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EU Parliament report reveals the shortfalls of the current pesticide authorization system

Members of the European Parliament highlighted today the need to improve the European Pesticide Authorisation system. The effectiveness of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 to protect human, animal and environmental health from pesticides requires changes in the whole pesticide approval procedure: from the industry's application to get a pesticide active substance authorised, to the sale and use of the product containing the substance in EU Member States.

Today, the Special Committee of the European Parliament set up to investigate the European Union's authorisation procedure for pesticides ([PEST committee](#))¹, voted in favour on [its draft report](#) pointing out the shortfalls of the procedure and presenting recommendations.

Following 8 months of discussions and parliamentary hearings, PAN Europe welcomes the report which clearly reveals that the reform of the pesticide risk assessment procedure in Europe is urgent.

The report, voted by a great majority of members of the PEST Committee addresses major shortfalls in the pesticide authorisation system, such as the involvement of the pesticide industry in the toxicity assessment of a pesticide substance or product, the misuse of the academic scientific literature, the lack of sensitive testing for neurological and other serious diseases, the lack of post-market monitoring data to assess the real impact of pesticides, the data gaps in the dossiers and the abuse of the derogations.

"After almost a year of investigations the PEST Committee has succeeded to deliver a report and highlight the main shortfalls of our pesticide authorisation system, which allows the use of tons of harmful chemicals on our fields, even when scientific evidence from public research shows they are not safe" states Angeliki Lysimachou, Science Policy Officer of PAN Europe.

"The studies reporting diseases in humans, farm animals, the environment and its ecosystems due to pesticide exposure are just too many to ignore" adds Angeliki and continues *"today the PEST Committee confirmed with its report that our current authorisation system needs a thorough reform to reach the objectives of EU law. Being supported by a great majority of Members of the PEST Committee paves the way to implement the necessary changes in our system"*.

The report aims to address the concerns expressed from the European Citizens. In 2017, the European Citizens Initiative of more than 1 million citizens called the European Commission to ban glyphosate, reform the current authorisation system and set clear targets for a pesticide free future. Recently, the European coalition [Citizens for Science in pesticide Regulation](#), composed of more than 120 European NGOs and institutions, sent [an open letter](#) to EU regulators in Member States to call for a reform the authorisation procedure of pesticides in EU and increase the level of protection. *"The current model of pesticide risk assessment is not working and must be reformed if people and the environment are to be protected from the harm caused by these chemicals"* is the message of the coalition.

Contact: PAN Europe, Angeliki Lysimachou, +32 2318 6255; +32 496 392930 angeliki@pan-europe.info

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe is a network of NGOs working to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides and have them replaced with ecologically sound alternatives. We work to eliminate dependency on chemical pesticides and to support safe sustainable pest control methods. Our network brings together 40 consumer, public health, and environmental organisations, and women's groups from across Europe.



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¹The Committee, was set up as a response to the concerns raised by the [European Citizens' Initiative to ban glyphosate](#), the Monsanto Papers (internal Monsanto documents disclosed in cancer litigation in the USA revealing how industry subverts science) and the discrepancy of the hazard classification assessment between the European institutions and the International Research centre on Cancer.

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