EU hazard classification of glyphosate

Is glyphosate safe for health and the environment? A PAN-Europe event organised in the European Parliament

18 September 2023

Paul Ryan — Head of Unit, Hazard I (Classification and Labelling)
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The glyphosate review process

Two step process

→ First step by ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC): Standardised assessment of the chemical properties according to the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation

- Hazard = intrinsic hazardous properties

May 2022

→ Second step by EFSA: using the outcome of step one and combine it with use information to determine the safety aspects

- Risk = hazard combined with exposure

Committee for Risk Assessment RAC

The Committee for Risk Assessment

→ Independent

- Statutory Committee established under the REACH Regulation
- Members nominated EU/EEA Member States - as independent scientists, appointed by ECHA's Management Board
- Robust system to ensure independence and avoid conflicts of interest
- Currently 41 members and 5 co-opted members + stakeholders

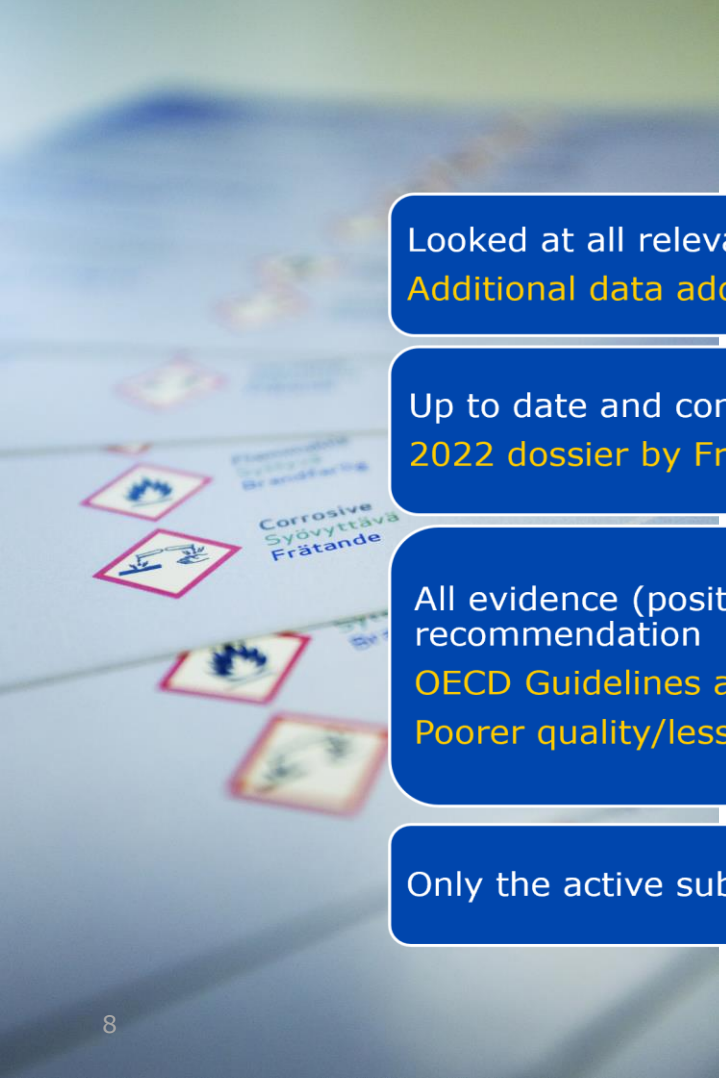
The Committee for Risk Assessment

→ Expert Scientists and Experienced

- Over 550 opinions adopted since 2008
- Assess available information against the CLP criteria
- Deliver balanced independent opinions
- 145 substances have received an opinion with “severe” classifications as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (C,M or R category 1)
  - Including many pesticides

The scientific evaluation of glyphosate and its outcome

CLP evaluation of glyphosate



Looked at all relevant data, published and unpublished

Additional data added during ECHA process

Up to date and complete assessment, the second in five years

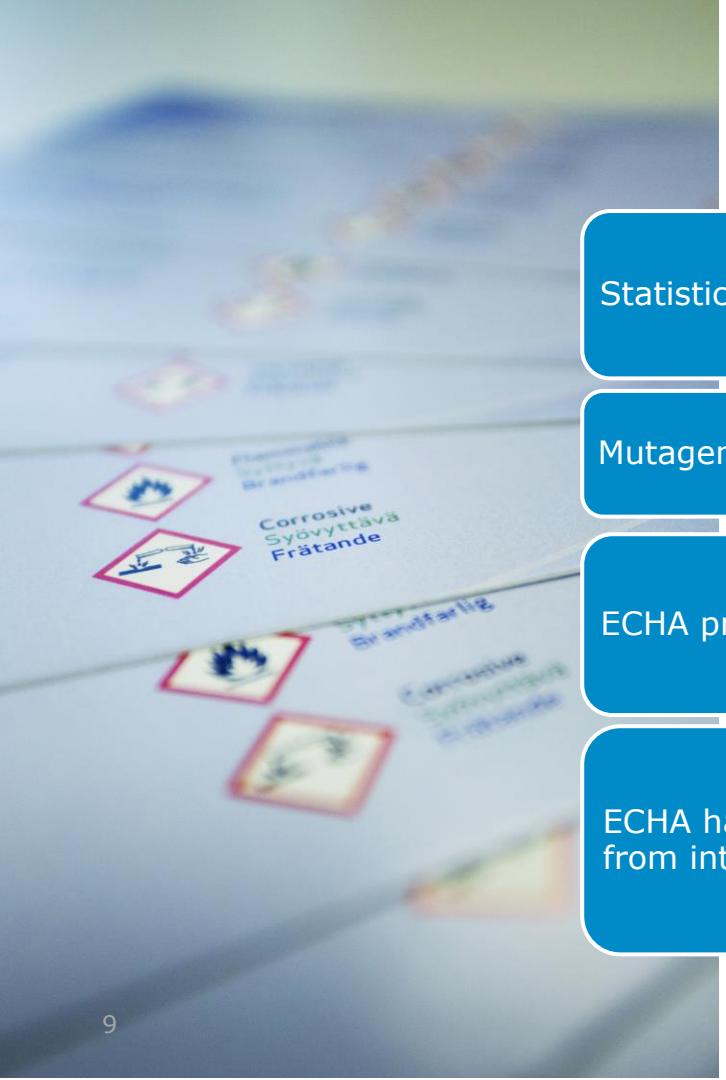
2022 dossier by France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden

All evidence (positive and negative) is weighed to come to a conclusion and recommendation

OECD Guidelines and GLP given preference

Poorer quality/less relevant studies not dismissed but given a lesser weighting

Only the active substance is evaluated under CLP



Carcinogenicity

- Statistical analysis of tumour incidences thoroughly examined
- Mutagenicity and oxidative stress (relevance of) assessed by RAC
- ECHA process allowed for all arguments to be considered by RAC
- ECHA has openly communicated on the opinion and responded to questions from interested parties (see ECHA website)

Concluding

Key points

- Assessment done according to European law, followed international guidelines and standards
- Included all available relevant data, including the latest studies
- Assessment by a large group of experts from Member States' scientific institutes and academic institutions
- Outcome was a clear consensus among RAC members
- Option to classify as 'suspected human carcinogen' was not used
- Oxidative stress assessed by RAC

Thank you

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