



Banned in Europe

How the EU exports pesticides too dangerous for use in Europe

Public Eye

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AGRICULTURE

EU bans Bayer pesticide linked to harming bees

22 octobre 2014 à 16 h

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ENVIRONMENT JANUARY 13, 2020 / 1:00 PM / UPDATED 8 MONTHS AGO

EU Commission bans Bayer pesticide linked to harming bees

By Reuters Staff

2 MIN READ



Slideshow (2 images)

(This January 13 story refiles to clarify EU's staggered deadline, paragraphs 4-5)

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission decided on Monday not to renew approval for a pesticide linked to harming bees, effectively banning Bayer's insecticide known as thiacloprid.



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27.7.2012

Rank	Substance falling within the criteria of your request for access to document ATD/83/2019	Tonnage band (tons) of total notified expected volume of export under the PIC Regulation
1	1,3-dichloropropene	> 10 000
2	Paraquat	>10 000
3	Zineb	> 10 000
4	Cyanamide	1 000 - 10 000
5	Trifluralin	1 000 - 10 000
6	Chlorate	1 000 - 10 000
7	Ethylene oxide	1 000 - 10 000
8	Acetochlor	1 000 - 10 000
9	Propargite	1 000 - 10 000
10	Didecyldimethylammonium chloride	1 000 - 10 000
11	Permethrin	1 000 - 10 000
12	Ethalfuralin	1 000 - 10 000
13	Propisochlor	1 000 - 10 000
14	Atrazine	1 000 - 10 000
15	Chloropicrin	100 - 1 000
16	Carbendazim	100 - 1 000
17	Fenitrothion	100 - 1 000
18	Carbaryl	100 - 1 000
19	Tepraloxymid	100 - 1 000
20	Dichlobenil	100 - 1 000
21	Dichlorvos	100 - 1 000
22	Cyfluthrin	100 - 1 000
23	Butralin	100 - 1 000
24	Ethoxysulfuron	100 - 1 000
25	Ametryn	100 - 1 000
26	Nonylphenol ethoxylates (C ₂ H ₄ O) _n C ₁₅ H ₂₄ O	100 - 1 000
27	Oxadiargyl	100 - 1 000
28	Alachlor	100 - 1 000
29	Simazine	100 - 1 000
30	Amitraz	100 - 1 000
31	Diazinon	100 - 1 000
32	Tributyltin Compounds	100 - 1 000
33	Carbofuran	100 - 1 000
34	Ferbam	10 - 100
35	3-decen-2-one	10 - 100
36	Chlorfenvinphos	10 - 100
37	Propanil	10 - 100
38	Chlorfenapyr	10 - 100
39	Cyhexatin	10 - 100
40	Fenbutatin oxide	10 - 100
41	Thiocyclam	10 - 100
42	Flufenoxuron	10 - 100
43	Fenpropathrin	10 - 100
44	Procymidone	10 - 100
45	Tricyclazole	10 - 100
46	Thiodicarb	< 10
47	Azocyclotin	< 10

