



PAN EUROPE

**Flash Newsletter on the
Pesticide Action Week**



**Pesticides
Action
Network
Europe**

Introduction

Dear PAN Europe Supporters,

As you may have heard, this year was the 8th annual Pesticide Action Week initiated by our French Member *Générations Futures*.

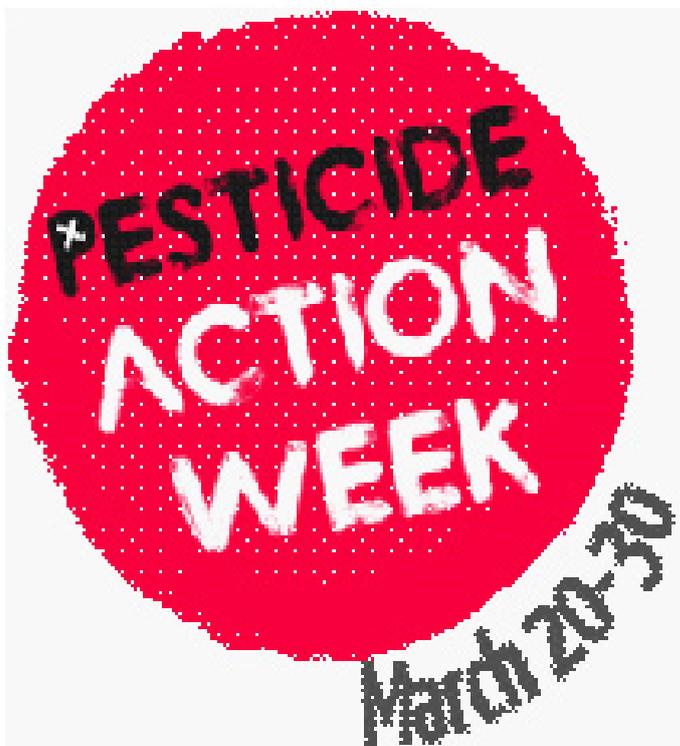
Once more, this event has been a great opportunity to inform citizens, politicians, and the civil servants about the risks associated with pesticides and the many alternatives available to avoid the use of these chemicals.

Through this Flash Newsletter, we wanted to let you know more about the different activities that took place this week in Europe.

The risks linked to pesticides for the Bees, through endocrine disrupting chemicals in the residues as well as the alternatives for the European agriculture continue to be in our everyday work, informing European institutions, citizens, and of course the media.

That is why for instance we co-organized a Breakfast Press Briefing on endocrines disrupting chemicals with our partner HEAL just before the beginning of the Pesticide Action Week and filmed a short Call for Action on EDCs (watch it on www.disruptingfood.info). In fact, we believe that informing the public at large is one of our most important goals and your individual actions at home will be crucial to diminish the use of pesticides and protect our health as well as the environment!

PAN Europe Staff



The 8th edition of the Pesticide Action Week was a great success.... looking forward to seeing you at the 9th edition in 2014!

This year, the Pesticide Action Week was a great success confirming the rise of this event that is becoming increasingly important in the public agenda, among journalists as well as the political and economic decision-makers.

Launched in 2006 by the French Organisation *Générations Futures* and ACAP, a group of 170 organizations *Citizen Action for Alternative to Pesticides*, the Pesticide Action Week is now supported by 35 national and international organisations, with 13 new partners this year.

Since inception in 2006, the operation has been coordinated by the Organisation *Générations Futures*, which is a specialist on pesticides.

During the first 10 days of spring, the public is invited to find out more about the risks linked to pesticides for both the environment and their health as well as on the alternatives to these products. This is facilitated through hundreds of events throughout France and in more and more countries in the world.

Finally, with few resources but a lot of motivation and action by bringing together nearly 40 national structures and hundreds of local partners, Générations Futures has coordinated a major and unique event. In fact, the event attracts more visibility and expands every year. In several countries abroad and we noticed a strong call for international development.

A few numbers concerning the event:

- Nearly **1,000 events were organized**; mostly in France but also in 16 other countries. In Europe, these were: France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Turkey. In Africa, events were organized in: Morocco, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Mali, Togo, Benin, Congo. Pakistan and Malaysia also played host to events.

- **35 national and international partners including 13 new partners** participated this year. This has shown that interest is growing and we are happy to involving new actors on this issue that concerns everyone. Notable new partners include: Association of Mayors of France, Slow Food, Greenpeace, Confédération Paysanne, the School and Nature Network.

- More than **400 partners in France** took part, coming also from new sectors such as Rural Family Houses, tourist offices, regional parks.

- Hundreds of articles in the local press and on the internet as well as French National TV news.

A week that touched minds:

In addition, in France, this week was an opportunity to:

- Start a **postcard campaign “Pesticides Alert!”** to the Ministers of Agriculture and Health for a drastic reduction in use of pesticides and the protection of victims of the chemical industry.¹
- Publish a call alerting **85 doctors** from Limousin on the dangers of pesticides.²
- Publish an unprecedented investigation concerning **the potential exposure of children and pregnant women with suspected endocrine disrupting pesticides in food and non-food channel** (Survey Expert 1).³
- Launch a website **www.zones-in-pesticides.fr** inviting everyone to show a pesticide-free area on a map of France. Nearly 2,000 areas have already been identified.
- Launch a **Politicians Club** (Deputies, Senators, Mayors ...) committed to Alternatives to Pesticides, organizing an organic breakfast in the French Parliament.⁴

And hundreds of events throughout France. Particularly active regions included Alsace, Brittany, the Oriental Pyrenees. A diverse mix of events were held including natural gardening workshops, film screenings, lectures, educational animations, trainings, equipment demonstrations, site visits, organic meals, exhibitions, performances, information stands, and communication campaigns.

