

# PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK EUROPE

INTEGRATED  
PEST  
MANAGEMENT

VAT & PESTICIDE  
TAXATION

SAVE THE BEES

VOICES  
OF PESTICIDES

SUSTAINABLE  
USE  
DIRECTIVE

PESTICIDE  
FREE TOWNS

STOP  
GLYPHOSATE

PAN EUROPE'S  
OUTREACH

ENDOCRINE  
DISRUPTING  
CHEMICALS

2017 **PAN**  
**EUROPE**  
ACTIVITY  
REPORT

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*"The more I learned about the use of pesticides, the more appalled I became... What I discovered was that everything which meant most to me as a naturalist was being threatened, and that nothing I could do would be more important."*

Rachel Carson, 1962  
Biologist and author of *The Silent Spring*

# WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) was founded in 1982 and is a network of over 600 non-governmental organisations, institutions and individuals in over 60 countries worldwide working to minimise the negative effects and replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives. Its projects and campaigns are coordinated by five autonomous Regional Centres.

PAN Europe is the regional centre in Europe. Located in Brussels, it was founded in 1987 and brings together 40 consumer, public health, and environmental organisations, trades unions, women's groups and farmer associations from across 27 European countries.

PAN Europe's vision is of a world in which high agricultural productivity is achieved by truly sustainable agricultural production systems in which agrochemical inputs and environmental damage are minimised, and where local people control local production using local varieties.

## WHY THE FIGHT ON PESTICIDES IS IMPORTANT

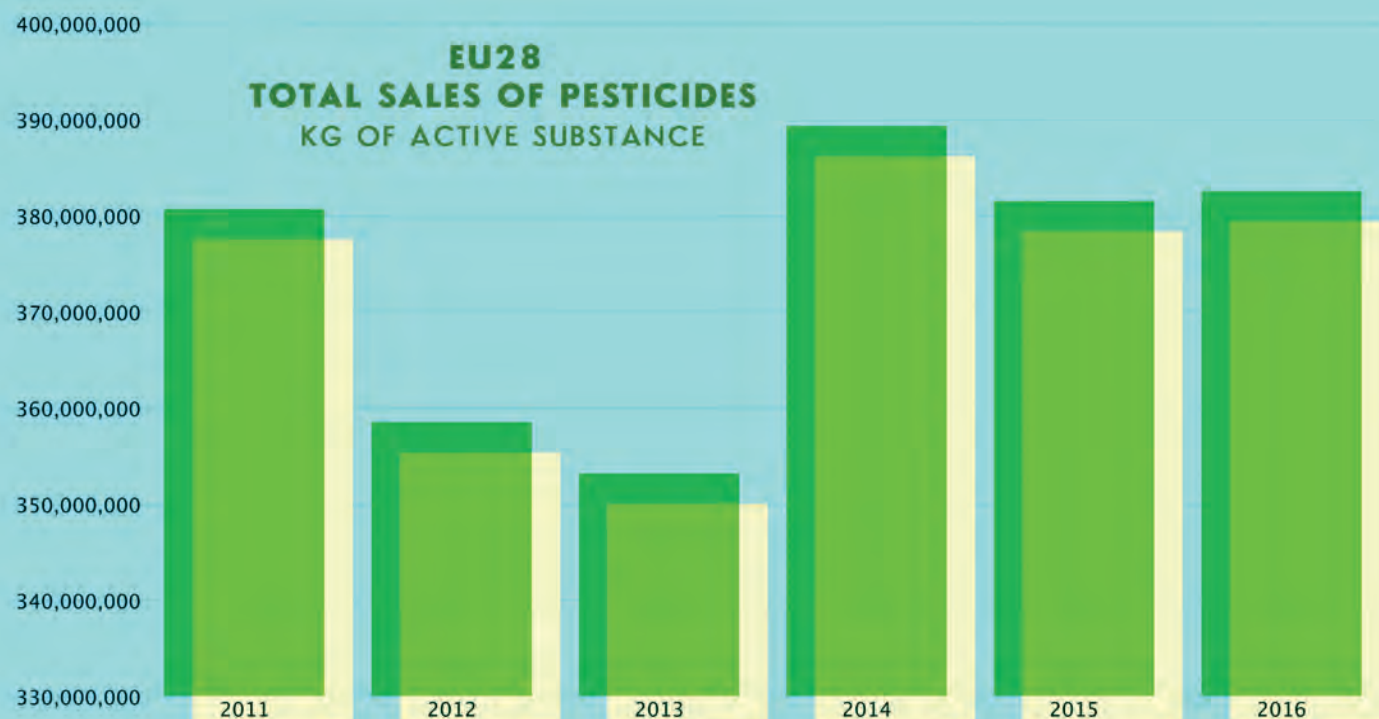
All of us are exposed directly or indirectly to pesticides and other agrochemicals- farm workers and their families most of all, but every consumer will be exposed to dozens of different pesticides every day through food and the environment. There are particular concerns for the strong effects of pesticides on young children and the unborn.

Many pesticides are known for their risk to cause cancer, change DNA, or for their harm to reproduction. For many pesticides there is good evidence for endocrine disrupting properties. The consequences of endocrine disruptor exposure (cancer, cognitive and sexual disorders, mental disorders) are rising in society and the contribution of pesticides to these effects is likely. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure. Pesticides are products designed to kill or repel undesired living organisms. Although each pesticide is meant to target a certain pest, most can have negative side effects on non-target species, including humans. When used in agriculture, they often contaminate the air, water, soil, wildlife, and beneficial insects (like bees and predators of insect pests), soil micro-organisms, and they end up in our food too.

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## PESTICIDE SALES

In 2015 almost 400,000 tonnes of pesticides were sold in Europe, with the vast majority used in the agricultural sector.





*"Pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a global threat to the entire ecological system upon which food production depends. Excessive use and misuse of pesticides result in contamination of surrounding soil and water sources, causing loss of biodiversity, destroying beneficial insect populations that act as natural enemies of pests and reducing the nutritional value of food."*

UN Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food  
24 January 2017

*"Despite considerable progress in reducing the discharge of pollutants into Europe's waters in recent decades, nutrients, pesticides, industrial chemicals, and household chemicals continue to affect the quality of surface, ground and marine waters. This threatens aquatic ecosystems and raises concern about potential human health impacts."*

European Environment Agency State and Outlook 2015  
Safeguarding people from environmental risks to health

## EUROPEAN UNION LAWS OF INTEREST TO PESTICIDES

- Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market
- Directive 2009/128/EC establishing a framework for sustainable use of pesticides;
- Regulation (EC) No. 1185/2009 concerning statistics on plant protection products;
- Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed;
- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for water policy;
- Directive 2009/90/EC on strategies against chemical pollution of surface waters
- Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards (also known as priority substances directive)
- Regulation (EC) 1305/2013 on Rural Development of the CAP
- Regulation (EC) 1306/2013 on Horizontal issues such as funding and controls of the CAP
- Regulation (EC) 1307/2013 on Direct payments for farmers of the CAP
  - ◊ The EU has been developing an EU Strategy on non-toxic environment
  - ◊ The EU's Green Capital award gives attention to pesticide use in towns

## PESTICIDE USE ACROSS EUROPE KEEPS ON BEING HIGH WHICH IS NOT ONLY DANGEROUS BUT ALSO NOT SMART:

In a Europe-wide study\* in eight West and East European countries, researchers found important negative effects of agricultural intensification on wild plant, carabid and bird species diversity and on the potential for biological pest control, as estimated from the number of aphids taken by predators. Of the 13 components of intensification which was measured, use of insecticides and fungicides had consistent negative effects on biodiversity.

In France for instance, despite reduction plans have been in place since 2008, these reductions today still remain unfulfilled. But on the other hand, farmers could actually reduce their pesticide use by 30-40% without reducing their yield.

The study from Geiger et al mentions a very important point: “insecticides also reduced the biological control potential”. Now it is time that farmers start managing rather than killing pests and applying integrated pest management which has been mandatory since January 2014 and which means that farmers should apply good agronomic practices, monitor the fields and if needed apply non chemicals alternatives, only applying pesticides as a last resort.

PAN Europe works to eliminate dependency on chemical pesticides and to support safe sustainable pest control methods. PAN Europe is committed to bringing about a substantial reduction in pesticide use throughout Europe. Reducing pesticides (including biocides) is critical for the improvement of public and workers' health, protection of the environment, the sustainability of future farming.