Annex I chemical(s)**Destination region(s)****Exporting Member State(s)**

1,3-dichloropropene

AF

Spain

1,3-dichloropropene

GRULAC;
WEOG; APNetherlands;
Belgium; United Kingdom; Spain

3-decen-2-one; Alachlor; Butralin

AF; WEOG; AP

Austria; Italy;
France

Ametryn; Dinoseb and its salts and esters

AF; GRULAC;
WEOG; APHungary; Italy;
United Kingdom;
Germany

Amitraz; Methyl bromide

CEE; AF;
WEOGBelgium;
Germany

Anthraquinone

AF; WEOG; AP

Czech Republic;
France; Germany

Arsenic compounds

GRULAC; AP

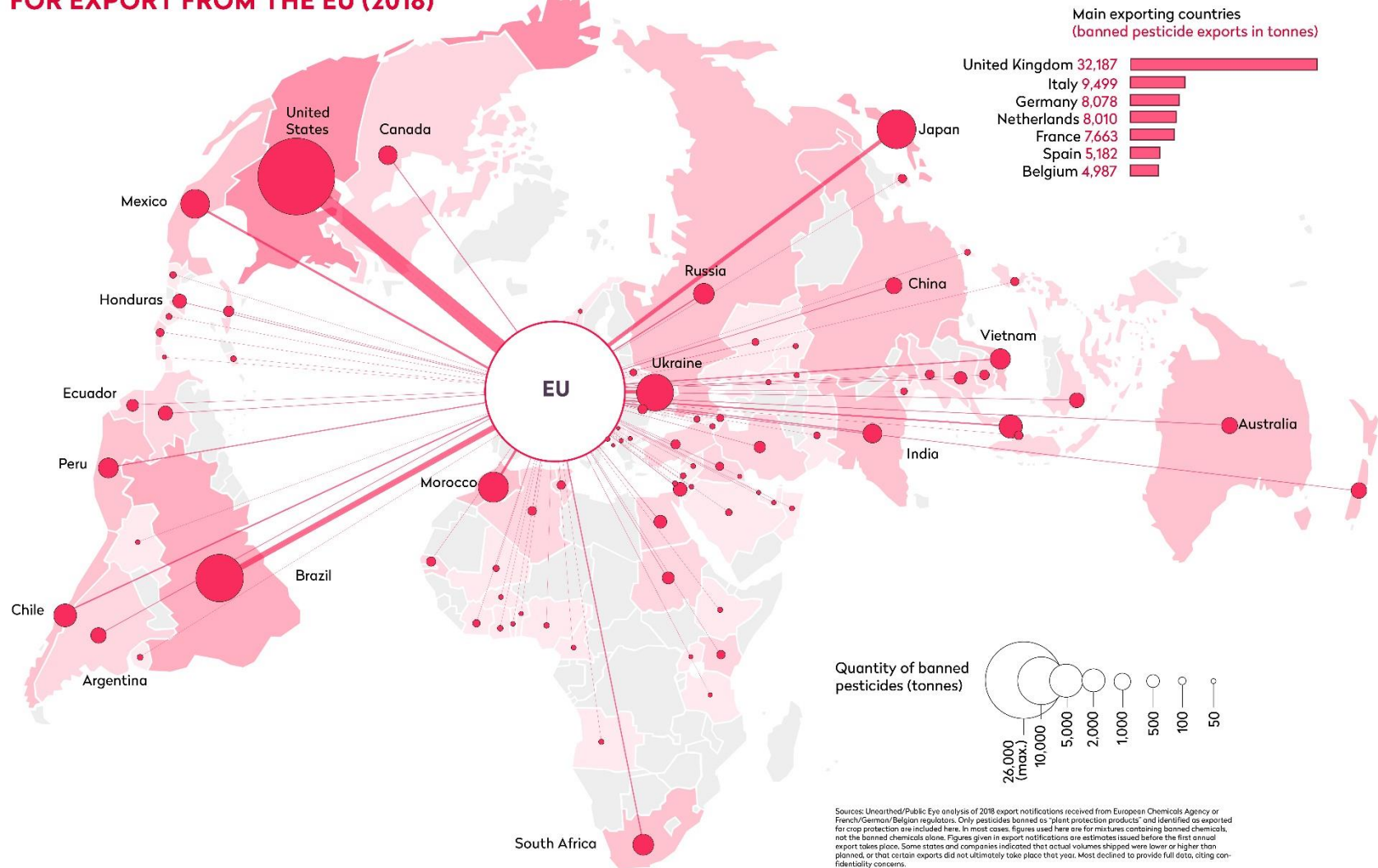
United Kingdom;
Germany; Spain

Arsenic compounds

WEOG; AP

France; Germany

BANNED PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT FROM THE EU (2018)

