

## September 2015

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What message would you like to send to politicians about the use of pesticides?

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#### Link to Towns' website

## Editorial

With this newsletter, PAN-Europe aims to inform its members and supporters about its on-going actions towards a reduced use of pesticides in the EU. During the last months, we organized a conference about recent developments at towns level to become 0 pesticides. We also held an exhibition on Integrated Pest Management in the European Commission, which is still on-going. To spread information about alternative methods to protect plants, we published an explanatory brochure on the exhibition. End of June, we held an event in the European Parliament on Endocrine disrupting chemicals. We have also launched a tool to help victims of pesticides report their experience.

## Belgium moving towards pesticide free towns



On 8 June, Pan-Europe, together with several Belgian NGOs, organised a conference on the use of pesticides in public space: « Belgium moving towards pesticide free towns ». The participants heard presentations by representatives from the three Belgian regions and also experiences from other countries, where 0 pesticide in public space is gaining ground.

In France, for example, the city of Rennes has been free of pesticides since 2000 and new legal provisions have been adopted to prohibit the use of pesticides with health risks in public places.

More recently legal provisions to restrict the use of pesticides in agricultural areas close to public areas have also been adopted. In the Netherlands the legislation will soon be amended to include prohibitions to use pesticides in specific situations. In Italy, the town of Malles Venosta organised a referendum and as a result became pesticide free.

The conference was also the opportunity to debate on important topics such as: how to manage invasive plants? How to inform the public about the toxicity of pesticides and convince them that it is necessary to change their habits? What techniques can be used to keep cemeteries clean using alternatives to herbicides?

As a conclusion it was clear that there needs to be more communication between the various actors who are linked to public areas maintenance.

To report a story, click here

Link to the roundtable here

More information on EDCs here

Would you wish to host the exhibition, please contact:

[Henriette@pan-europe.info](mailto:Henriette@pan-europe.info)

Download the brochure here

More on SUD and IPM here

More info about this Newsletter: [contact@pan-europe.info](mailto:contact@pan-europe.info)

## Voice of pesticides in Europe

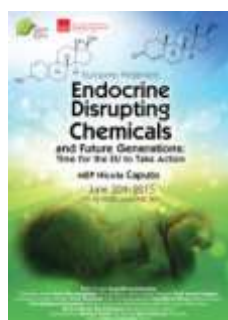
In March Pesticide Action Network Europe, with its members and other NGOs, launched a new tool for victims to report pesticide poisoning. It is not just in towns that people are raising concerns about pesticide use. Everybody living in the countryside close to agricultural areas is highly likely to be exposed to a toxic mixture of pesticides year after year.

**We are encouraging people to share their stories so that the world knows. We want the victims to be heard. These stories will assist us in stopping or at least reducing, the use of pesticides in all areas.**

**PAN-Europe and its partners need your help to spread the voice about this new tool and add new stories to the list:**

<http://www.pan-europe.info/campaigns/voices-pesticides-around-europe>

## Endocrine Disruptors event in the EP



On 30 June Pesticide Action Network Europe organized a roundtable meeting, together with Member of the European Parliament Nicola Caputo (S&D). It aimed to bring science back to the forefront of the Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC) debate in the European Parliament, and to discuss the issue of EDCs with regulatory actors involved and other stakeholders.

Currently there are still no agreed set of reliable criteria to define endocrine disruptors and regulation is urgently needed to protect people and the environment.

## IPM - working with nature



Together with the International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC-WPRS) and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers (IBMA), PAN-Europe organized an exhibition to illustrate what Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means and how the Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUD) can be implemented.

Seven posters detail examples on how to control insect pests and fungal diseases without using chemical pesticides.

These posters are completed with more general ones on IPM principles, legal requirements under the SUD and measures available under the Common Agricultural Policy for Member States to support their farmers in fully implementing IPM. An explanatory brochure has been published and is available both electronically and in printed format.

The exhibition was already shown at the Directorates General for Agriculture and for Health of the European Commission. It will be soon hosted at the Directorate General for Environment.



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