### PAN EUROPE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Encouraging citizens to make their voices heard
- Being involved in the EU decision making process
- Disseminating information and raising awareness on pesticide problems, regulations and non-chemical alternatives
- Publishing reports, fact-sheets, policy briefings, press releases, and blog contributions to inform EU regulators and the general public through our websites and social networks
- Disseminating articles through a public newsletter (4000 readers) inspiring not only
- policymakers but also citizens to become active themselves
- Amplifying the voices of those affected by pesticides
- Informing politicians on the updates of scientific research on the adverse effects of pesticides
- Organizing workshops and conferences
- Promoting dialogue for change among government, private sector and civil society stakeholders

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\* Geiger et al. 2010 “Persistent negative effects of pesticides on biodiversity and biological control potential on European farmland”



30 years of action for  
**#PesticideFreeEurope**

*"Pesticides in global supply chains are a major contributor to a global public health crisis, what pediatricians refer to as a 'silent pandemic'. The argument that current usage of hazardous pesticides is necessary to ensure food security is false. Safer alternatives are available to hazardous pesticides, including those used for European supply chains. Businesses must ensure their global supply chains transition to safer alternatives as quickly as possible in order to meet their responsibilities to respect the rights of children, workers, consumers and rural communities harmed by the ongoing use of hazardous pesticides."*

Baskut Tuncak

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and toxics

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*"I lived in the countryside for 70 years. I'm therefore not frightened by the slightly muddy roads or rugged terrain. However, for some time I have been fighting two cancers. The municipality of Fernelmont, where I reside, is surrounded by agricultural land and inundated by the spraying of pesticides. In addition to my own, I noticed an abnormally high case of cancers in my neighborhood: 20 of which 8 in the same street. For the past eight months, I have been carrying out various actions to challenge local authorities and the population on this subject so that preventive measures are put in place such as buffer zones. The local and regional authorities are launching investigations but have not been taking into account the actual figures for cancers and other pathologies."*

Marie-Thérèse Gillet, Belgium





# ENSURING RIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION

## WHAT WE DO TO ENSURE RIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED EU REGULATIONS

PAN Europe is involved in the EU's decision making process. We are members of a Standing Committee of the European Commission on Biocidal Products, of the advisory groups on the food chain and animal and plant health, and of the Civil Society Dialogue Groups of DG Agri. We are also members of a number of technical working groups of the European Commission, of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and finally in a number of international working groups within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

**There are major concerns with regard to EU's pesticide policy and implementation of EU regulations.** EU Directive 1107/2009 on authorisation of plant protection products and EU Directive 128/2009 on Sustainable Use of Pesticides, giving a worrying signal of lack of urgency in addressing the pesticides issue and, by extension, related issues of human health, water and biodiversity protection.

**PAN Europe is not alone in worrying about this lacking implementation:**



## OMBUDSMAN'S DECISION

PAN Europe has been deeply concerned about the EC's lacking implementation of EU Regulation 1107/2009 and consulted the European Ombudsman (complaint 12/2013/MDC). The verdict came out in June 2015 saying:

*the Ombudsman considered that the Commission, which has the duty to ensure that the active substances it approves are not harmful for human health, animal health, or the environment, may be too lenient in its practices and might not be taking sufficient account of the precautionary principle. The Ombudsman requested the Commission to submit to her a report covering a number of specific points within two years of her decision.*

In February 2016, The EU Ombudsman ordered DG SANTE to change their practices and apply the law strictly. DG SANTE's response addressing these issues is due in 2018.

PAN Europe has carried out a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Ombudsman recommendations. The conclusions were that in 91% of the pesticide approvals, DG Sante keeps authorising a pesticide despite of data gaps and incomplete risk assessment.

Documents and reports supporting our work on the above regulations can be found at  
[PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)

"The only way to make sure that EU laws regulating the use of chemical products like pesticides and herbicides are being upheld, is to remain vigilant and to create a counter lobby. As a politician I therefore consider it as my task to work together closely with civil society, independent scientists, farmers and citizens to make sure European regulations are respected and properly implemented. Their expertise will also be from great help in my work in the Special Committee that investigates the authorisation procedure of pesticides. Given the current toxic agricultural system and the short term profits for agro-chemical multinationals linked to that, we need to connect and work together. This is crucial for protecting the general interest, public health and biodiversity on the longer term. The knowledge and expertise of organisations like PAN are vital to be able to win battles ahead."

Bart Staes, MEP, Belgium





# PAN EUROPE'S HISTORY & ACTION ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE DIRECTIVE

PAN Europe started in 2002 a campaign on pesticide use reductions called PURE, which resulted in the EU Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUDP) approved in 2009.

**The SUDP provides a good policy framework to ensure a serious move towards society which is less dependent on pesticides. It calls for uptake of low impact management in both farming and public areas, even encouraging banning pesticides in public areas, with the purpose of reducing dependency on the use of pesticides (wording from the SUDP).**

## ACCORDING TO EU DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC SHALL MEMBER STATES:

- Set up quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables to reduce pesticides use' by developing national action plans by November 2012
- Take all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods, so that professional users of pesticides switch to practices and products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment among those available for the same pest problem as from 1 January 2014

As part of the SUDP Member States needed to develop so- called National Action Plans (NAPs) back in 2011 explaining how they were going to ensure implementation of the SUDP, by answering among others on how to fulfil above requirements. Unfortunately, these NAPs suggest little or limited ambition.

The European Commission – who is the watchdog of the EU laws - was meant to send a report to the European Parliament and the European Council on the implementation in November 2014 but this has been delayed. Finally in October 2017, the long-awaited report was published, with a three-year delay!

The report was presented and discussed in both the European Council and the European Parliament. The European Council welcomed the report and its finding and promised to engage further with the SUDP implementation in the future, and as part of that, among others, discussing establishment of harmonised risk indicators to finally start measuring compliance of the SUDP.

A reaction report was published by PAN Europe in November 2017 calling that it is now time to take serious action to recover the time lost.

PAN Europe, together with its members, sent open letters to national Ministers regarding the NAPs revisions.

Member States were meant to revise their NAPs in 2017. But without serious EU guidelines and monitoring we wonder if Member States will finally set quantitative targets, timelines and serious actions as foreseen in the SUDP. PAN Europe has called on MS to publish their revised National Action Plans (NAPs), as foreseen in the SUD in 2017-early 2018, this time identifying overall objectives, quantitative targets, timetables and measures on pesticide dependency reductions, giving special attention to improving water quality and the uptake of alternative techniques in the agricultural sector.

However, it is not only Member States that need to take actions, the European Commission also needs to change its focus. So far, the European Commission is focusing on SUDP, moving away from the unclear objectives of 'reduce risk and impacts' towards quantifiable objectives of reducing pesticide dependency.

The evaluation report from the European Commission clearly shows that one of the big hurdle in the implementation of the SUDP is the move towards IPM.

You can follow our work on SUDP on our website [PAN-Europe.info](https://pan-europe.info)

*"I have been hosting the IPM Symposium since 2012 and have always appreciated working with PAN Europe to reduce Europe's dependency on pesticides and to promote the uptake of low impact farming systems including the full implementation of Sustainable Use Directive on Pesticides. PAN Europe is an important partner to encourage EU policy changes towards ensuring that farmers apply integrated pest management based on solid agronomic practices to prevent pest build-up and on the use of non-chemical alternatives"*

**Pavel Poc, MEP, Czech Republic**

*"I support PAN Europe's work because I believe that the toxic chemicals commonly used in conventional agriculture threaten the safety of our food, our soil, our health, and our planet."*

**Christel Schaldemose, MEP, Denmark**

*"I am a member of PAN Europe because I'm deeply concerned about the havoc to the land and to living creatures caused by industrialised, chemically-based agriculture."*

**Margaret Schooling, Retired Teacher  
Individual Member of PAN Europe**

# AGRICULTURE

**The EU Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUDP) states that Member States shall take all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management (including integrated pest management-IPM) giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods, so that professional users of pesticides switch to practices and products with the lowest risk to human health and the environment among those available etc.**

Many aspects of IPM are not new and have been practiced by generations of farmers as part of routine crop husbandry. Practices such as crop rotation, use of resistant varieties, under sowing, intercropping, protection of pollinators (and some predators), physical and mechanical weed control, build up and enhancement of soil organic matter, soil structure and water retention capacity have been part of good farm practice for centuries and are key principles of IPM.

However, IPM will not be seriously taken up by farmer across Europe if its principles are not fully included into the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). PAN Europe and its members encourage one serious long term objective of the CAP: development and maintenance of low impact farming systems. The new CAP should include relevant actions on pesticides to reduce pesticide dependency and to encourage uptake of non-chemical alternatives.