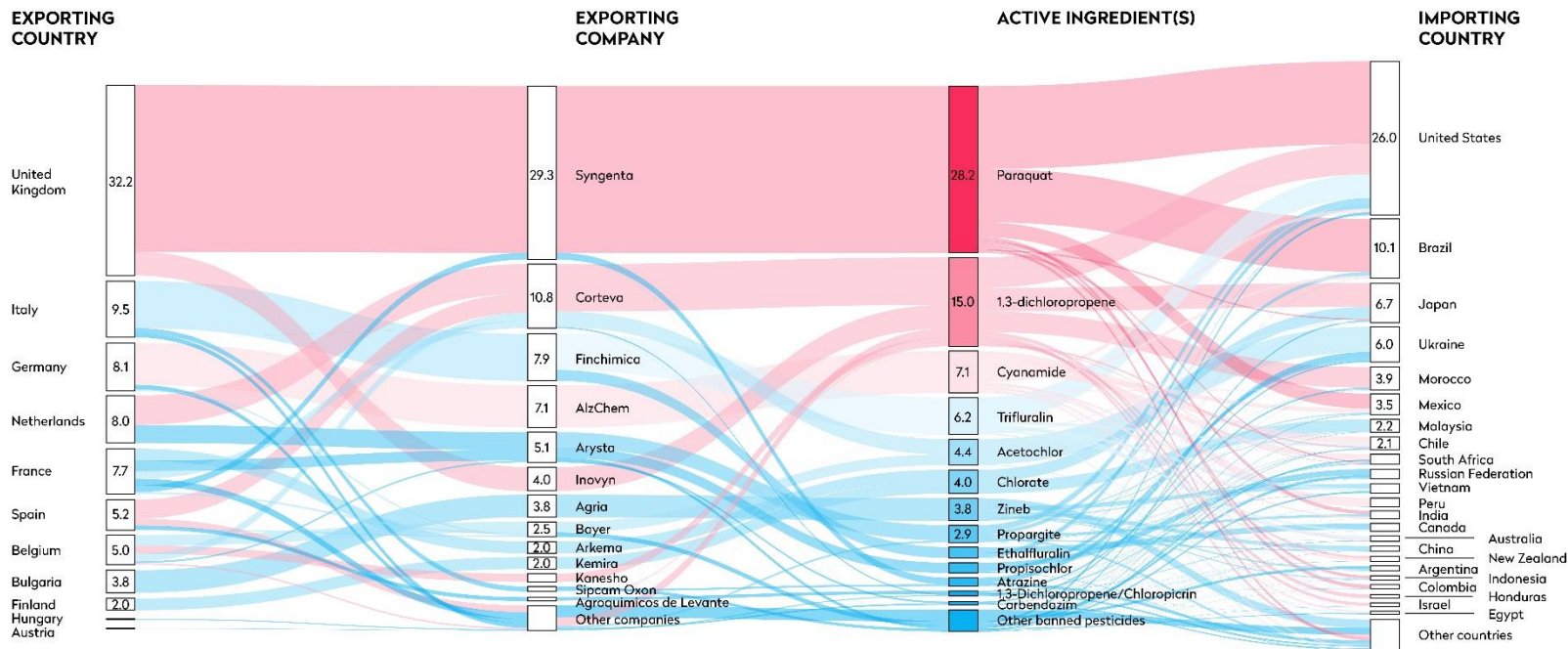


Sources: Unearthed/Public Eye analysis of 2018 export notifications received from European Chemicals Agency or French/German/Belgian regulators. Only pesticides banned as "plant protection products" and identified as exported for crop protection are included here. In most cases, figures used here are for mixtures containing banned chemicals, not the banned chemicals alone. Figures given in export notifications are estimates issued before the first annual export takes place. Some states and companies indicated that actual volumes shipped were lower or higher than planned, or that certain exports did not ultimately take place that year. Most declined to provide full data, citing confidentiality concerns.

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BANNED PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2018

