

Brussels, 21 May 2026

Mr Darragh O'Brien
Minister for Climate, Energy and the
Environment, Minister for Transport

Ms Jennifer Carroll MacNeill
Minister for Health

Mr Martin Heydon
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the
Marine

Subject: Urgent citizen call to reject the Omnibus proposal, protect public health, biodiversity and support the transition away from hazardous pesticides

Dear Ministers of Health, Environment and Agriculture,

Many of your constituents are very concerned by the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus proposal to weaken the EU pesticide law. Citizens across Europe are worried about the impacts of pesticides on human health, water and environment. Thousands of citizens have written to you individually. To avoid overwhelming your inboxes, we are sharing below a first digest of their messages.

Among the concerns repeatedly raised:

- “As an Irish citizen, I'm deeply concerned about the pesticide omnibus project prioritizing profits over people and planet.”
- “As a gardener in Wicklow growing my own food organically, I'm deeply concerned about the use of toxic pesticides in Irish agriculture. I urge you to ban the most toxic pesticides, such as PFAS, neonicotinoids, glyphosate, hormone disruptors, and neurotoxins, which threaten not only human health but also the health of our environment and biodiversity. Growing organically without these harmful chemicals, my garden is a haven for birds, bees and other insects while also providing for my family. This needs to become the norm not the exception. Sustainable farming can be achieved without resorting to dangerous chemicals, e.g crop rotation, polyculture, biological and mechanical solutions, small-scale mixed farms for local markets, and using chemicals only as a last resort.”

- “I am deeply concerned about the health of our children and the environment. Study after study has shown that certain pesticides can cause damage to humans and wreak havoc on the natural environment, yet the EU seems hell-bent on deregulating such products. This is just wrong and I would implore decision-makers to tighten, not loosen, regulation in this area and impose a ban on the worst offending products.”
- “Pesticides are poison to ourselves and nature.”
- “Please keep people's health and the environment a priority as they are both interlinked; a healthy environment and healthy non-toxic food means people's health is better; to reduce cancer and other related illnesses. How can it be sensible to pour poison on our food? it is simply crazy and unethical and needs to be stopped.”

These are eloquent summaries of the concerns shared by some 10.000 others. We would be happy to provide the full set of comments, or wider selection upon request. We would like to show them that you take their concerns seriously and are eagerly awaiting your reply to inform them.

We kindly ask you to reply to this letter and inform us of your position regarding the proposed Omnibus changes to EU pesticide legislation. Citizens across Europe are expecting reassurance that their concerns about health, biodiversity and environmental protection are being taken seriously, and we would be grateful to share your response with them.

On behalf of the concerned citizens,

Dr. Martin Dermine, Executive Director
Pesticide Action Network Europe