Since 2015, Member States are obliged to inform farmers wishing to have information about alternatives to pesticides via the official Farm Advisory System (FAS), financed under the CAP second pillar. All Member States need to have FAS in place as a mandatory aspect of the CAP. The new CAP policy framework should ensure that the Farm Advisory Systems (FAS) become an effective independent advisory service across Europe, and are able to assist famers in using alternatives and ensure the transition to towards genuinely low impact farming systems. However much more needs to be done if EU really wants to encourage the needed transition towards uptake of low impact farming.

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## PAN EUROPE'S ACTIONS ON AGRICULTURE

PAN Europe advocates for pesticide dependency reductions, encouraging policy changes towards ensuring that farmers apply integrated pest management based on solid agronomic practices to prevent pest build-up and on the use of non-chemical alternatives, where needed. Farmers should apply pesticides only where absolutely needed and carefully select pesticides with the lowest harm.

Since 2012 PAN Europe has been annually organising joint symposiums in Brussels together with scientists united in International Organisation on Biological Control (IOBC) and companies producing alternatives to pesticides united in International Biocontrol Manufacturer Association (IBMA) in order to illustrate that IPM is a viable alternative to chemically-based agriculture:

You can find presentations and conclusions of earlier symposium here:  
[Pan-europe.info/events/annual-symposium](http://Pan-europe.info/events/annual-symposium)





*"It is abundantly clear that across all the sectors, as so clearly evidenced by the experiences of farmers in the arable, greenhouse, apple and grape and vine sectors outlined at these symposia, there is a determination, ability and interest to take IPM from its present largely aspirational position to being a real and meaningful system of farming beneficial to farmers, land, innovation and consumers. »*

Michael Hamell — Associate Professor  
of Agriculture University College Dublin  
The Chairman's conclusions of the 5th Symposium  
"Working with Nature in Grape Growing"

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

- 5th Annual Symposium on sustainable Use of Pesticides: IPM in Grape Growing was organised at the European Parliament. Local parallel events on IPM were organised in Italy, Portugal and Spain
- PAN Europe's reaction to the EC assessment report on the sustainable use of pesticides Directive
- Position Paper: Why the CAP is broken on pesticides?
- Database on Member States pesticide statistics
- Open Letters to national Agriculture Ministers calling on the serious implementation of SUD and revision of NAPs to ensure the serious uptake of IPM in the agricultural sector
- Open Letters to EU Presidencies and EC Agriculture Commissioner on the new CAP reform calling for actions to reduce pesticide dependency
- The exhibition IPM working with nature was exposed in four places in the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium
- PAN Europe prepared a factsheet for Member States proposing how to move towards pesticide free management of EFAs
- We started to build an IPM toolbox to inspire farm advisory services across Europe
- Farm visits showing IPM uptake in the apple and wine sector

# 5<sup>TH</sup> SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES: UNLOCKING THE IPM TRIANGLE-USING GREEN TOOLS 1<sup>ST</sup> FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABLE GRAPE GROWING



In 2017, 5th Annual IPM Symposium **IPM: WORKING WITH NATURE** in Grape Growing was organised at the European Parliament, hosted by the MEP Pavel Poc, the Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee. Its focus was on the development of IPM in the grape sector and it dealt with sustainable production systems and socio-economic, marketing and environmental benefits of green business in this sector. The Symposium featured updates from Luxembourg on its substantial IPM progress through rural development and more broadly from Italy and others on their journey towards IPM. The presentations are on our website.

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Since 2015, we increased joint effort to also include an exhibition **IPM: WORKING WITH NATURE** with 11 posters and an accompanying booklet explaining what IPM working with nature means in specific crops, and how the EU Directive of Sustainable Use of Pesticides can be implemented and fully integrated into the EU Common Agricultural Policy. This touring exhibition has so far been shown at various venues across Europe, including European Institutions in Brussels. The brochure 'IPM – working with nature' has been translated into French and reprinted in 6.000 copies in English and French and has continued to be distributed. If you wish to host the exhibition contact [Henriette@pan-europe.info](mailto:Henriette@pan-europe.info)

Building on the IPM exhibition "Working with Nature, we have put together short technical videos presenting the main posters, as well as testimonies of farmers (in arable crops as well as apple and grape production) on their experience with IPM. You can watch the movies on our campaign website [Low-impact-farming.info](http://Low-impact-farming.info)

PAN Europe has also been organising farms visits showing IPM uptake in different sectors. In 2017, a farm visit to Philippe Rothgerber's farm in Strasbourg was organised to show the application of IPM in the cultivation of apples. In 2018, we hope, among others, to host members of the newly established PEST Committee of the European Parliament-

Finally, PAN Europe is also working on the Common Agricultural Policy, aiming at integrating the SUDP fully into the CAP, and as part of that making serious pesticide use reductions one of the success indicators.

For more information on this matter,  
see [Low-impact-farming.info/cap-eu-policies](http://Low-impact-farming.info/cap-eu-policies)



BERTRAND OMON CHAMBRE D'AGRICULTURE DE L'EURE

8 CÉRÉALISERS ET 3 POLYCUltEURS ÉLEVEURS

**50% PESTICIDE USE  
REDUCTION IS POSSIBLE!**

PAN Europe launched a video series of inspiring stories of conventional French farmers who have seriously reduced pesticide use through integrated agriculture. In these interviews, eight conventional farmers across France tell how integrated pest management has helped them to reduce pesticide use by 50% while staying economically viable. Watch the videos on [low-impact-farming.info/local-ipm-systems](http://low-impact-farming.info/local-ipm-systems)

*"Since 1989, in 63 nature reserves in Germany the total biomass of flying insects has decreased by more than 75 percent. This decrease has long been suspected but has turned out to be more severe than previously thought. The fact that the number of flying insects is decreasing at such a high rate in such a large area is an alarming discovery. What we must do right now is maintain the utmost caution and take immediate action. We need to do less of the things that we know have a negative impact, such as the use of pesticides and do more of the things that are profitable for insects, such as reinstall farmland borders full of flowers."*

Prof Dr Hans de Kroon, Radboud University,  
"More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying  
insect biomass in protected areas",  
Scientific Journal Plos One, 2017





# STOP GLYPHOSATE

**Glyphosate is one of Europe's most widely used pesticides, and its negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity are clearly documented. Expanding scientific evidence demonstrates that glyphosate is also a serious threat to human health.** In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans”. IARC has found sufficient evidence in laboratory animals, and limited evidence in humans, that glyphosate can cause cancer.

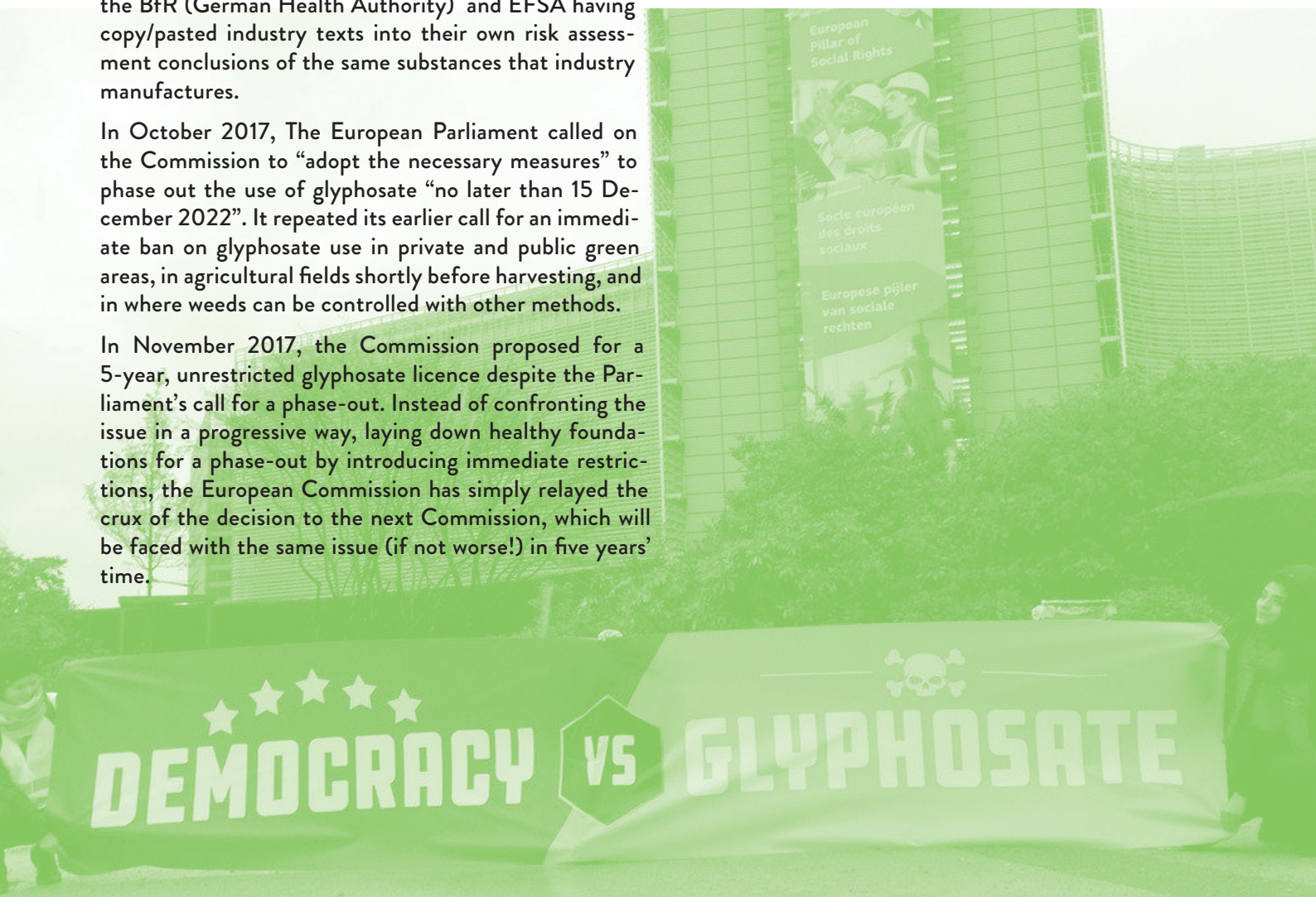
In Europe, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded in November 2015 – partly based on a review of unpublished industry-funded studies – that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that glyphosate can cause cancer. Based on the EFSA conclusion, in early 2016, the European Commission proposed renewing glyphosate's licence for 15 years. However, due to growing public outcry and concerns over safety, there was insufficient support by Member States and the Commission extended the approval period for 18 months (until December 2017).