This year, again, the week has been a great success and an important opportunity to demonstrate that we can and need to do without pesticides.

You may find the detailed report and some photos here

<http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/une-belle-moisson-darticles-passages-radio-et-tele-pour-cette-8eme-edition/>

Nadine Lauvergeat, *Générations Futures*

¹<http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/alerte-aux-pesticides-les-cartes-petitions-a-diffuser-et-faire-signer/>

²<http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/alerte-aux-pesticides-lancee-par-85-medecins-du-limousin/>

³<http://www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/etude-expert-1-exposition-aux-pesticides-perturbateurs-endocriniens/>

⁴<http://www.comiteeluspesticides.fr/>



For more information, please see
<http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130322.html>

And; on our bees campaign, at
www.savehoneybees.info

Conference: Farming without neonicotinoids to protect bees

On March 22, during the Pesticide Action Week, PAN Europe, jointly with the European Beekeeping Coordination and the Greens (MEP Bart Staes), organized a conference to question the use of neonicotinoids and pesticides in general in agriculture. Independent researchers, farmers and an alternative producer shared their knowledge on this issue.

The conference speakers confirmed the fact that coating seeds with neonicotinoids is not necessary, even in conventional agricultural. Neonicotinoids seed coating is used by farmers as insurance in case a pest damages their crops but in the vast majority of the cases, no economic damage would take place in the absence of the neonicotinoid treatment.

The most famous example of such an industry-based trickery is the use of neonics seed coating in maize crops to fight *Diabroticavirgifera*. When Italy outlawed this use, the industry claimed such a ban would lead to farmers' bankruptcy but it has been scientifically proven that simple agronomic techniques such as crop rotation broke the cycle of the pest and protected crops. After the ban, maize productivity and production did not decrease in Italy. Furthermore, even in countries where crop rotation is not possible due to very intensive monoculture, alternatives exist and are more efficient than the use of neonicotinoids: nematodes can be used to fight pests.

The meeting also highlighted the fact that farmers continue using these highly bee-toxic insecticides even though they are not needed because of the lack of independent advice given to them. In many countries, their knowledge is highly dependent on pesticide industry information and marketing.

The systematic use of pesticides, especially with seed coating technology, impedes the development of integrated pest management (IPM) and a shift in farmers' mentality. CAP reform due to be enforced in 2014 requires farmers to deal with pests using an IPM approach. PAN Europe regrets that the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States did not go further and forbid seed coating technology as it is in total contradiction with the spirit of IPM which is focussed on keeping pest damage under an economic threshold rather than trying to kill all of them, which is unrealistic.

Martin Dermine, PAN Europe



La
semaine
sans
pesticides

20 > 30
Mars 2013

Participez !

www.semainsanspesticides.be

The Belgian Pesticide Action Week

The sixth Pesticide-Free Week was held from 20 to 30 March 2013. This campaign takes place at the same time as the "Alternatives to pesticides week" organised mainly in France. Since 2008, Adalia, a non-profit association has coordinated the campaign in Wallonia (Belgium).

On this occasion, local authorities, associations, and gardeners came together to discuss the impact of pesticides on the environment and on health, and to promote alternatives allowing for the reduction of the use of pesticides. For the first time, Brussels joined the campaign, making it a major event throughout the French speaking part of the country.

This year, 200 activities were organised including conferences, exhibitions, visits, demonstrations and debates. Adalia encouraged people to bring their old pesticides to specialised facilities by rewarding them with flower seeds. This unique campaign was made possible thanks to the collaboration with the waste management association. People now know what to do with certain pesticides that are no longer authorised.

During our activities, local authorities were invited to see a demonstration of machines for weed control. They were told by the Wallonian government that starting in 2019, pesticides will no longer be allowed in public areas. Very good news!

We are very happy to see that the Belgian Pesticide-free week has a strong public support and is expanding each year. We hope that one day this campaign will no longer be necessary because everyone will have gone pesticide-free!



The Spanish Pesticide Action Week

Fundación Vivo Sano launched its second Pesticides Action Week in Spain with different events across the country informing about pesticides use and alternatives. The highlights of the week were the launch of the Documentary “In Small Print” on endocrine disruptors in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia as well as an organic cooking class in Madrid and a workshop on organic agriculture (natural preparations for diseases and pests in horticulture and alternatives to pesticides). Our partners Josenea from the North of Spain, organized visits of their organic farm in the Pyrenees. More than 130 people attended the events.

Our main events were:

20 March

Organic Cooking

A cooking course with Marisa Fernández, Origen, Madrid

15 March

Launch of the documentary “In small print”

on endocrine disruptors, Fundación Once (Madrid), 21 March launch in Valencia, 22 March launch in Barcelona

22 March

Workshop on natural preparations for diseases and pests in horticulture, Paracuellos

20-30 March

Organic agriculture

Visits of organic farm of Josenea, FincaBordablanca, Lumbier (Navarra).

For more information:

- **Our websites in English**
http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/InternationalProjects/PesticidesActionWeek.aspx
- **Vivo Sano’s Video for the launch of the Pesticides Action Week in Spain**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiXRKTYpz_w&list=UUj9u3LxsUeEtmh9mD67PK0Q&index=2
- **Trailers Documentary In Small Print:**
http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/InternationalProjects/DocumentaryInSmallPrint.aspx
- **More information in Spanish**
http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/Proyectosfinalizados/Semanasinpesticidas2013.aspx
- **Events during the Pesticides Action Week**
http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/Proyectosfinalizados/Semanasinpesticidas2013.aspx