

Dear reader,

Pesticides threaten the bulk of life on Earth, says Professor Dave Goulson in our interview. The EU still allows very harmful substances based on an outdated guideline co-written by industry. This will now be revised, but there is no insect expert in the EFSA working group. In some countries, dangerous pesticides are on sale in garden shops, such as Belgium and the Netherlands. Over 450 scientists rally for immediate action against 'forever chemicals' in EU waters. Romanian court stops illegal derogations for neonicotinoids. Researchers prove that pesticides contaminate a landscape scale, far beyond the fields. And we highlight the dangers of acetamiprid, the brain-toxic neonicotinoid we must urgently leave behind.

The PAN Europe Team

News from the team



Pesticides threaten the bulk of life on Earth - Prof. Dave Goulson

Insect and other arthropod populations are rapidly declining. This alarming loss of biodiversity jeopardises our joy of life. After all, what would the world be like if children grew up without the joy of fluttering butterflies or buzzing bumblebees? But there is more at stake. Our food production depends on healthy and biodiverse ecosystems for pollination and fertile soil. [Read more and watch the interview](#)

No insect expert in EFSA working group on new pesticide guideline

The EU is reviewing a guidance document meant to protect insects and other arthropods against the negative effects of pesticides. The current document is outdated and was co-written by the pesticide industry. It has never led to a ban on pesticides that contribute to Europe's staggering loss of its insect biomass and its farmland bird populations. [Read more](#)



Dangerous pesticides sold to the general public in Belgium and the Netherlands

Karate, Delete, trade names for highly toxic pesticides sold to individuals online and in garden shops in Belgium and the Netherlands. The neurotoxic deltamethrin, the neurotoxic beekiller acetamiprid (in Belgium) and the PFAS pesticides lambda-cyhalothrin and flupyradifurone. Where farmers are obliged to follow a training for a spraying licence, inexperienced citizens are enticed to spray these products, sometimes directly on the vegetables in their garden. What is the situation in your country? [Read more](#)

Scientists rally for immediate action against 'forever chemicals'

A group of over 450 scientists is calling on the European Union to swiftly update its water pollution standards to address the increasing threat of chemical pollution, including PFAS ('forever chemicals'), in Europe's freshwater ecosystems. [Read more](#)



Pesticide Action Week 2025

During this year's Pesticide Action Week, with our members and partners in different EU countries, we called attention to the devastating effects of pesticides on our health, soil, water, and biodiversity. Actions, presentations, discussions and more. [See the overview](#)

Close Toxic Loopholes: Stop Hazardous Exports & Save Biodiversity!

We gathered in front of the European Commission building in Brussels with representatives of environmental and international NGOs to demand urgent action to stop the export of EU-banned pesticides and to save biodiversity. [Read more](#)

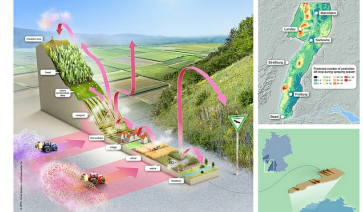


Romanian court puts an end to derogations for neonicotinoids

The Romanian Court of Appeal suspended new derogations for the use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds in maize and sunflowers. This is the result of a court case by Eco Ruralis and our member Romapis to protect pollinators. [Read more](#)

Urgent action needed: TFA contamination in Europe's water

We organised a high-level event at the European Parliament to address the global threat to drinking water. Leading experts and policymakers discussed the environmental and public health risks all over Europe posed by Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), a highly persistent breakdown product of several chemicals, especially PFAS pesticides. [Read more](#)



Pesticides contaminate on a landscape scale - far beyond the fields

A new, groundbreaking German study proves that pesticides spread much further from the field than previously believed. A team led by Professor Dr. Carsten Brühl tested topsoil, vegetation, streams and puddles over a 180 km stretch, from remote areas in the UNESCO forests on the mountain ranges to the farmland in the Upper Rhine area. They detected pesticides at every location, 63 in total. [Read more](#)

EU Member States agree to ban flufenacet

EU Member States agreed to ban the endocrine-disrupting PFAS pesticide flufenacet. We applaud this decisive action, which aligns with the EU's requirement to protect human health and the environment. Comprehensive action on all PFAS pesticides is urgent to avoid the use of similarly problematic substitutes. [Read more](#)



Acetamiprid: the brain-toxic neonicotinoid we must leave behind

Neonicotinoid insecticides pose a serious threat to biodiversity and human health. Already in small doses, they can affect the developing brain of young children. France would like to reintroduce acetamiprid, while we asked the EU to take swift action to ban this neurotoxic substance and protect health and the environment. [Read more](#)

Highlights from Members

PAN Europe network is growing

We welcome 3 new member organisations from 3 EU countries. Agrolink is a leading organisation in Bulgaria that supports the development of organic farming and the culture of organic consumption. Romapis is the Romanian beekeepers' association, very active in protecting bees against neonicotinoids and other harmful pesticides. They played an important role in the successful Save Bees and Farmers citizens' initiative and recently won a major court case (see above). WWF Switzerland is an environmental organisation and brings interesting insights from a non-EU country in the centre of Europe. Interested to join our expert network and strengthen our influence? [Check this page](#)



Pesticide Free-Day in the Netherlands on World Parkinson's Day

Friday, April 11, is World Parkinson's Day. Leading experts warn of a Parkinson's epidemic, and toxic chemicals and especially pesticides, play a major role. Pesticides are hardly tested for neurotoxic effects and not at all for the mechanisms that cause Parkinson's. Farmers and consumers are, in fact, misled by false safety claims by producers and authorities. The Dutch Parkinson's Association, Natuur & Milieu, trade union FNV, PAN Netherlands and many others organised a Pesticide Free-Day march in The Hague. [Read more here](#)

Prime time TV: PAN Netherlands black list of 10 insecticides sold in garden shops

We looked at gardening products and insect repellents in Belgium. PAN Netherlands did the same. Their report and black list got prime time attention in Radar, the Dutch consumer TV program. Check [this page](#) with the black list, reactions and link to watch the program (in Dutch).

- deltamethrin
- flupyradifurone
- imidacloprid
- lambda-cyhalothrin
- permethrin
- prallethrin
- pyrethrin spinosad
- tetramethrin
- transfluthrin



Spain exported 17,000 tons of pesticides banned in the EU in one year

Spain authorized the export of nearly 17,000 tons of substances harmful to people and the environment in 2023, mainly to the Global South. This is exposed in the new report 'Double Standards, Double Risk'. [Read more here](#). And PAN Netherlands started [a new campaign](#) to Stop the export.

Italian Doctors for the Environment warn of the dangers of glyphosate use

Our Italian member, ISDE - Doctors for the Environment - warned in a hearing about the dangers of using glyphosate in Vercelli, in the Piedmont region. The City Council is considering its use for urban weed control despite scientific evidence linking glyphosate to cancer risks and environmental harm. ISDE President Elena Uga called it an "unacceptable threat" to public health and biodiversity. Italy had already banned glyphosate in recreational areas, playgrounds, parks, or places where vulnerable groups can be affected and in private gardens. [Read more](#)



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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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