

news



February 2026

Dear reader,

Pesticides are a hot topic. The EU Commission is trying to please the chemical industry by weakening the protection of our health and the environment. Thanks to many reactions, they retreated from the worst plan, but still opened the door to unlimited pesticide approvals. This will be discussed with EU Member States and the Parliament in the upcoming months. Cyprus will preside over the EU Council in the first half of 2026, so our Cypriot partners asked the government to prioritise pesticide issues affecting public health, water resources and the environment. A legal opinion organised by German organisations, including PAN Germany, concludes that the proposal and procedure are not in line with EU law. And in the meantime, we won a major case at the highest EU Court, which cancelled the decision of the EU Commission to re-authorise toxic insecticide cypermethrin. And with our members, we tested apples in 13 European countries and found a cocktail of often very harmful pesticides. Despite promises 20 years ago, there is still no EU protocol to assess the effect of pesticide cocktails.

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The PAN Europe Team

News from the team



EU Commission retreats from worst plan, but still opens the door to unlimited pesticide approvals

Despite strong warnings from scientists and civil society, the European Commission proposed to introduce open-ended approvals for certain pesticides. This represents a significant weakening of the EU pesticide legislation, at a moment when it becomes more and more clear that chemical-dependent agriculture is harming farmers, ecosystems and public health. For a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable future, we need to move towards a new era, instead of regressing to the old primitive pesticide era. More news soon. [Read more](#).



European apples contaminated with cocktails of pesticides

We analysed 59 samples of apples for pesticide residues in 13 European countries. The results highlight the nearly systematic contamination of conventional apples with cocktails of pesticides (85%). While the law has foreseen it for over 20 years now, the EU still does not evaluate the toxicity of exposure to cocktails of pesticides. [Read more](#).



Major EU court win: Re-approval of toxic insecticide cypermethrin cancelled

For the first time ever an NGO won an EU court case against the approval of a pesticide. The Court of Justice of the EU concluded that the European Commission acted unlawfully by re-approving cypermethrin in 2021. There are major gaps in the reapproval dossier; it relies on unscientific and unrealistic risk mitigation measures for insects, and it does not evaluate the long-term toxicity of at least one cypermethrin-based product. The EU Court reminded the European Commission that decisions must be science-based and sufficiently motivated. This was the very first time an NGO fought the approval of a pesticide in the EU court: this was not possible before. [Read more](#).



Weakening of pesticide protection standards is unlawful

The European Commission's plan to severely weaken the pesticide protection standards is unlawful. This is shown by a legal opinion commissioned by PAN Germany and other German organisations. [Read more](#).



Call on the Cyprus EU Presidency: improve pesticide control

Cyprus took over the EU Council Presidency in January 2026. It is a crucial time for health, the environment and food production. Scientists, PAN Europe, the Laona Foundation and Friends of the Earth Cyprus ask the Cypriot ministers to prioritise pesticide issues affecting public health, water resources and the environment. This Presidency has a unique opportunity to prevent a rollback of decades of protection against pesticides, and instead promote a safer and future-proof agricultural model. [Read more](#).

News from our members and partners

The PAN network is growing fast

We welcome the new members that joined the PAN Europe network in the recent months: Bond Beter Leefmilieu (BBL) in the Flemish region of Belgium, Stichting Natuur en Milieu in the Netherlands, The Bündnis Enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft in Germany, Friends of the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ), Fondation Future 3, WWF Switzerland and Biyosidal in Turkey.



Farewell to a friend - Arnaud Apoteker - anti-GMO and pesticide campaigner

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of a dear friend and ally. Arnaud Apoteker, a rigorous scientist and tireless anti-GMO and pesticide activist, passed away in early January. [Read more](#).

Conferences

- 19/02/2026: Preventing Pesticide Effects on Children's Health and Protecting the Environment - Online and live at the University of Cyprus - [Register here](#)
- 24/02/2026: PFAS pesticides: Threatening health and the environment - Online and live in the EU Parliament in Brussels [Register here](#)

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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