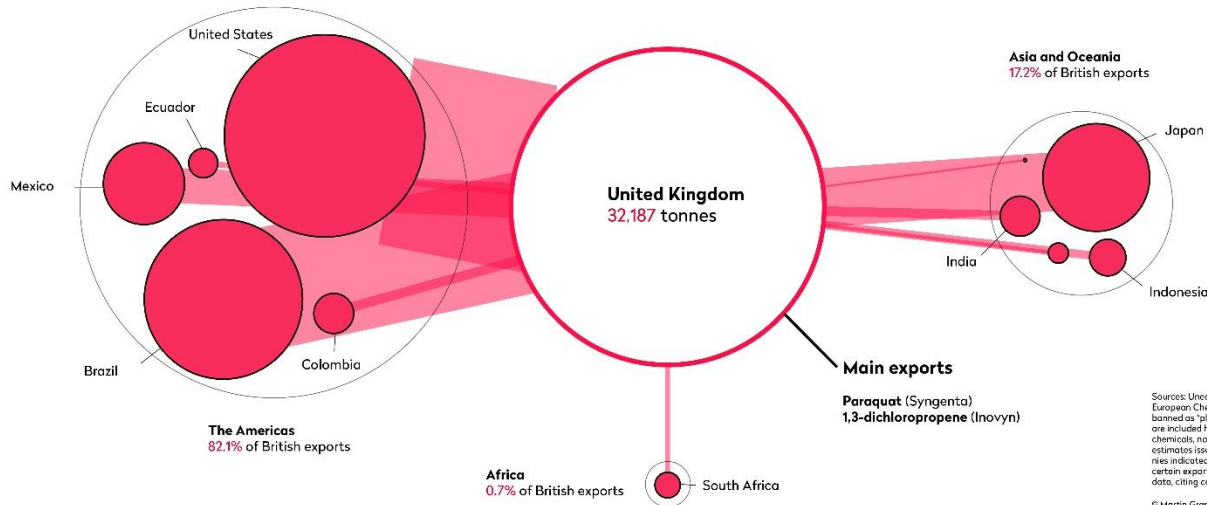
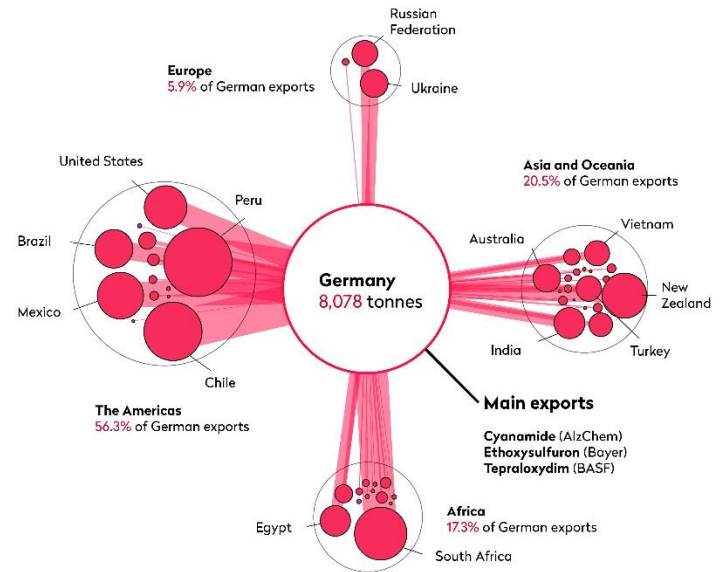
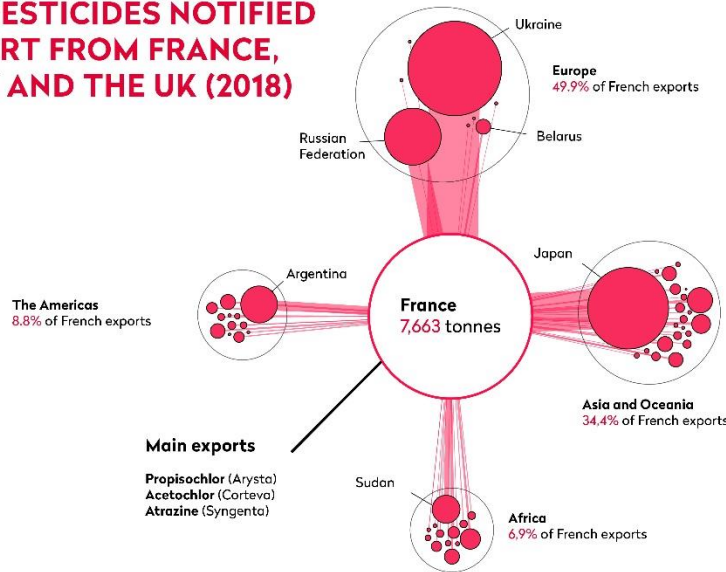
Quantities in millions of kg
Total = 81,615,000 kg



Sources: Uneathed/Public Eye analysis of 2018 export notifications received from European Chemicals Agency or French/German/Belgian regulators. Only pesticides banned as "plant protection products" and identified as exported for crop protection are included here. In most cases, figures used here are for mixtures containing banned chemicals, not the banned chemicals alone. Figures given in export notifications are estimates issued before the first annual export sales place. Some states and companies indicated that actual volumes shipped were lower or higher than planned, or that certain exports did not ultimately take place that year. Most declined to provide full data, citing confidentiality concerns.

