

news



Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe

October
2025

Dear reader,

Many activities this month. We exposed industry tactics to downplay the toxicity of 'forever chemical' TFA, omnipresent in our water. The EU reached a deal on water pollution, but with extreme delay in enforcement. People in France living close to vineyards are exposed to harmful pesticides, a broad study shows. But a major win in court by the Justice for the Living coalition could change that. We interviewed scientist Jessica Knapp, who found harmful effects of pesticides in non-target organisms in low concentrations. The 'End Toxic Pesticide Trade Coalition' launched the 'Return to Sender' campaign. And the good news: we do have the tools to significantly reduce pesticides. A better policy could help a lot.

The PAN Europe Team

News from the team

Deregulation is a problem, not an answer

In the 'State of the Union' to the Parliament, EU President Ursula von der Leyen preaches deregulation to please the industry. We urge the EU to take care of European's health and biodiversity instead of placing corporate profits above the rights of people and nature. We call for better and quicker implementation of the pesticide regulation. React with a few clicks to the EU official petition: [click the button below](#). [Read more about the background](#)



React now: Ban toxic pesticides



Industry tactics to downplay toxicity of 'forever chemical' TFA

A new report by PAN Europe reveals how major chemical companies have systematically cast doubt on the toxicity of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). The result: it is now Europe's most widespread persistent pollutant. [Read more](#)

Return to Sender: toxic EU trade in banned pesticides should end

The EU Commission promised a law to stop the export of pesticides banned in Europe. Exports are on the rise. The 'End Toxic Pesticide Trade Coalition' launched the 'Return to Sender' campaign to hold the European Commission to account. [Read more](#)



EU Commission deceives citizens on pesticide reduction

Together with IFOAM Organics Europe and Global 2000, we lodged a formal complaint before the European Ombudsman concerning the European Commission's reliance on the Harmonised Risk Indicator 1 (HRI1) to measure use and risk of pesticides. [Read more](#)

Candidates for substitution are forever (chemicals)?

The EU SCoPAFF committee is paralysed by mocking Member States and a weak EU Commission. They do not manage to ban very toxic substances like PFAS pesticides, endocrine disruptors and reprotoxic substances despite clear scientific evidence. [Read more](#)



Keep us, our children and our water safe from TFA

The umbrella organisation of water companies EurEau organised an expert meeting in the EU Parliament. Our Policy Officer, Salomé Roynel, was one of the speakers to present the shocking facts. [Read more](#)

EU deal on water pollution: no action, extreme delay

The EU institutions have reached a long-awaited deal on updated rules for pollution of EU surface and groundwater. However, Member States have managed to delay and weaken obligations. [Read more](#)



Pesticides are a major driver of insect decline - Scientist Jessica Knapp

In the PoshBee study scientists has monitored the effects of pesticides on bumblebee colonies. We interviewed co-author Jessica Knapp from Lund University in Sweden. She delivers important input in the discussion on a new EU guideline to protect organisms that should not be harmed by pesticides. [Read more](#)

Pesticides found widely toxic to non-target organisms

A 2025 meta-analysis of 1,705 studies confirms that pesticides are widely toxic to many non-target organisms. "Pesticides affect a diverse range of non-target species and may be linked to global biodiversity loss. The magnitude of this hazard remains only partially understood." The authors conclude: "Our results question the sustainability of current pesticide use and support the need for enhanced risk assessments to reduce risks to biodiversity and ecosystems." [Read more](#)



News from our members and partners



French court orders government to review pesticide authorisations

In a landmark decision, the Paris Court of Appeal has held the French State accountable for ecological harm resulting from outdated and inadequate pesticide environmental risk assessments. The ruling obliges the French State to update its pesticide evaluation protocols and review all pesticide authorisations within 24 months. This decision is partly based on a ruling by the EU Court of Justice in a case filed by PAN Europe, which concluded that EU States must base pesticide approvals on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. [Read more](#)

More pesticide exposure of people living close to vineyards

According to a national study in France, people who live close to vineyards are more exposed to pesticides than those who live farther away. The research was carried out by Santé Publique France and the National Food Safety and Environment Agency (ANSES) in more than 250 locations across six wine-growing regions. [Read more](#)



Health Mutuals launch an Odyssey for a pesticide-free future

French and Belgian Health Mutuals launched an 'Odysseum for our Health' to mobilise health actors to advocate towards a pesticide-free future. An increasing number of scientific publications point at harm caused by pesticides on people's health, such as cancers or Parkinson's disease. [Read more](#)

Dutch pesticide authority Ctgb ignores court ruling

The Dutch Ctgb ignores rulings by the European Court of Justice, decisions by the Trade Appeals Tribunal and recent insights from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The agency decided to extend the authorisation of the pesticides Dagonis and Pitcher, despite scientifically proven risks to the health of users, local residents and consumers, as well as to the environment. We have lodged an appeal against the decisions. [Read more](#) (in Dutch)



Denmark bans more PFAS pesticides to protect groundwater

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has withdrawn the approval of 8 more pesticides that contain PFAS active substances. They can form and leach TFA into the groundwater. Pesticides approved for use in Denmark must not pose a risk to groundwater. In June, they already banned 25 other products. [Read more](#)

Conferences

Reducing Pesticides, Eliminating PFAS Pesticides, Protecting Water

Green Transition Denmark, in collaboration with Pesticide Action Network Europe and the Danish Society for Nature Conservation, warmly invites you to join (offline or online) a conference on pesticides at the Proviantssalen, Christiansborg, on Thursday, 30 October 2025, on the occasion of Denmark's EU Presidency. [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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