Recent developments on the re-authorisation of glyphosate have revealed just how controversial the issue has become. An intrinsically rather technical and scientific issue, it has passed into the hands of politicians and policymakers, as millions of citizens across Europe have been voicing concerns not only about their health being at stake but also about EU's risk assessment procedures not appearing to be geared in the interest of consumer protection. This awareness around glyphosate has been compounded by the sheer speed at which the #StopGlyphosate European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) fulfilled the requirements to be officially deemed successful: having reached a million signatures in only six months from its launch- it has been the fastest-growing ECI ever!

Previous scepticism around placing faith in EU public risk assessment bodies has now expanded even further due to recent developments such as the Monsanto Papers and the news of the BfR (German Health Authority) and EFSA having copy/pasted industry texts into their own risk assessment conclusions of the same substances that industry manufactures.

In October 2017, The European Parliament called on the Commission to “adopt the necessary measures” to phase out the use of glyphosate “no later than 15 December 2022”. It repeated its earlier call for an immediate ban on glyphosate use in private and public green areas, in agricultural fields shortly before harvesting, and in where weeds can be controlled with other methods.

In November 2017, the Commission proposed for a 5-year, unrestricted glyphosate licence despite the Parliament's call for a phase-out. Instead of confronting the issue in a progressive way, laying down healthy foundations for a phase-out by introducing immediate restrictions, the European Commission has simply relayed the crux of the decision to the next Commission, which will be faced with the same issue (if not worse!) in five years' time.



*"In their assessments leading to the possible re-authorisation of Glyphosate, EU authorities failed to acknowledge its toxicity, using highly questionable arguments, and in clear violation of existing guidance documents. Political decision-makers should not play along with the pesticide industry in this scientifically questionable and, as it seems, interest-driven game.*

*Instead they should be objective in their assessment of glyphosate, ensure that the existing scientific evidence is evaluated correctly, and apply the precautionary principle to guarantee a high level of protection for humans and the environment. The health of 500 million EU citizens is at stake."*

Peter Clausing, Claire Robinson and Helmut Burtscher Schaden  
in the Report "Glyphosate and cancer: Authorities  
systematically breach regulations", 2017



## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

- European Citizens Initiative (ECI) #StopGlyphosate with a total of 1,320,517 signatures collected from all across Europe
- A joint report with Générations Futures on glyphosate dismissal in pesticide safety evaluation procedure
- A Report on Alternative methods to glyphosate and other herbicides in weed management
- A short documentary on alternatives to glyphosate and other herbicides in agriculture
- Public hearing at the European Parliament on #StopGlyphosate presenting ECI's demand: Setting EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for the use of pesticides

## MEPs HAVE SUBMITTED A LARGE NUMBER OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION RELATED TO GLYPHOSATE, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-001670/2017 by Nicola Caputo (S&D), Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu (S&D), Biljana Borzan (S&D), Momchil Nekov (S&D), Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL), Marc Tarabella (S&D), Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL), Lucy Anderson (S&D), Michela Giuffrida (S&D), Robert Rochefort (ALDE), Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL), Pavel Poc (S&D), Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL), José Inácio Faria (PPE), Emil Radev (PPE), Rolandas Paksas (EFDD), Tibor Szanyi (S&D), Kateřina Konečná (GUE/NGL), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Dubravka Šuica (PPE), Miroslav Poche (S&D), Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D), Davor Škrlec (Verts/ALE), Eleonora Forenza (GUE/NGL), Frédérique Ries (ALDE), Brando Benifei (S&D), Georgios Epitideios (NI), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Bronis Ropé (Verts/ALE), Elena Gentile (S&D) on glyphosate



## PAN EUROPE'S ACTIONS ON GLYPHOSATE

PAN Europe has been deeply engaged and active on the re-authorisation of glyphosate since the International Agency for Research on Cancer, an agency of the World Health Organisation, declared that Glyphosate, the most used herbicide in the world, is “a probable carcinogen.”

Following the European Food Safety Administration (EFSA) concluded that glyphosate poses no health risk for humans and the European Commission's move to reauthorize the use of Glyphosate for an additional 15 years period, PAN Europe has started working with partner organisations to fight against this re-authorization through the publication of many open letters, press statements, and information materials.

In January 2017, PAN Europe together with other civil society organisations, submitted a European Citizens Initiative to ban glyphosate and toxic pesticides from use in agriculture and public areas and open the path for a pesticide-free Europe. The **ECI #StopGlyphosate**, intending to collect 1,000,000 signatures from 7 Member States, has been the fastest-growing ECI ever, having reached a million signatures in only six months from its launch! The ECI to ban glyphosate (and reform the pesticides approval procedure and protect citizens and the environment from exposure to hazardous pesticides) was officially handed in to the European Commission on 3rd July 2017, with a total of 1,320,517 signatures having been collected from all across Europe.

In October 2017, PAN Europe published a study from the University of Wageningen showing extensive contamination levels from glyphosate and its metabolite AMPA in European soil.

At the conference “How to really feed the world? A fair food & agriculture policy” held by the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament on October 18th, PAN Europe presented its most recent report (commissioned by the Greens) on “Alternative methods to glyphosate and other herbicides in weed management”, as well as a short documentary on the same issue. The short documentary was produced through collaboration of PAN Europe with its members Generations Futures, PAN Germany, Ecologistas en Accion, PAN Italy and Quercus.

Furthermore, PAN Europe presented its policy recommendations on the reauthorisation of glyphosate the ECI coalition meeting with first Vice-President Timmermans & Health Commissioner Andriukaitis to discuss ECI and demand a ban on glyphosate.

Together with the **#StopGlyphosate ECI coalition**, PAN Europe participated in symbolic stunts protesting against reauthorisation and calling on EU institutions to stop colluding with pesticide manufacturers and urging for more democracy.

In November 2017, PAN Europe, together with Générations Futures, published a joint report on the unscientific dismissal of studies proving the negative effects of glyphosate from the pesticides evaluation process.

On November 20th, representatives of the #StopGlyphosate ECI coalition presented the ECI demands in a public hearing at the European Parliament where PAN presented the third ECI demand, namely, “Setting EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for the use of pesticides.”

On the 27th November, when Member States met finally to vote on the Commission's 5-year unrestricted reauthorisation proposal, PAN Europe, together with the ECI coalition, had staged a symbolic tug-of-war action event in Brussels to call on regulators to listen to people's demands to protect health and the environment, rather than to curry to agricultural producers' favour by reauthorizing the substance unrestrictedly.





