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In this seasonal newsletter, we bring to you updates from the forefront of pesticide action and news from our members across Europe. Stay tuned for breaking pesticide news on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) & [Instagram](#), and find out how to [get involved](#) & [support us!](#)

The PAN Europe Team

Proposal for a new EU Pesticide Regulation

Russian aggression used by the agribusiness lobby and news on SUR and national letters



On June 22nd the European Commission presented the long-awaited proposal for new a pesticide regulation. This goes together with the new Nature Restoration law. Both were delayed because the agribusiness lobby used the Russian invasion of Ukraine to slow down and weaken these very urgent steps.

The Russian aggression does not jeopardise EU food security, but it creates a surge in prices mainly created by food speculators. It also shows the vulnerability of industrial farming to fossil fuels and external inputs such as feed, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. These products lead to the destruction of biodiversity and to climate change. Now it is even more important to move towards sustainable food security, based on healthy soils, clean water, crop rotation and maximize biodiversity. This asks for a drastic reduction of pesticides as soon as possible.

[The proposal by the EU Commission](#) is an important first step, but it is not ambitious enough. You will find an analysis on our website soon. The next steps are discussions in the European Parliament and in the Council (i.e. EU member states). Coalitions of national organisations have already urged their parliament and ministers to support a strong and ambitious pesticide reduction. We ask organisations in all EU countries to be actively involved in this discussion at national level. In the meantime, the official Save Bees and Farmers citizens initiative is about to enter its official phase, see below.

News from the team

New Campaign: Ban the Toxic 12

They are too dangerous for our health or the environment. However, their presence in food has increased dramatically over the last ten years as is shown in our "[Forbidden Fruit](#)" report launched on May 23rd. The findings reveal a failure by Member States to enforce the laws at the expense of consumer protection. The increased exposure also runs in the opposite direction to the pesticide reduction target of the Farm to Fork Strategy. PAN Europe and member organisations call for a

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[#BanToxic12 Campaign](#) together with member organisations in different countries.

Since 2011, EU Member States have been legally required to phase out 54 pesticides identified as particularly harmful.

Save Bees and Farmers almost validated



The validation of the [Save Bees and Farmers](#) signatures is finally on track. PAN Europe is the official contact and we have received the official results from 25 out of 27 EU countries. With an average validity rate of 89%, we are heading for the necessary 1 million. Enough countries reached their threshold, but we're not there yet. Germany (587,399 signatures) still needs to be validated.

However, it looks good, very good! Once the initiative is officially validated there will be a formal meeting with the EU Commission, followed by a hearing in the EU Parliament. This will take place in the autumn. More news soon.

Florence joins the Pesticide-Free Town Network



We welcome the beautiful city of Florence to the European Network of Pesticide-Free Cities. Municipalities, large and small, ban the use of pesticides in public areas.

"By joining the European Pesticide-Free Cities Network we want to work on raising awareness also in private green areas in order to ban the use of pesticides here too," notes Cecilia del Re, Councillor for the Environment in Florence.

Together with Lisbon, Tallinn, Zagreb, Bolzano and many more, the capital of Tuscany decided to ban the use of pesticides in public areas: sports fields, playgrounds, gardens, pavements and cemeteries. Promoting good practices and actively involving citizens. Giving good examples for all cities in Europe. Interested? [See our Pesticide-Free Towns campaign.](#)

And have a look at "[Leuven as a Pesticide-Free Town](#)" in a recent webinar by PAN Europe and Buġday Association for Supporting Ecological Living. Deputy Mayor David Dessers of Leuven (Belgium) pictured the town's journey towards ecological and sustainable town maintenance and weed management. Joop Spijker from Wageningen University presented insights on pesticide-free weed management from various angles.

EU Commission refuses to protect children and the unborn against neurotoxic pesticides



The EU Commission refuses to take action to protect children and the unborn against neurotoxic pesticides. [PAN Europe asked](#), in a letter, for this action, highlighting recent scientific findings on the alarming risk posed by neonicotinoid insecticides to children's brain development.

The European Commission answered that no action would be taken to assess the necessity to further restrict these toxic pesticides in the EU. PAN Europe demands swift action to protect children's health and their safe development.

Sulfoxaflor will be banned but wild bees are still at risk



The European Commission confirmed in April that [Sulfoxaflor insecticide will soon be banned](#) in the EU. Only 7 years after its first approval, this neonicotinoid-like substance will be off the market due to concerns about its toxicity to bees. Martin Dermine, Environment and Health Policy Officer at PAN Europe said: "We applaud the decision from the European Commission to move forward with banning Sulfoxaflor for outdoor uses. We value the fact that the European Commission has stood firm despite the important pressures it received to not ban this substance!".

However, substances such as Cypermethrin are still approved and the bee guidance document allows [unacceptable damage](#) to both wild bees and honey bees by the use of pesticides.

PAN goes to court and we can use your support



Sometimes the law is on our side. But not automatically, we will have to fight for our rights. We will use this opportunity more often. Recently the EU finally opened its Courts for environmental challenges to NGOs and individuals to question any EU decision concerning environmental law.

So [we challenged the legitimacy of the reapproval](#) of the highly problematic insecticide and bee-killer Cypermethrin.

