvány  
Fauna Foundation for Animal Welfare and Nature Protection  
Forrásvíz Természetbarát Egyesület  
Giligán Egyesület

Göcsej Természetvédelmi Alapítvány  
Green Island Circle Nature Examining Public Association  
Herman Ottó Természetvédő Kör  
Holocén Természetvédelmi Egyesület  
Hungarian Climate Alliance  
Kalocsakörnyéki Környezetvédelmi Egyesület  
Magosfa Foundation for Environmental Education and Eco-tourism  
Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (MTVSZ) / National Society of Conservationists  
Ökorégió Alapítvány a Fenntartható Fejlődésért  
Polyán Egyesület  
Reflex Environmental Association  
Small Communities Programme (Kisközösségi Program)  
Tanácsadók a Fenntartható Fejlődésért -  
Towards Sustainability Association  
Zöld Akció Egyesület  
Zöld Kapcsolat Egyesület  
Zöld Kör  
Green Women  
Közép-magyarországi Zöld Kör

#### **Ireland**

Friends of the Earth Ireland

#### **Italy**

FOCSIV (Federazione Organismi Cristiani di Servizio Internazionale Volontario)  
Legambiente  
Mani Tese  
Navdanya International

#### **Latvia**

Green Liberty (Zala brīvība)

#### **Malta**

Friends of the Earth Malta

#### **Netherlands**

ASEED Europe  
Both ENDS  
Hivos  
ICCO Cooperation  
Milieudefensie  
Slow Food Nederland  
SOMO, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations

#### **Norway**

Naturvernforbundet

#### **Poland**

Polski Klub Ekologiczny  
Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczno-Kulturalne ZIARNO

#### **Portugal**

Campo Aberto - Associação de Defesa do Ambiente

Portuguese GM Free Coalition (Plataforma Transgénicos Fora)

### **Russia**

The Russian Social-Ecological Union

### **Spain**

AEA-Madrid asociación educación ambiental de Madrid

Aicar-Adicae, Organización de consumidores críticos, responsables y solidarios

Amigos de la Tierra

ASiA-Associació Salut i Agroecologia

Asociación Marisatsa

Asociación Vida Sana

ATTAC España

AUPA

BioAlai

Centro de Estudios Rurales y de Agricultura Internacional

Colectivo Asamblea del Bien Común

Ecologistas en Acción

Ekoactivo educación ambiental

EQUO

ESPEM

Garua S. Coop. Mad

Germinando Coc Coop Mad

La Garbancita Ecológica S. Coop. Mad. de Consumo Responsable Agroecológico

Plataforma contra la especulación de Candeleda

Plataforma Rural

Red de semillas de Aragon

ReHd Mad! Red huertos urbanos comunitarios de Madrid

Butroi Bizirik-en Transicion (BBT)

Lur Gozo

### **Sweden**

Solidarity Sweden - Latin America (SAL)

### **Switzerland**

Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz Kolumbien ask!

Brot für alle

MultiWatch

ProNatura

Public Eye

SAG Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei

SOLIFONDS

SWISSAID

### **UK**

Biofuelwatch

Ethical Consumer Research Association

Friends of the Earth England, Wales, Northern Ireland

Global Justice Now

GMWatch

Landworkers Alliance

Nuclear Consulting Group

Permaculture Association

Slow Food in the UK

Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming, UK

Sustainable Food Trust

The Ecological Land Co-operative

The Kindling Trust