*"Food and farming have always been central to our existence, but over the past few decades, we nearly surrendered our right to ensure that agricultural production is as safe as possible for humans and our environment. No factor threatens the safety of our food and our environment more than synthetic pesticides—substances the industry ironically calls "crop protection." In documenting the story of the "pesticide-free town" of Mals in the Italian Alps, I found both the staff and the written materials of PAN-EU to be critical resources for my book research. Even as an American, I am a supporting member of PAN-EU and am reliant upon their cutting-edge research and policy initiatives. As an international leader in pesticide reform, PAN-EU's work provides me with information and policy approaches that can be utilized in the United States and beyond."*

Philip Ackerman-Leist, Individual Member  
Professor of Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems  
Green Mountain College, Poultney, Vermont, USA  
Author of *A Precautionary Tale: How One Small Town  
Banned Pesticides, Preserved Its Food Heritage,  
and Inspired a Movement*

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

- The pesticide free town campaign website was translated into Italian and Croatian and is available now in seven languages: [pesticide-free-towns.info](http://pesticide-free-towns.info)
  - The pesticide free campaign was expanded in 2016 with a pledge for mayors across Europe to commit to become pesticide free and join European Network of Pesticide Free Towns
  - Map of Europe collecting maps of pesticide free towns in Belgium, Denmark, France and the Netherlands identifying a number of pioneering towns
  - Collecting good practices and disseminating via our website – exchange with green local services especially from Belgium, France and Denmark
  - Questionnaires to EU Green Capitals on pesticide use
  - Best practice policy experiences from across Europe and around the world on pesticide-free towns via social media
  - Overview of national campaigns of NGOs working on pesticides free towns
  - Exhibition during "Pesticide Action Week" on Brussels Pure-City Without Pesticides
  - Raising awareness on the issue of intensive pesticide use in UNESCO World Heritage and protection of biodiversity in the world heritage sites
- The first policy changes as a result of PAN Europe's work started to occur:** The EU green capital awards recognise that being pesticide-free is also a topic of environmental importance.

# PESTICIDE FREE TOWNS

Pesticides are not only used in farms to produce food but also in the towns and cities in which we all live. They are used in green areas of schools, playgrounds, kindergartens, parks, private gardens, sport fields, sidewalks and cemeteries. Workers that apply pesticides must wear protective clothing, yet immediately after application, kids and families come play, picnic, and lounge freely on the grass where they come in direct contact with the pesticides.

**There is no need for the use of pesticides in towns. This has been repeatedly proven by the many towns and cities that are already pesticide free.**

PAN Europe's evaluation of the level of implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUDP) from 2013 (available on [PAN-Europe.info](http://PAN-Europe.info)) demonstrates that Member States' lack of effort to reduce pesticides must sometimes be compensated by decisions at town-level. This elimination of pesticides at the town level is a critical step in the development of more sustainable and green towns.

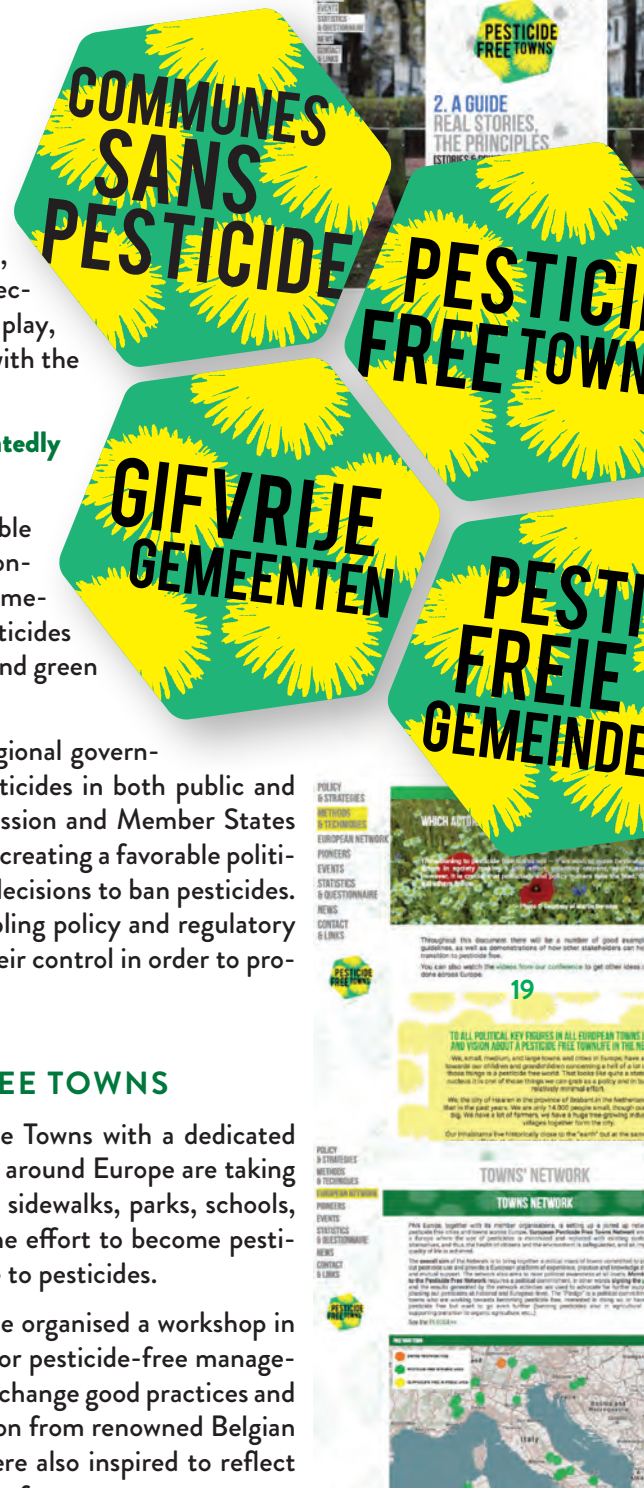
PAN Europe calls on the European Commission, Member States and regional governments to support cities and towns in their efforts to ban the use of pesticides in both public and private areas including those used for agriculture. The European Commission and Member States should encourage cities' and towns' moves towards going pesticide-free by creating a favorable political context, by using the SUD, in which towns and cities are able to take decisions to ban pesticides. PAN Europe also calls on the European Commission to put in place enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for cities and towns to ban pesticide use in the areas under their control in order to protect biodiversity and citizens' health.

## PAN EUROPE'S ACTIONS ON PESTICIDE FREE TOWNS

Since 2015, Pan Europe has been running a campaign on Pesticide Free Towns with a dedicated website in 7 languages. More and more member states and municipalities around Europe are taking actions to ban the use of pesticides in public areas including cemeteries, sidewalks, parks, schools, kindergartens, sport fields, railways, just to name a few. Towns making the effort to become pesticide-free represents a significant step in reducing our dangerous exposure to pesticides.

In order to facilitate the transition to become pesticide-free, PAN Europe organised a workshop in October 2017 focusing on training of gardeners and communal workers for pesticide-free management of green urban spaces. The workshop allowed the municipalities to exchange good practices and common challenges in management without pesticides. With the exhibition from renowned Belgian architect Luc Schuiten "Brussels -The Vegetal City", the participants were also inspired to reflect upon a green vision for towns including the next steps after being pesticide free.

PAN Europe started working towards a joined European Network of Pesticide Free Towns and launched a pledge targeting at mayors across Europe (available on [Pesticide-free-towns.info/towns-network](http://Pesticide-free-towns.info/towns-network)). The activities initially focused on Italy, 15 towns have already joined the network and are committed to becoming pesticide free! The network continues expanding, welcoming towns from other Member States.



*"Today, around 20 years on, our pesticide-free approach has become Ghent's universal policy. The results are clear to see, all around the city. The streets are obviously greener as we are no longer using chemical weedkillers: poppies, buttercups and daisies are peppering the edges of our pavements. Until recently, it was very difficult for bees to survive in our city. Now, Ghent has several beekeepers, who have found the city to be a healthy environment for keeping bees."*

Daniel Termont, Mayor of Ghent

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

- Save the Bees Coalition mobilizing European and national NGOs towards a full ban: [www.beecoalition.eu](http://www.beecoalition.eu)
- Publication of a report on derogations from Member States to the neonicotinoid ban
- Informing EU regulators, stakeholders and general public about scientific findings and EU policy developments through regular press releases, policy briefings and social media
- PAN Europe was selected as a stakeholder to take part in the EU Bee Partnership on data sharing- an initiative hosted by the European Food Safety Authority
- Supported European Commission's restrictions on neonicotinoids before the European Court of Justice

## MEPs ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT PROTECTION OF BEES TO PUSH THE DEBATE FORWARD, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-004314/2017 by Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL) on ban on neonicotinoid-based pesticides
- Written question E-007618/2017 by Pascal Arimont (PPE) on review of scientific evidence regarding neonicotinoids
- Written question E-003241/2017 by Eva Kaili (S&D) on insecticides and bees
- Written question E-001056/2017 by Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), Jozo Radoš (ALDE) on dangers of the extinction of bees
- Written question E-003021/2017 by Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL) on bees endangerment poses a threat to global food production



# SAVE THE BEES

Since their approval at EU-level in the 90's, neonicotinoids have been largely proven to harm honey bees, other pollinators and the environment as a whole. Several studies also indicate toxicity on human health.

