



Conclusions of the conference

« Pesticides free! Belgian cities and towns on the move »

8 June 2015

As a conclusion to the presentations and discussions which took place today, we can say that « Yes, but... » is now something from the past. The speakers presented very interesting situations in several countries and in various Belgian regions, which show that it is not anymore possible to react with a « Yes, but... » because the infrastructure has changed and there are biological control solutions. The fact that biocontrol is so strong now is also something very positive.

Communication is essential. It was repeated again and again during the conference. The multiple actors must communicate, inform about the fact that there are solutions for almost any situation or that they are being developed. The health risks caused by pesticides are sometimes a difficult theme for NGOs to communicate about. It is maybe more our role, at PAN Europe to try and help to improve communication on this topic by providing some statistical data.

It is really motivating to see that things are moving at all levels: political, administrative and local.

Very motivated people change things day after day but there is still a lot of work. The quality of the people who work in these administrations allows changing everything.

We have also seen examples of field actions by NGOs, which can help to change things. As an NGO we see that there is willingness for change although it is not easy and it takes a lot of time.

PAN-Europe will continue to work on this topic, among others in Belgium. We have sent a questionnaire to municipalities at the same time as the invitation to this conference and we will contact the municipalities again to get their replies.

We thank all the sponsors of the conference, as well as the volunteers, without whom this conference could not have taken place.

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