



Brussels, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

**Subject: Inscription of Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene, Italy, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape**

Dear Member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee,

We are writing to you on behalf of Pesticide Action Network International (PAN International), representing 600 organisations, institutions and individuals in over 90 countries working to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives.

At the forthcoming meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee being held 30 June to 10 July 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, **the inscription of *Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene, Italy, on the World Heritage List*** as a cultural landscape will be discussed under agenda item 8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List.

The region of Prosecco DOCG is characterized by intensive wine production, where vineyards cover both urban and natural areas over the entire area, and where hazardous pesticides are intensely used. The intensive use of pesticides has already proven adverse effects on the health of the local population and the quality of life in the region. People living in proximity to wine growing areas are suffering from those effects day-by-day. **(Annex I: Testimony of a Pesticide Victim)**

Citizens of Prosecco region have been strongly contesting Prosecco's nomination as world heritage as their wellbeing and health is continuously endangered by the use of hazardous pesticides. Local residents, together with the participation of numerous organisations, have been organising marches, petitions, sit-in protests demanding to stop the process of inscription of the 15 municipalities of the Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) as a world heritage until they stop the use of hazardous pesticides and ensure the wellbeing and health of its habitants.

**PAN International calls on you NOT to inscribe the 15 municipalities of the Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) as a world heritage until they stop the use of hazardous pesticides.** We urge the World Heritage Committee not to confer world heritage status on any region where hazardous pesticides are used (and no binding obligation is made for a step-by-step exit of their use.)

In fact, the recent nomination of the region of Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) to become a UNESCO World Heritage in 2017 has revealed an urgency for action to be taken by UNESCO regarding the use of hazardous pesticides in the nominated sites. The world heritage status substantially conflicts with the use of hazardous pesticides, that World Heritage regions must be free from their use or at least provide a scheme for a progressive ban whose implementation is monitored by the UNESCO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Francois Veillerette, PAN Europe President (On behalf of PAN International)



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**Pesticide Action Network (PAN) International** is a network of over 600 participating nongovernmental organizations, institutions and individuals in over 90 countries working to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives. PAN was founded in 1982 and has five independent, collaborating Regional Centers that implement its projects and campaigns. More information visit <http://pan-international.org/>

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## **ANNEX I: Testimony of a Pesticide Victim**

*“My name is Gianluigi Salvador and I live in Refrontolo, in the Province of Treviso, Italy. When I moved there, the ecosystem in Refrontolo was still mostly uncultivated and there were only a few farmers in the area. Gradually, the prosecco’s trade, the most famous local wine, exploded and the demand increased. The entire area was transformed into a monoculture of vineyards for the production of prosecco. My home and my orchard were constantly contaminated because of the drift of neighbours’ pesticides. My family is forced to remain home when we hear the spray nozzle and we cannot enjoy our garden for five months of the year. I wanted to start cultivating vegetables in my small hectare but it is no longer possible. Conventional Prosecco vineyards--and the pesticides that they apply--are everywhere and the paradise that welcomed me and my family to the area became just a memory.”* **Gianluigi Salvador**