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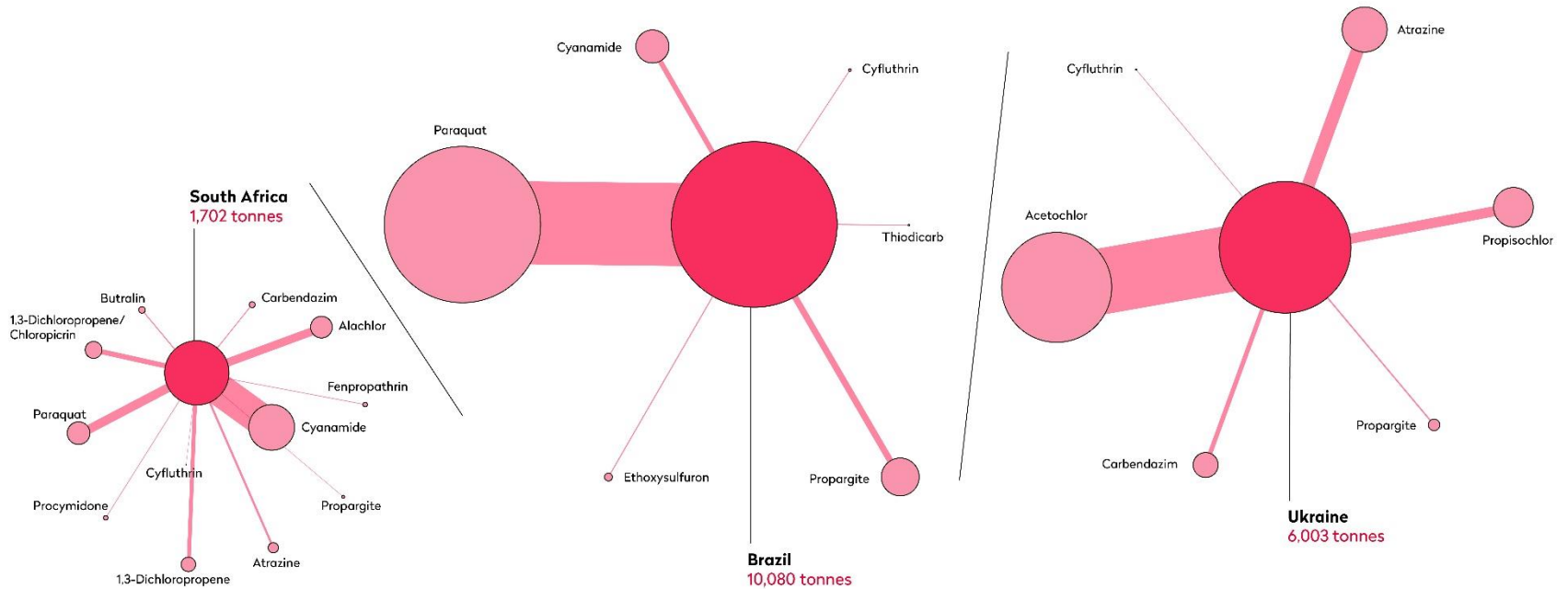
BANNED PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT FROM FRANCE, GERMANY AND THE UK (2018)



Sources: Unearthed/Public Eye analysis of 2018 export notifications received from European Chemicals Agency or French/German/Belgian regulators. Only pesticides banned as "plant protection products" and identified as exported for crop protection are included here. In most cases, figures used here are for mixtures containing banned chemicals, not the banned chemicals alone. Figures given in export notifications are estimates issued before the first annual export takes place. Some states and companies indicated that actual volumes shipped were lower or higher than planned, or that certain exports did not ultimately take place that year. Most declined to provide full data, citing confidentiality concerns.

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BANNED EU PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA, BRAZIL AND UKRAINE (2018)



Sources: Unerthed/Public Eye analysis of 2018 export notifications received from European Chemicals Agency or French/German/Belgian regulators. Only pesticides banned as "plant protection products" and identified as exported for crop protection are included here. In most cases, figures used here are for mixtures containing banned chemicals, not the banned chemicals alone. Figures given in export notifications are estimates issued before the first annual export takes place. Some states and companies indicated that actual volumes shipped were lower or higher than planned, or that certain exports did not ultimately take place that year. Most declined to provide full data, citing confidentiality concerns.

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Industry Statement on Pesticide Exports from Europe

The health and safety of consumers and pesticide users remains our industry's highest priority. This is true wherever pesticides are made, wherever they are used and wherever the food produced is eaten. CropLife International members expect their products to be closely regulated. They are, and our members follow both the letter and the spirit of strict regulatory standards and rules. CropLife International members take responsibility to conduct risk assessments for the products sold, in line with the FAO/WHO Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.