After years of battle from beekeepers and environmental NGOs -including PAN Europe, the European Commission restricted the use of 3 highly bee-toxic neonicotinoids in 2013. Imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam were then banned on bee-attractive crops.



Since then, evidence showed that even application of neonicotinoids on non-bee-attractive crops led to exposure of bees as these substances are highly persistent in the environment. Based on industry data, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published in November 2016 new reports highlighting that there is no safe use for bees for these 3 insecticides.

In March 2017, the European Commission has to ban all outdoor uses of neonicotinoids. However, dragging their feet to support DG Sante's proposal a new EFSA report on new scientific evidence on bees. The voting by the Member States was postponed to 2018 until the publication of the EFSA report confirming the high risk posed by these substances on bees, which left no room for further inaction.



sent a proposal to Member States ever, Member States had been proposal and several asked to wait for the toxicity of neonicotinoids to be postponed to 2018 until the publication of these substances on bees, which left no

## PAN EUROPE'S ACTIONS TO SAVE THE BEES

PAN Europe has been campaigning to obtain a full ban on neonicotinoids as the scientific evidence has been there: there is no safe use of neonicotinoids!

The battle to save the bees and other pollinators was pursued before the European Court of Justice. In 2013, PAN Europe has intervened in the court case initiated before the European Court of Justice by Bayer and Syngenta against the European Commission, contesting the legality of the restrictions on neonicotinoids.

In February 2017, PAN Europe, together with beekeeper and NGO partners, participated in the hearing of the court case before the European Court of Justice opposing Bayer and Syngenta to the European Commission on the 2013 restrictions on neonicotinoids. PAN Europe provided expertise in the court case to support the European Commission and to convince the judges that the ban is legal. PAN Europe also had to rebut the many misleading arguments provided by the pesticide companies to the judges. We consider our intervention was very useful to support the Commission's partial ban.



PAN Europe has also gathered its members and allies to mobilize citizens across Europe to put pressure on our decision makers in order to obtain a full ban on neonicotinoids. A Save The Bees Coalition ([www.beecoalition.eu](http://www.beecoalition.eu)) was launched and coordinated by PAN Europe to increase pressure on national governments who were dragging their feet to support the Commission's proposal for a full ban. Save the Bees Coalition has very quickly gathered more than 120 NGOs across the EU to achieve an EU ban on neonicotinoids and a better protection of pollinators against pesticides in general.

PAN Europe has been supporting the development by DG Environment of a Pollinators initiative which is a reaction to the alarming evidence of pollinators and insects' collapse throughout the EU.

As a stakeholder at different platforms and initiatives, PAN Europe has been the NGO Watchdog on regulatory efforts aiming to save the bees and other pollinators.

*"We are organic farmers since 27 years, one of the first organic farmers in the village. We work without using any plant protection chemicals, not even the ones allowed in organic farming. For us, this is the only agriculture for the future. We made a lot of bad experiences with pesticides, mainly drift onto our organic fields. The drift even went into our houses. We are worried and fed up with this. Our 5 grand-children need a voice, and we as the grand-parents want to speak out. The apple-industry and their lobbyist made it impossible for us to produce organic herbs. Only by building a close tunnel, we are able to produce organic products, but under bad working conditions (temperature up to 45 degrees), cost for the tunnel (exceeded Euro 200.000), also the plants experience bad conditions. Under these conditions, it is not easy to be an organic farmers. Policy makers ignore our complaints, leave us alone and protect those farmers who harm us. We are individual members of PAN-Europe because we can together towards an another agriculture and make a difference!"*

*Annemarie and Urban Gluderer  
Organic Herb Farmers, Italy*

# ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS (EDCs)

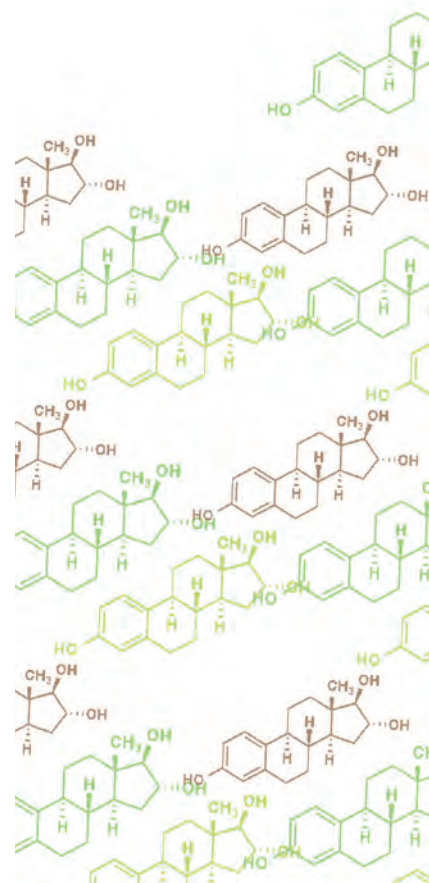
**Pesticides that are endocrine disruptors (EDs or EDCs for Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals) are currently being sprayed on European fields and public green areas and may be the cause of a wide range of endocrine-related diseases that have been observed in farmers, their children, residents, bystanders and consumers. They also contribute to the environmental and ecosystem degradation we witness today.**

After the failure of the European Commission to present scientific criteria to identify EDCs by 2013 to protect human and environmental health from these chemicals- as it was requested in the Pesticide and Biocide Regulations- PAN Europe has been following closely the actions of Commission's Health and Food Safety Directorate General, DG SANTE, who is now in charge for the "regulatory" definition of EDCs.

In June 2016, 2.5 years passed its deadline, the EU Commission proposed a set of 'scandalous' criteria to identify endocrine disrupting pesticides and biocides that in effect will fail to ban any such chemicals, leaving Europeans unprotected. Not only the proposal required a high level of proof to identify a pesticide as an EDC, but in total disrespected with the EU law, the Commission modified the legal text, so that even when a pesticide is identified as an EDC it could still be used. Due to the collaborative action from civil society, including PAN Europe, and scientific organisations, the scientific criteria for endocrine disruptors were modified 6 times in total since the first draft in June 2016, and were improved substantially.

In July 2017, after years of delays, Member States representatives voted in favour of the European Commission's proposal on scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors for plant protection products. While this outcome was vastly praised by the European Commission as "a great success", civil society groups, including PAN Europe however expressed regret toward the decision. According to them, such criteria would "fail to provide an adequate level of protection of public health and the environment" as they were too lax and require too high a burden of proof to effectively deem a chemical has endocrine disrupting properties, and had even introduced a new exceptions to permit the use of certain endocrine disrupting pesticides for non-target organisms.

In October 2017, due to the work of civil society organizations, scientific groups and policy makers, the European Parliament blocked the criteria, with a plenary vote. Following the European Parliament's objection, Member States finally "compromised" and in December 2017 voted in favour of the Commission's draft proposal setting out the criteria to identify pesticides that are endocrine disruptors, which excluded the exception but kept the high burden of proof. The criteria in their current form are still unfit for regulation. PAN Europe has been working together with civil society organisations and Member States on the Guidance document of EFSA/ECHA on the implementation of these criteria helping to achieve the highest level of protection possible.

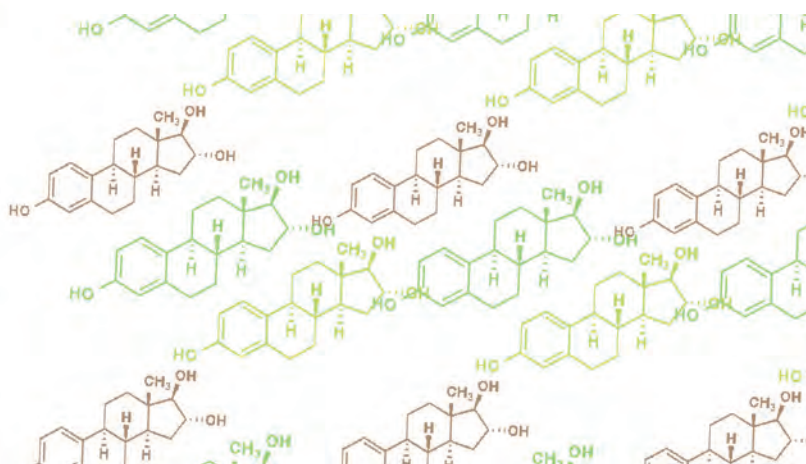


## EU DEBATE ON COMBINATION TOXICITY

Up to this point, combination toxicity has still not been addressed and citizens in Europe are not protected against this very serious risk--especially children and the unborn. We wish to change this as soon as possible and urge the Commission to implement the rules and force EU-institutes such as EFSA to stop delaying the implementation.