PAN Europe has also launched a case on the illegal presence on the market of non-evaluated pesticides. Dimoxystrobin is classified as suspected carcinogenic and toxic to reproduction, as well as persistent in the environment. DG Sante keeps prolonging it, for 6 years now, against the rules, and despite conclusions published in 2017 by the 'Rapporteur Member State' that this substance should not be re-approved". [Read more here](#).

If useful we also assist court cases at national level. Following the derogations provided to farmers by the Belgian state for the use of neonicotinoids on sugar beets, PAN Europe, its member Nature & Progrès Belgique and a Belgian beekeeper have taken the Belgian state to Court. The Belgian administrative court agreed to send 5 prejudicial questions to the Court of Justice of the EU. This might lead to tremendous changes in the years to come to stop the huge amounts of derogations provided by EU member states to farmers for the use of toxic pesticides. A hearing took place in Luxembourg in March and we're looking forward to the conclusions of the court. [Read more here](#).

To support these important legal actions we will start a crowdfunding action. [Please donate with this link and mention "support legal action"](#).

A fierce glyphosate battle coming up



In December 2022 the EU authorisation of glyphosate expires. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) announced a delay of 1 year in the evaluation of it. This could lead to another year of its widespread use in the EU. We object to any renewal of the authorisation.

[Gergely Simon](#), Chemical Officer at PAN Europe: "EFSA received enough evidence to quickly produce a statement on the unacceptable risk posed to people's health and the environment. Independent science is clear: glyphosate is genotoxic, a probable carcinogen and has unacceptable negative effects on the environment".

However, on May 30th the EU chemical agency ECHA announced that glyphosate is not carcinogenic in their opinion. Again they contrast the opinion of the World Cancer Institute IARC and neglect many studies that conclude otherwise. The announcement has received fierce criticism from scientists and NGOs, more reactions will follow once it is published.

A fierce glyphosate battle is ahead of us and PAN Europe. With the support of other NGOs, we managed to get limited funding to hire a

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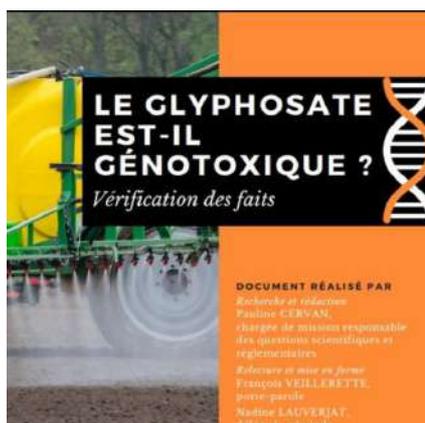
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Highlights from Members

Ecologistas en Acción: Toxic Rivers in Spain

A recent report from Ecologistas en Acción shows the high presence of chemical pollutants in Spanish water.

Analyses of chemical pollutants carried out by official bodies in 2019 show that all river basins are contaminated with toxic substances whether in their surface water (rivers, reservoirs, lakes) or in groundwater. The toxic substances detected have multiple origins and characteristics, going from substances from the petrochemical industry to pesticides for agricultural use, as well as endocrine disruptors. The data highlights shortcomings in the European and Spanish legislation, there is a lack of quality standards for pollutants in use, instead, substances that are no longer authorised and have not been in use for years are measured. The data received also highlights shortcomings in management: state and regional administrations should act in coordination to monitor and reduce pollution at its source, for example by preventing contamination from agricultural pesticides. [Read the report here](#) (Spanish).

Générations Futures: Glyphosate carcinogenicity

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), 2018, classified glyphosate as a "probable human carcinogen". The ECHA and the 4 rapporteur member states (France, Netherlands, Sweden and Hungary) conclude that glyphosate is not genotoxic. How can these differences in opinion be explained? This is what Générations Futures wanted to understand.

The controversy is emblematic of the flaws of a system based exclusively on studies that meet OECD and industry standards. Many independent academic studies show that glyphosate causes genotoxic and mutagenic effects, but they are ignored by the authorities. [Read the report here](#) (French).

The biased approach by ECHA and the national institutions was also heavily criticised by [a publication from HEAL](#) in June 2022.

PAN Netherlands: Are pesticides necessary to feed the world?

The pesticide industry has been campaigning for years claiming 'we can only feed the world with the help of pesticides and genetically modified crops. This is a myth, as the recent United Nations report on the right to food clearly states.

However, the myth is repeated so often at successive industry-organised meetings that many in the Brussels community are inclined to believe it. Industry propaganda implies that Europe can help feed the world. While this was never Europe's intention, it is also an illusion: with only 3.7% of the world's arable land and massive imports of soybeans for animal feed. And the industrial products are mainly exported to other (rich) countries and will not feed the world's poor.

The PAN publication [Are pesticides necessary to feed the world?](#) (Dutch) answers this question with many supporting facts.

How the agro-chemistry has killed the insects - Comment l'agrochimie a tué les insectes. [This documentary is worth seeing](#). It is in French, but also available with German voiceover or subtitles in English, Spanish, Italian and Polish (click on the middle button below on the right and select).

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Our work to eliminate the use of toxic pesticides is more important than ever before! With your support, we can change policies and practices for the better protection of our health and environment.

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