



Brussels, 3 July 2026

**Att: Members of the European Parliament**

**Subject: Urgent parliamentary action needed: European Commission abandons commitment to end exports of EU-banned pesticides**

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing to inform you of a deeply concerning development regarding one of the European Commission's flagship commitments and to urge you to take action.

According to the Commission's recent statements, it no longer intends to present the long-promised legislative proposal to end the production and export of pesticides banned for use within the European Union. Instead, the Commission appears to be considering only administrative measures aimed at improving the functioning of the Rotterdam Convention and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedures, while allowing toxic exports to continue.

This represents a complete reversal of a clear commitment made by the Commission in 2020 within its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS)<sup>1</sup>.

Over the past six years, the Commission has carried out extensive preparatory work, including public consultations, commissioned studies and an impact assessment. Hundreds of organisations worldwide, Member States, UN Special Rapporteurs, Members of the European Parliament and European citizens have repeatedly called on the Commission to end this unethical double standard. Despite this, no legislative proposal has been published, and the impact assessment, paid by the tax payers, remains unavailable to the public.

The alternative measures proposed by the Commission do not address the problem it committed to solve. They do not prevent the production or export of pesticides that the EU itself considers too hazardous for use within its own territory. They do not eliminate the environmental pollution in the EU as a consequence of the production, nor they prevent exposure of EU citizens to those harmful substances. They do not end the double standard that exposes farmers, workers, local communities and ecosystems in third countries to substances deemed unacceptable within Europe. They do not address the uneven level playing field for EU farmers, nor do they resolve concerns about imported food produced using these pesticides and burdened with their residues.<sup>2,3</sup>

At the same time, available evidence contradicts the arguments put forward against an export ban. Independent analysis has concluded that such a ban would neither significantly harm employment nor the European economy<sup>4</sup>, while legal analysis indicates that WTO rules do not prevent the EU from introducing such legislation<sup>5</sup>. A Joint Statement<sup>6</sup>, signed in 2025 by more than 600 organisations worldwide also called on the EU to end the export of EU-banned pesticides. Yet six years later, no legislative proposal has been published and the impact assessment remains unavailable to the public.

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<sup>1</sup> [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability \(CSS\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [May 2026: Banned Pesticides on the Menu](#)

<sup>3</sup> [September 2024: Double Standard. Double Risk](#)

<sup>4</sup> [EU pesticides export ban: What could be the consequences?](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Legal opinion on a Chemical Export Ban and compatibility with World Trade Organisation Rules](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Joint Statement signed by 600+ worldwide organisations](#)

The measures currently being preferred by the Commission do not solve the underlying problem. They merely improve the administrative management. Therefore, although the Commission might give the impression it addresses human rights concerns, this is not the case as none of these actions resolve the ongoing, big-scale, violations of human rights.

The consequences of maintaining this status quo are significant. In 2024 alone, EU Member States authorised the export of nearly 122,000 tonnes of pesticides, prohibited on their own farms due to risks to human health and the environment. This represents a substantial increase compared with the approximately 81,000 tonnes exported in 2018.<sup>7</sup>

The Commission's current approach reflects the arguments of the agrochemical industry while ignoring the substantial evidence documenting impacts on human health, biodiversity, ecosystems, environmental justice and human rights. Such an imbalance means that economic interests are being prioritised over the protection of people and the environment. This will only create reputational damage for the EU.

We therefore kindly ask you, as Members of the European Parliament, to exercise your democratic scrutiny role and urge the European Commission to:

- publicly explain why it has abandoned its 2020 commitment to end the export of EU-banned pesticides;
- disclose the evidence and decision-making process that led to this policy reversal;
- immediately publish the completed impact assessment and all supporting studies commissioned with public funds;
- explain why these documents have not been released despite years of preparatory work and the Commission's Better Regulation commitments to transparency and evidence-based policymaking;
- clarify whether the Commission intends to disregard the results of its own public consultations and the repeated calls from the European Parliament, Member States, civil society organisations and citizens;
- explain how the proposed administrative measures under the Rotterdam Convention would achieve the objective that the Commission itself acknowledged requires ending exports of EU-banned pesticides;
- clarify how this decision is compatible with the EU's commitments on human rights, environmental protection, policy coherence for development and the European Green Deal;
- indicate whether the Commission conducted an assessment of the reputational, environmental and human rights consequences of abandoning the legislative proposal;

We encourage you to make full use of the parliamentary instruments at your disposal, including written questions, requests for debates, committee hearings and resolutions, to ensure full transparency and democratic accountability regarding this decision, and to press the commission to put an end to this toxic double standard.

We would be grateful for your support on this important matter.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the End Toxic Pesticide Trade Coalition,

Angeliki Lysimachou  
Head of Science and Policy  
Pesticide Action Network Europe

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<sup>7</sup> [September 2025: Public Eye/Unearthed report on the export of hazardous pesticides](#)