

Dear reader,

Beautiful spring, but sadly enough still also the start of the spraying season. A recent study in South Tyrol shows how pesticides do not remain in the valley, they go up the mountains. Pesticides are also very much present in "bee-friendly" plants, turning them into deadly traps. Germany has recognised Parkinson's as an occupational disease for farmers. In the meantime, the European Union is trying to weaken the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on top of extending twenty pesticide permits. Finally, Dutch citizens want the most toxic pesticides to be banned.

The PAN Europe Team

## News from the team



### Pesticides do not remain in the valley, they go up the mountains

The airborne spread of pesticides is seriously underestimated. A new study in Italy shows that pesticides spread in the apple-growing region of South Tyrol do not remain in the orchards. They spread throughout the valley and end up high up in the mountains. They not only affect the area of cultivation, but damage whole ecosystems. [Read more.](#)

### Glyphosate's "Hidden" Report - missing test on genotoxicity

A 'hidden' report by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) sheds light on the genotoxic risk of glyphosate. It was published after the newspaper Le Monde started a court case. The report highlights that an important genotoxicity test is missing. And this test did not take place since. This is worrying and problematic, for part of the experts in the report express a warning of a genotoxic effect induced by glyphosate formulations. [Read more.](#)



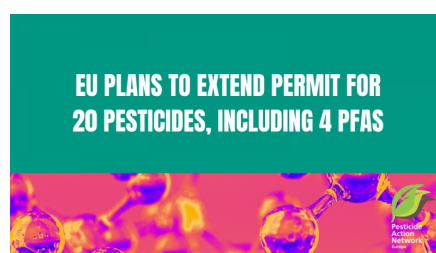
### Commission proposal to abolish environmental requirements for agricultural subsidies puts farmers behind and makes problems worse

The European Commission proposed to the member states the weakening of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The environmental requirements for farmers to receive subsidies would be drastically reduced. This goes directly against scientific recommendations and societal demands. Instead of offering farmers long-term economic sustainability, the Commission makes farming even more environmentally unsustainable. [Read more.](#)



### EU plans to extend permits for 20 pesticides, including 4 PFAS

The EU is planning to continue its toxic legacy. Despite the known dangers to health and the environment, no less than 20 pesticides are to receive an extended permit. Four of them are PFAS. This is one of the proposed decisions in this week's meeting of the pesticides committee of the Commission and Member States 'SCoPAFF'. PAN Europe provided expert advice on different points of the agenda to the country representatives. [Read more.](#)



### Letter to EU Council: we need better protection of our water

In a letter to the Member States in the EU Council we and many other organisations express our concerns about the attempt to weaken the ambition of the European Commission's proposal amending the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Groundwater Directive (GWD), and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD). [Read the letter here.](#)

## Highlights from Members



### Pesticide Action Week

The end of March the 19th Pesticide Action Week took place. It is an annual event created in 2005 by Générations Futures. It promotes more environmentally and human health-friendly agricultural practices. The dates coincide with the first days of spring and also mark the beginning of pesticide spraying in agricultural fields. Most events were in France, some in other countries. Maybe you will add an event for the 2025 edition? [Read more.](#)

### Bee-friendly plants? Or a deadly trap? New Swedish study and Dutch photo project

Spring feels like a new start to life. The emerging sun shines on the fresh green leaves and flowers. Buzzing bees and chirping birds enchant the air and warm the heart. Many people visit nurseries and garden centres to buy new 'Bee Friendly' plants for their garden or balcony. But they might be in for a very nasty surprise, for a poisoned truth lurks in the shadows. A new Swedish scientific publication by our member SNCC shows that many of these plants contain pesticides that are very harmful to bees. And at the same time, a Dutch nature photographer discovered that 9 out of 10 insects fed on the plants she bought simply died. [Read more.](#)



### Germany officially recognises Parkinson's as a pesticide-related occupational disease

"Parkinson's syndrome caused by pesticides" has been recognised as a new occupational disease by the relevant expert advisory board. PAN Germany welcomes this decision. More than ten years after Parkinson's disease was recognised in France as an occupational disease of farmers caused by pesticides, those affected can now finally claim recognition and assistance in Germany. PAN Germany would like to encourage those affected to submit applications for recognition. [Read more \(on the PAN Germany website\).](#)

### Dutch citizens want the 30 most toxic pesticides banned

A new opinion poll shows that 70% of Dutch people think that pesticide use should be reduced by 50% by 2030. The same survey shows that 73% of Dutch people think the 30 most toxic pesticides should be banned by 2030. Also, 65% think the government should better protect local residents from pesticides by establishing spray-free buffer zones of at least 100 metres from homes. [Read more.](#)



## Please support our work!

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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