



7 April 2015

Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
European Commission
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EU response to WHO cancer determination of glyphosate

Dear Commissioner Andriukaitis,

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the World Health Organisation's cancer agency, has recently classified the pesticide glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" (Class 2A). In our view, this designation significantly alters the risk profile associated with the various uses of glyphosate.

Glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide in Europe and, together with its major metabolite AMPA, has been found in soils, waters, and in items of food. At present, however, there is no systematic surveillance monitoring in place to determine human exposure and any subsequent impacts upon human health.

In view of the new IARC designation we ask you to mandate the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to include the IARC decision in its ongoing peer-review of the safety assessment of glyphosate, alongside other independent peer-reviewed studies and all other data of relevance.

Moreover, we ask you to suspend, as a precautionary measure, the EU approval of glyphosate for uses from which the potential for public and worker exposure is particularly high.

This includes:

- a) amateur/non-professional use in gardens and domestic environments where users are less likely to wear personal protective equipment;
- b) use by municipal authorities, together with railway and highway networks where there is an elevated risk of exposure of workers and of the public;
- c) specialised agricultural uses, specifically the desiccation of crops which may lead to the appearance of elevated residues of glyphosate and/or its metabolites in crops and food products;
- d) Aerial spraying where there is a risk of incidental public exposure.

We believe that such precautionary action represents a proportionate immediate response to the new IARC designation.

Ultimately, the ongoing reassessment may indicate that further restrictions are necessary for other uses of glyphosate in agricultural production in order to protect agricultural workers, people in rural areas and consumers.

Given the very serious implications of the new IARC designation of glyphosate, we strongly believe that withdrawing authorisation for the uses outlined above is necessary in order to safeguard a high level of health protection of European citizens.

In view of the public interest in this matter we will make this letter available on our websites.

Yours sincerely,

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