

news

December
2023

Dear reader,

November has been a very dark month for the pesticide fight. The EU Commission decided to re-approve glyphosate and a majority in the European Parliament rejected the long awaited pesticide reduction targets. Both are unacceptable, doing nothing is not an option. So we have decided to take the Commission to court on its glyphosate decision. We also challenge their close ties with the pesticide industry and the very industry friendly guidelines that lead to incorrect implementation of the EU pesticide law. In the meantime, we gear up our campaign against PFAS pesticides and other extremely toxic substances that should have disappeared from our fields and plates long ago.

The PAN Europe Team

News from the team



Pesticides: To do nothing is not an option

In recent weeks politicians and public servants did not listen to thousands of scientists. They ignored two European Citizens Initiatives that both collected over a million support votes. They chose not to address the very urgent biodiversity crisis. They ignored the enormous pile of evidence of harm done by pesticides to health and the environment. Instead of showing leadership towards a more positive future, they stick their head in the sand and do nothing. They ignore their responsibility to protect the well-being and the sustainability of our societies, ignore the problems and endanger the future of their children, grandchildren and the generations to come. This is not an option. [Read more.](#)

Green Deal is dead: MEPs voted against a healthy future for us and our children

The European Parliament voted down the Commission's proposal for an ambitious pesticides reduction in Europe. The proposal was urgent and essential to ensure a minimum of protection of EU citizens and ecosystems from the toxicity of pesticides. The lack of support represents a severe attack on the Green Deal and the public interest. This is a sad day for EU democracy, ahead of European elections. [Read more.](#)



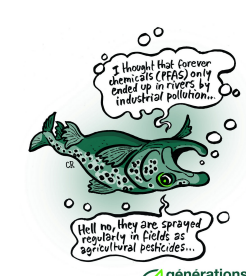
NGOs Challenge Glyphosate Re-approval in EU Court

While the European Commission is poised to formally re-approve the controversial herbicide in the coming days, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe and 4 member organisations are set to challenge the re-approval of glyphosate in EU Court. These organisations are experts in pesticide evaluation and regulation and have significant experience in EU and national Courts. [Read more.](#)

[Support our court case!](#)

Beneath the orange fields: Impact of Glyphosate (herbicides) on soil organisms

Glyphosate and glyphosate based herbicides can harm soil organisms, which perform essential ecosystem functions. This is underlined in a [new brief of PAN Europe](#), summarising important findings from scientific literature. [Read more.](#)



New report exposes hidden threat: PFAS pesticides

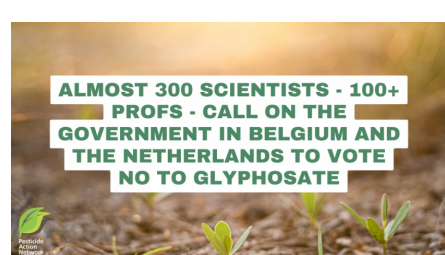
In a joint report release, Générations Futures and PAN Europe shed light on a previously overlooked concern: there are 37 pesticide active ingredients allowed in Europe that are officially recognized as 'PFAS' or Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. The authorities try to exclude them from PFAS regulations and that is not acceptable. The use of these Forever Pesticides should stop, now. [Read more.](#)

EU Commission hosts a secret 3-day meeting with the pesticide industry as their exclusive guest - Lobby time!

The EU Commission shows its close ties to the industry in a 3-day event on pesticide regulations with the industry as the only invited stakeholder. It offers the pesticide industry a unique opportunity to lobby policymakers from the Commission and EU Member States' public servants and meet at diners, coffee breaks and even at a Christmas market. This new scandal by DG Sante questions, once more, the Commission's independence. It is against the law and these practices should stop. [Read more.](#)



Highlights from Members



Almost 300 scientists - 100+ profs - call on the government in Belgium and the Netherlands to vote no to glyphosate

In a letter 291 scientists - including 104 professors - from Belgium and the Netherlands ask their ministers to take independent science seriously. The scientists criticise the pesticide authorisation: "The current assessment framework has serious shortcomings both for determining the effects on public health and biodiversity. As a result, we believe that it is not possible, with the current EFSA review frameworks, to determine whether glyphosate is safe." [Read more.](#)

150 Spanish organisations sign the Plague of Pesticides Manifesto: They ask for a vote against glyphosate and for drastic pesticide reduction

Over 150 farming, scientific, consumer, food and environmental organisations sent a petition to the Spanish Prime Minister calling for decisive and unwavering support for the transition to pesticide-free agriculture. The Plague of Pesticides Manifesto is also addressed to the heads of the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Environment and Consumer Affairs. It contains concrete proposals to promote a just transition, leaving no one behind. [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.

[DONATE](#)

Follow us on Social Media and share our posts

[Twitter](#)[LinkedIn](#)[Website](#)[Facebook](#)[Instagram](#)

Would you like to include your national news here too?

Please send it [here](#).

Curious about our previous newsletter?

You can read it [here](#).

Happy with this newsletter?

Share it with friends and ask them to sign up [here](#).

This email has been sent to {{email}}.

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, you can [unsubscribe here](#).

You can also [view and edit your subscription](#).

Please add communications@pan-europe.info to your address book to ensure our emails continue to reach your inbox.