Regulation 396/2005/EC on maximum residue levels in or on food and feed of plant and animal origins specifies harmful effects of pesticide mixtures on health and the environment. Even though methods of assessment have been available for more than 10 years, EFSA continues to postpone taking actions on combination toxicity. Methods are analysed by EFSA and research programs to undermine the provision in the Regulation. As solid methods to assess combination toxicity have been available for many years, we will promote this fact as a significant input to the general debate on chemical mixtures.

We will focus our advocacy work on using a deterministic approach and the introduction of extra safety factors since current methodologies can only cover a small part (the known) of combination toxicity.



*"Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation are pleased to fund PAN Europe's essential work - it is clear that a wholesale change towards low impact methods of farming is needed and PAN Europe is facilitating that change through educating policy-makers on viable alternatives to damaging pesticides. "*

Christine Oliver

Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

- Publishing a report on ED pesticides in European Food
- Position paper on the Commission's EDC (Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals) criteria proposal
- Raising awareness on ED pesticides in food via producing information materials including infographics which were distributed in social media
- Creating a database on ED pesticides in European waters and co-publishing a report on EDCs in Spanish rivers
- Sending open letters of our concerns to Health Commissioner Andriukaitis and Commission President Juncker on the EDC criteria proposal
- Open Letters to the Member States' representatives, Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and EU Ministers on the EDC the criteria and urging for modification to make them hazard-based
- The "EU tour on EDCs" project and website, with fact sheets, political, legal and scientific documents related to EDCs and a map with the events in relation to EDCs organised by PAN take place across Europe

## MEPs HAVE SUBMITTED WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON EDCS, INCLUDING:

- Written question E-001193/2017 by Nicola Caputo (S&D), Louis Michel (ALDE), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE), Martin Häusling (Verts/ALE), Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL), Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Bas Eickhout (Verts/ALE), Nessa Childers (S&D), Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL), Gilles Pargneaux (S&D), Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE), Carolina Punset (ALDE), Tibor Szanyi (S&D), Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu (S&D), Robert Rochefort (ALDE), José Inácio Faria (PPE), Eric Andrieu (S&D), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL), Brando Benifei (S&D), Momchil Nekov (S&D), Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D), Paul Brannen (S&D), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Laurențiu Rebega (ENF) on endocrine disrupters



## PAN EUROPE'S ACTIONS ON EDCS

In 2017, PAN Europe had a significant influence to protect, as much as possible, the hazard-based policy for endocrine disruptors. We continued to follow the ongoing behind closed doors discussions of the Standing Committee of Plant, Animal, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) of Commission and Member States where the decisions on the criteria to identify endocrine disrupting pesticides (EDPs) and biocides are taken. Together with our members, scientists, ally organisations and the EDC free coalition, we raised public and political awareness in Brussels and Member States on the human health and environmental concerns behind the draft criteria. We published press releases, produced position papers on the criteria, we sent letters to the SCoPAFF members, Members of the European Parliament, the COM and EU Ministers and put pressure on regulators to modify the criteria and make them hazard-based.

In 2017, PAN Europe was nominated an EFSA stakeholder expert in the ad-hoc ECHA/EFSA Endocrine Disruption Consultation Group, able to provide comments on the Guidance Document (GD) on the implementation of the ED criteria for pesticide/biocide regulations drafted by ECHA/EFSA/JRC following the COM's mandate. PAN worked closely with ECHA's NGO stakeholder experts, as well as with the Endocrine Society to provide feedback and was invited to present its position at Commission's meeting in 2018.

Since 2016, PAN Europe, together with its member organisations and allies, has been running the "EU tour on EDCs" project, in order to reach out to Member States to raise awareness on



**working towards an  
#EDC free future**

the on the health effects of EDCs among policy makers prompting them to take action. All the information on the events together with related documents, factsheets and material is collected on a website : [edc-eu-tour.info](http://edc-eu-tour.info). In 2017, PAN Europe gave presentations on the topic of EDCs at the Belgian Senate, Spanish Office of the EU Parliament , Press conference on Agriculture in Greece and University Autonomous of Barcelona, among others. All the information on the events together with related documents, factsheets and material is collected on a website: [Edc-eu-tour.info](http://Edc-eu-tour.info)

PAN Europe's study of October 2017 on Endocrine Disrupting Pesticides (EDPs) in European Food found not only that more than one third of European food is contaminated with EDPs. All report can be found on [pan-europe.info/resources/reports](http://pan-europe.info/resources/reports)

PAN Europe did a scientific literature review to create a database on ED pesticides (EDPs) in EU freshwater ecosystems, and produced a summary table on the adverse effects on key non-target organisms. Using the database, PAN Europe wrote a report together with Spanish NGO Ecologistas en Accion on EDPs in Spanish waters.

*"We have a Christmas tree farm surrounded by huge agricultural fields. Some of these fields are over 250 acres in size. We grow mature trees next to young trees and mix a range of different types and varieties. Our plantation is surrounded by hedges with rich flora and fauna. Since about ten years ago we have observed intensification in the use of pesticides on the surrounding fields, associated with plough-less tillage and non-compliance of balanced crop rotation. We have informed our neighbour farmers (conventional farmers) about the damage to our fruits, vegetables and Christmas trees caused by the use of pesticides. We have also documented the damage. The bird population is dwindling, and bees are now very rare."*

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*Johannes Meisser, Near Schwerin, Germany*

*"Progress towards reducing pesticide use is (painfully) slow. Great patience and perseverance are required. PAN members have shown themselves to be resilient, resourceful and resolute. The organisation has built up a huge bank of scientific knowledge, and an excellent network for sending the message where it matters, at international, national, local and individual levels. We are proud and grateful to join PAN Europe."*

*Vivian Grisogono, Eco Hvar/Croatia  
PAN Europe new member in 2017*

# COURT CASES

## PAN EUROPE HAS A LONG HISTORY IN BRINGING “PESTICIDE ISSUES” TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

In February 2016, following a case filed by PAN Europe in 2013 to the European Ombudsman (complaint 12/2013/MDC), Ombudsman published its decision accusing Commission's Health Directorate DG SANTE for “maladministration” one of the reason being giving authorization to pesticide active substances while important safety data are missing known as “confirmatory data procedure”. Another reason was the lack of important data related to environmental safety.

PAN Europe won a legal case at the European Court of Justice (Case T-51/15) against the EU Commission (DG Trade) in September 2016, for refusing to provide access to documents with information on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). The Luxembourg court rejected EU Commission's overused argument of “an ongoing policy” to deny the right for the public to access documents of Community institutions and bodies. This was one of the main arguments of the Commission's Trade Directorate, for refusing to provide full access to 36 out of the 55 documents PAN Europe had requested on EDCs. According to the Court, these are “general, vague and imprecise claims” and miss the overall objective of the Reg. 1367/2006 to create “an even closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizens”. The “ongoing policy” argument is being used increasingly not only by EU Commission but by other institutions like Food Authority EFSA, to deny the public access to specific documents. This undermines the European law, for a united Europe, where European citizens have public access to information, participate in the decision-making process and have access to justice in environmental matters.

In November 2016, Pesticide Action Network Europe and Greenpeace Nederland finally won the case against the European Commission (C-673/13 P, in appeal), which had started in 2011, for refusing to provide the documents related to the assessment of glyphosate (toxicity testing of the active ingredient and the formulas of the tested products). The European Court of Justice confirmed that this is “information which relates to emissions into the environment” and should be provided by the Commission. According to the EU's access to documents laws, public authorities, including the EU institutions, cannot disclose information that would harm the commercial interests of a third party unless there is an overriding public interest in doing so. **According to the court's decision if the information relates to emissions into the environment, there is an irrebuttable presumption that disclosure is in the public interest.**



*"I am an individual member of PAN Europe because I believe that pesticides pose an existential threat to bio-diversity across Europe. The exposure of humans and animals to pesticides is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Being a PAN Europe member allows me to stay updated and active in the effort to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides."*

**Dr. Nicolas J.Vereecken**  
**Professor Agroecology & Pollination Group**  
**Individual Member of PAN Europe**

## PAN EUROPE'S OUTREACH

In 2017, we continued improving our outreach and further developed our communication tools and visual materials.