Some pesticides are not authorised for use in the EU but have important uses elsewhere in the world. One size does not fit all — agriculture, pest, and diseases are different across regions and countries. Pesticides are not automatically “more hazardous” or “less necessary” because they are not authorised in Europe.

National regulators around the world decide which pesticides can be used on their territory. Where regulation is less developed, CropLife International members support its introduction based on the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.

There is no legal “loophole” for the export of pesticides from Europe; there is strict EU regulation aligned with the UN Rotterdam Convention of exports which is enforced properly and which CropLife International and its members support. European exporters must supply their national regulators with information about certain chemical exports, including some pesticides. International law also ensures importing countries receive relevant safety information on imported substances and can refuse imports of some substances.

We welcome a constructive and informed debate on the role of crop protection and the use of pesticides in sustainable food production. CropLife International member companies invest in research and development to develop ever better and safer products to ensure farmers have access to crop protection products which meet society's needs. We address pesticide safety in partnership with governments, farmers, NGOs and other stakeholders and we will continue this collaboration. We can, and will always, strive to do more.

September 2020



"In nearly every case there is no legitimate public interest justification," Tuncak said. "These loopholes are a political concession to industry, allowing their chemical manufacturers to profit from inevitably poisoned workers and communities abroad, all the while importing cheaper products through global supply chains and fueling unsustainable consumption and production patterns. It is long-overdue that States stop this exploitation."

In reports from [Denmark](#), [Germany](#), and the [United Kingdom](#), the Special Rapporteur has highlighted dangers posed by the exportation of toxic chemicals, and communicated similar concerns to [Canada](#) and [Switzerland](#).

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Tuncak has also made similar recommendations to [Brazil](#) regarding communities poisoned by exports. In the face of such violations, some individuals were forced to defend their communities, putting themselves at further risk in a country which ranks among the world's deadliest for environmental rights defenders. "The EU continues to export such pesticides and toxic industrial chemicals, resulting in widespread infringements of human rights to life, dignity and freedom from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in low and middle-income countries."

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The expert commended France for recent legislation stopping the export of chemicals prohibited domestically. "France has taken the right approach to ending these double standards, a practice that other EU and OECD members must emulate," he said.

Tuncak also commended several African countries for progressive efforts to prohibit such imports. Under the Bamako Convention, it is a crime to export substances that are forbidden from use in the country of manufacture to any of the 25 African countries that are party to the Convention. In 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that [Mexico](#) similarly stop importing pesticides because of grave impacts on indigenous children. The recommendation has yet to be implemented.

"States exporting banned chemicals without a strong public interest justification are in violation of their extraterritorial obligations under international human rights law, including their obligations relating to a healthy environment and safe and healthy working conditions," said the expert, citing the recent [General Comment No. 24](#) of the *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (CESCR). "Failing to address this longstanding exploitation is discrimination, pure and simple."

The Special Rapporteur's recommendations were endorsed by: **Agnes Callamard**, [Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions](#); **Alioune Tine**, [Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali](#); **Alice Cruz**, [Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members](#); **Clément Nyaletsossi Voule**, [Special Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association](#); **David R. Boyd**, [Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment](#); **Diego García-Sayán**, [Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers](#); **E. Tendayi Achiume**, [Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism](#); **Francisco Cali Tzay**, [Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples](#); **Léo**



Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009^[1] prevents, in general^[2], the placing on the market and use of any pesticide containing a non-approved substance. The Regulation, adopted on the legal bases for internal market, public health, and agricultural policy, **applies only within the EU**. Accordingly, production, storage, and movement of products destined for use in a third country do not require an authorisation.^[3]

Nevertheless, rules on the export of banned or severely restricted pesticides are in **place under the Rotterdam Convention**^[4], to which most countries in the world are Parties, including the EU and its Member States.

Further information is available here: www.pic.int. The Convention is built on the principle that it is for importing countries to decide whether they want to import of pesticides listed in the Annex to the Convention or not and exporting countries have to respect these decisions.

Regulation (EU) No 649/2012^[5] implements the Convention^[6]. **Implementation in the EU is stricter than required by the Convention**, as the Regulation covers more substances and for many the explicit written consent of the responsible authority in the importing country is required.

A ban of exports from the EU will not automatically lead third countries to stop using such pesticides – they may import from elsewhere. Convincing them not to use such pesticides will be more effective and is part of the outreach activities and green diplomacy efforts announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy to achieve more sustainable food systems globally.