

Dear reader,

The highest EU court made two groundbreaking rulings in our long-running case on the way countries assess pesticides. This is a very important legal success against dangerous pesticides! We also appealed against a decision by the lower court on the approval of bee killer cypermethrin. This new case is the first time ever a pesticide authorisation has been directly challenged at this level. And a new EFSA report reveals that 41% of European fruit and vegetables contain pesticide residues. With our partners, we found that stopping the export of EU-banned pesticides would not harm the EU economy and would have a strong and positive impact on people's health and the environment in importing countries. It would also reduce pesticide residues in imported food: despite their ban in the EU, six reprotoxic pesticides, including Thiacloprid and Mancozeb, are still present in imported food.

The PAN Europe Team

News from the team



European consumers still heavily exposed to pesticides, EFSA downplays inconvenient truths

A recent EFSA report revealed that 41% of European fruit and vegetables contain pesticide residues. In more than half of these cases, consumers are exposed to several pesticide residues at the same time. Cocktail effects are still not taken into account by regulators, while science continues to warn of the obvious risks to human health of such combined exposure. [Read more.](#)

Stopping the export of EU-banned pesticides won't harm the European economy & will benefit third countries

A coalition of civil society organisations, including PAN Europe, launched a report about the consequences of an export ban on pesticides not allowed in the EU. It showed that stopping the export of EU-banned pesticides would have a strong and positive impact on people's health and the environment in importing countries. Many peasant farmers and rural inhabitants are victims of pesticide poisoning. [Read more.](#)



Highest EU Court: member states do not properly carry out pesticide assessments

In two groundbreaking rulings, the EU Court of Justice has declared that EU Member States have to include the most recent scientific knowledge in the assessment of pesticides. This should end the common practice of giving priority to decades-old industry studies. The Court reminds us that safety criteria for pesticide-active substances also apply to commercial pesticide formulations. The Court also clarified that each Member State is responsible for its national authorisations and cannot blindly rely on the scientific evaluation from other Member States. [Read more.](#)

PAN Europe brings very first pesticide authorisation to the EU Court of Justice

For the very first time, a civil society organisation challenges a pesticide approval in the highest EU court. PAN Europe has lodged an appeal to overturn the ruling on the re-approval of cypermethrin, a highly toxic insecticide. Last February, the General Court of the EU dismissed our request for annulment of the decision by the European Commission. [Read more.](#)



Banned pesticides still present in imported food

Despite their ban in the EU, six reprotoxic pesticides, including Thiacloprid and Mancozeb, are still present in imported food. Two other very harmful pesticides are still not banned, because the EU is dragging its feet. PAN Europe wrote to the European Commission urging it to ensure that all reprotoxic pesticides are banned and no residues are permitted in food. [Read more.](#)

A deathblow for the legitimacy of the CAP

The European Parliament voted in favour of the Commission's proposal to drastically weaken or delete environmental requirements for farmers' subsidies in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This goes directly against expert recommendations and was pushed through using an unfounded 'urgency procedure'. There was no impact assessment, no real stakeholder consultation, and no debate in the Parliament. These populist measures only make the problems worse and go against farmers' and citizens' interests. [Read more.](#)



Highlights from Members



PFAS pesticides also in UK food

Many common food items contain PFAS pesticides. We recently revealed this in our Toxic Harvest report. Our member, Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) now analysed the results from the UK government's residue testing programme. They identified 10 different PFAS pesticides in fruits and vegetables including grapes, cherries, spinach and tomatoes. Strawberries were found to be the worst offenders, with an incredible number of 95% of the 120 samples tested by the government in 2022 containing PFAS pesticides. [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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