- We restructured and updated our website [Pan-europe.info](http://Pan-europe.info)
- We increased the number of newsletter subscribers to more than 3000
- We increased the number of Facebook "likes" to 3000 and a ranging of 4.9 out of 5 possible stars
- We increased the number of followers on Twitter to 2000 followers @EuropePAN
- We sent out 42 press releases and were quoted more than 50 times by the press both local and European press including the Guardian, Le Monde, New York Times, Politico and Ends Europe
- 4 seasonal newsletters including a special edition on Pesticide Action Week
- 5 dedicated campaign websites ([Pesticide-free-towns.info](http://Pesticide-free-towns.info); [Low-impact-farming.info](http://Low-impact-farming.info); [Beecoalition.eu](http://Beecoalition.eu); [Disruptingfood.info](http://Disruptingfood.info); [Edc-eu-tour.info](http://Edc-eu-tour.info))
- Increased visibility and knowledge of PAN Europe work topics among general public via daily posts on social media

# VAT AND PESTICIDE TAXATION

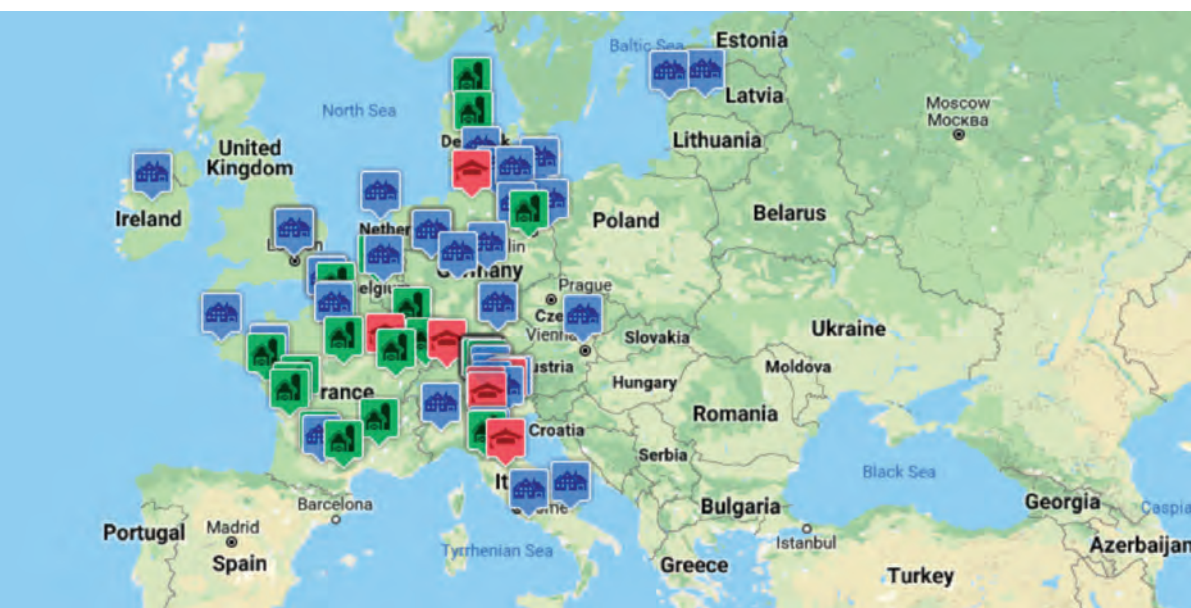
The 2006 EU thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides says **taxation should be investigated further in order to establish a 'banded' taxation system as a proxy for true externalities in the future.**

The recital of the Sustainable Use Directive of Pesticides highlights that 'economic instruments can play a crucial role in the achievement of objectives relating to the sustainable use of pesticides'. The use of such instruments at the appropriate level should therefore be encouraged while stressing that individual Member States can decide on their use without prejudice to the applicability of the State aid rules.'

Certain Member States within the European Union are still offering farmers a lower VAT level for the use of pesticides, despite their increased cost to public health and environment. Lower VAT rates for pesticides represent an environmentally harmful indirect subsidy.

PAN Europe has a database on best practice in pesticide taxation, providing an overview of different taxation schemes: See [Pan-europe.info/issues/pesticide-taxation](http://Pan-europe.info/issues/pesticide-taxation)

## VOICES OF PESTICIDES



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Worldwide, citizens are more and more concerned about the impact of pesticides on their health and the environment. PAN Europe has a campaign aiming at spreading the message of those who have a story to tell: the Voices of Pesticides, gathering national initiatives and as well as adding new stories on from other parts of Europe. A dedicated campaign webpage collects these "voices" and shares these stories allowing them be heard and actively promote the significant reduction of use of pesticides in all areas.

Testimonies are available on [Pan-europe.info/campaigns/voices-pesticides](http://Pan-europe.info/campaigns/voices-pesticides)

## HOW IS PAN EUROPE FINANCED

Pan-Europe gratefully acknowledges support from the Life programme of the European Commission Directorate-General for Environment, and also from the following donors: to work on chemicals from The European Environment and Health Initiative -EEHI- and Marisla Foundation; pollinators from Triodos and MAVA; on agriculture and food from Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, Partagonia and Lea nature Foundation; for campaign on towns from Bruxelles Environnement – IBGE, among others

## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH AND FOR OUR MEMBERS

PAN Europe continuously develops strategies, identifies ways and undertakes actions to strengthen the organisational structure to allow PAN Europe to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, to increase its visibility, and improve members' engagement and expand its network

## NEW PAN EUROPE MEMBERS IN 2017

EDEN Environmental Center – Tirana, Albania  
Foundation for Environment and Agriculture – Nikopol, Bulgaria  
Eco Hvar – Croatia  
Ecodesign Competence Centre – Riga, Latvia  
ToxicFree Suisse – Lausanne/Zurich, Switzerland  
Bugday Association – Istanbul, Turkey

For our full list of members see our website: [pan-europe.info/about-us/member-organisations](http://pan-europe.info/about-us/member-organisations)

## PAN EUROPE BOARD

François Veillerette, President. Générations Futures – France  
Nick Mole – PAN UK  
Koen Hertoge – PAN Italy  
Lusine Nalbandyan, AWHHE – Armenia  
Andrzej Nowakowski, Individual Board Member – Belgium  
Gergely Simon, Individual Board Member – Hungary



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# PAN EUROPE OUTLOOK 2018-2019

**Sustainable Use of  
Pesticides Directive**

**Integrated Pest  
Management**

**EU Common  
Agricultural  
Policy (CAP)**

**Alternatives to  
Glyphosate**

**AGRICULTURE**

**Pollinators**

**Birds & Bugs**

**Protecting Ground  
& Surface Water**

**BIODIVERSITY**

**Best Practice**

**& Lessons Learned  
Nature-based Cities**

**Urban Biodiversity**

**Grassroots Actions**

**PESTICIDE  
FREE TOWNS**

**HUMAN HEALTH**

**Examining  
Pesticide Toxicity**

**Endocrine  
Disrupting  
Chemicals  
(EDCs)**

**Combination  
Toxicity**

**Protecting  
Bystanders &  
Vulnerable  
Groups**

**CONTINUING  
THE WORK TOWARDS  
A PESTICIDE FREE  
EUROPE**

**TRANSPARENCY  
& PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION**

**Legal Actions  
Pesticide Risk  
Assessment**

**GREENING  
TAXATION**

**Pesticide  
Taxation**

**COMMUNICATIONS  
& AWARENESS  
RAISING**

**Newsletters**

**Short Films**

**Publications**

**Exhibitions**






**Events**

**Media Relations  
& Social Media**

## PAN EUROPE'S CAMPAIGNS



KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR ISSUES & CAMPAIGNS:

 PAN EUROPE  @EUROPEPAN  PAN.EUROPE  
 PANEUROPEINFO YOU TUBE CHANNEL  
 NEWSLETTER SIGN UP AT PAN-EUROPE.INFO

BECOME A PAN-EUROPE MEMBER:

[PAN-EUROPE.INFO/INDIVIDUAL-MEMBERSHIPS](https://pan-europe.info/individual-memberships)

PAN-EUROPE IS A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION:

[PAN-EUROPE.INFO/SUPPORT-US](https://pan-europe.info/support-us)

[PAN-EUROPE.INFO](https://pan-europe.info)



Pesticide  
Action  
Network  
Europe