

news

February  
2023

Dear reader,

The fight for a pesticide free Europe is gearing up. News from the EU level and several countries. Stay tuned for breaking news on our website and social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) & [Instagram](#). Please share our posts and raise awareness in your network. You can also [get involved](#) & [support us](#)!

The PAN Europe Team

## News from the team

### Strong presentation of Save Bees and Farmers proposals in EU Parliament



The million-strong Save Bees and Farmers citizens initiative to ban synthetic pesticides was received by the European Parliament on January 24. Strong presentation by organisers, scientists, beekeepers and farmers.

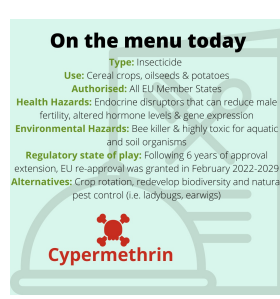
Watch the [short video](#) and see the [press release](#).

### EU Court of Justice: no more derogations for bee-toxic neonicotinoids and other EU-banned pesticides

No more exceptions for banned pesticides, including bee-killer neonicotinoids in Europe. This very important ruling by the EU Court of Justice results from a Belgian court case by PAN Europe and our member Nature & Progrès Belgium. This stops dozens of derogations given by Member States to banned pesticides every year. In reaction, France finally decided to stop allowing neonicotinoid-treated seeds. But there is more! The court also stresses that the EU law requires Member States "to take all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods." This should end all pesticide derogations we described in our recent report [Banned pesticides still in use in the EU](#). We received many felicitations and compliments for this important victory for health and biodiversity. (Like this? [Support our work!](#)). [Read more](#).



### Cypermethrin: Belgium's authorisation system challenged in national court



Fruits and vegetables grown in Belgium are frequently contaminated with residues of dangerous pesticides. These include the beekiller cypermethrin, one of the toxic twelve pesticides that should be banned immediately. Together with Nature & Progrès Belgique and Bond Beter Leefmilieu, PAN Europe on 15 January 2023 asked the Belgian Council of State to withdraw two recent authorisations for pesticide formulations. [Read more](#).

### From Toxic 12 to Toxic 10?

The EU Commission has proposed to ban the very toxic fungicide [dimoxystrobin](#) and [ipconazole](#), both part of the [Toxic Twelve](#) pesticides that need to go fast. The vote by the EU Council will follow in March. This should finally end the use of these very dangerous substances, that have been harming our health and environment for far too long. Last year we [challenged the EU prolongation system in EU court](#), following the sixth prolongation for use of dimoxystrobin.



## Highlights from Members

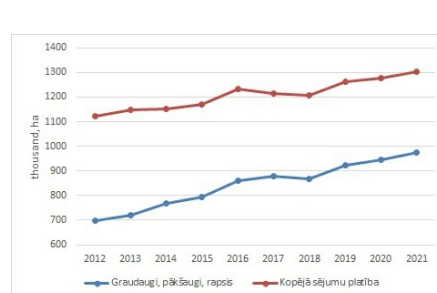
### Denmark plans to ban groundwater-polluting fungicide



A fungicide that is used a lot in potato cultivation in Denmark is entering groundwater, a new study shows. The Danish authorities will now ban cyazofamid, after almost 20 years of use. "The case shows that the Danish authorisation system is not good enough to protect groundwater", says Maria Reumert Gjerding, president of the Danish Society for Nature Conservation. [Read more](#).

### Pesticide transparency in Latvia after court case

For the first time the Latvian State Plant Protection Inspectorate has published pesticide statistics. The Society "Ecodesign Competence Centre" was inspired by the German example and turned to court, demanding the Ministry of Agriculture to open Latvian statistics. The case is won and the Latvian State Plant Protection inspectorate [has published the data](#).



### High Court of France: buffer zones for highly dangerous pesticides



France does not do enough to protect local residents and workers subjected to pesticide spraying. The High Court agreed in December 2022 with the arguments put forward by our French member Générations Futures and asked the State to set sufficient safety distances for products suspected of being carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR 2). [Read more](#) (in French).

### Pesticide reduction in NL blocked by farmers and manufacturers lobby

The reduction of pesticide use in the Netherlands does not materialise. Large farmers' organisations and pesticide manufacturers have too much influence on Dutch pesticide policy, conclude Pesticide Action Network Netherlands, Foodwatch and Meten=Weten. The report is based on documents obtained by an access to documents request. According to the organisations, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has mainly laid down plans that are in the interests of agro-firms and lead to little or no reduction in pesticide use. [See the report \(in Dutch\)](#).



DE TOTSTANDKOMING EN UITVOERING VAN HET  
NATIONAAL JAARPLAN 2021

"Het is niet de bedoeling reductiedoelen op te nemen"

FEITEN en CONCLUSIES op basis van WOB DOCUMENTEN

## What's next? Stay tuned!

In our next newsletter - coming soon:

- Belgian Flemish region challenged in court for better protection against pesticides
- South Tyrol apples covered in pesticide clouds, report Umweltinstitut München
- From toxic 12 to toxic 10? EU Commission finally plans to ban very toxic pesticides
- Role of member states, MEPs and parties in heated pesticide debate in the EU
- PAN Netherlands wants supermarkets to have more organic products

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