



PAN EUROPE

Newsletter

Summer 2012



PAN Europe staff is happy to send you its summer 2012 Newsletter with information about its different projects concerning:

- **Bees collapse**
- **Endocrines Disrupting Chemicals in Food**
- **The Week without Pesticides**

And many others as well as the actions done by our members around Europe.

Although the times are difficult for NGOs our staff is always full of motivation to take up the challenge for a more sustainable future.

Therefore we have some new recruits that we present to you in this newsletter.

In addition to that we would like to invite our Brussels reader to collaborate with us for street actions. If you are interested please contact isabelle@pan-europe.info.

We wish you a happy reading with this latest newsletter, and kindly ask you to send us comments and remarks allowing us to improve our work.

Henriette, Hans, Martin and Isabelle



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NEW STAFF

PAN Europe's Communication Officers

Since the beginning of 2012 PAN Europe welcomes in its office two new workers: Lucie Daniel and Isabelle Pinzaui.

Lucie has been working in PAN from January to June and started the EDCs campaign as well as organized the workshop on Pesticides free gardening and Compost in Mundo B (further details about these projects in the newsletter). Lucie is French but has a very international background since she lived in the USA as well as Germany. Now she is a student in the Institute of Political Sciences of Grenoble, Communication Major. After her brilliant work for PAN, she hopes she will be able to work for Women's Right.

Isabelle arrived in April and graduated in May from the University of Gastronomic Sciences (founded by the movement Slow Food). She has a background in Political Sciences with a Double Master in European Affairs (SciencesPo-SGH). Her interest in sustainable agriculture as well as food policy and security made her decide to work for PAN, mainly for the EDCs campaign.

Last but not least, PAN Europe welcomes Martin...

Last May, a new member joined PAN Europe central office in Brussels. His name is Martin Dermine, he is 30 years old, a native of Belgium, and has just finished his PhD in veterinary science. Lucie Daniel, a PAN Europe staff member in Brussels, asked him to introduce himself and to tell us about his projects and expectations with PAN for the years to come.

Lucie Daniel: Hello Martin. To start with, I am curious to know how did you get to know PAN Europe? When did you first hear about us?

Martin Dermine: The first time I heard about PAN Europe, I was looking for some information on the herbicide glyphosate. I wanted to investigate its damaging effects on local farmers in Argentina.

Lucie: That's good to know. Can you tell us a bit more about your position at PAN Europe and your specific fields of work?

Martin: Sure. I work as PAN Europe's « bee-expert ». Throughout the coming years, this job will cover four different missions. First, I will help provide new and current scientific material to support suits against the European Commission decisions on pesticides. I believe that in this particular matter, the Commission lacks scientific evidence to be able to authorise them. There is an urgent need for a moratorium on neonicotinoid pesticides (i.e.: pesticides that are harmful to bees). Secondly, I will be working on awareness-raising campaigns to get the public involved in our activities. These campaigns may, for instance, focus on pesticides residues in food. And finally, my mission will include lobbying activities at the European Commission and Parliament.

For the year 2012, we are preparing two court cases to be brought to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. This is a common effort with Générations Futures (France), Global 2000 (Austria) and Apenet (Italy) – a network of Italian beekeepers and researchers.

Lucie: That's a great piece of work! Why did you choose to apply to this job?

Martin: Well, I was not fully satisfied with the type of research I was doing: fundamental research is very interesting, but the research process is very long and does not provide you with a feeling of benefitting society. So I wanted to move on to another kind of research. I was already informed about threats facing bees, aware of the challenges faced by the European institutions, and knew a great deal about their failures in the past.

To be honest, I think that my interest in this position also goes back to my childhood. When I was young, I used to go help my neighbour who was a beekeeper. He taught me everything about beekeeping and it has become a true passion. I have my own hives in Brussels on a platform behind my flat!

Lucie: Nice. You have been working in Brussels for a month now. What do you think of the European Union landscape? Were you surprised by the lobbying practices in the institutions?

Martin: I think that there are some good things about Brussels. For instance, I was surprised to see how many conferences and public hearings the Commission was organising. It looks like the European institutions are much more accessible and open than the citizens tend to believe. The problem is, no matter how hard the Commission tries to improve regulation, the member states always have the last say, and they often cancel all good initiatives out.



IOBC-IBMA-PAN Europe symposium on “*Integrated Pest Management – the Way Forward to Sustainable Agricultural Production*” held in Brussels 19 June 2012

International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC), International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association (IBMA) and Pesticide Action Network (PAN Europe) with the support of the European Parliament and the European Commission organised jointly a high level conference on “*Integrated Pest Management – the Way Forward to Sustainable Agricultural Production*” in Brussels on Tuesday, 19 June 2012.

The overall purpose this conference was celebrating the 50 years anniversary of publication of Rachel Carson's book "Silent spring" and reminding EU policy makers about the potential created with the EU Directive on sustainable use of pesticides approved in 2009, and meant to be fully implemented by Member States by the end of this year.

The uptake of environmentally friendly crop protection methods is a major element of making agriculture more sustainable, and highly relevant for the entire debate on the EU 2020 growth debate on resource efficiency as well as on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

We had a invited a wide range of high level experts with different background and from different angles, with some illustrating that the need for change, some highlighting why this change is difficult, while finally others giving concrete examples of many of the alternative production methods and products already available, all making it clear that EU policies have the potential to reduce pesticide dependency by start proposing innovative sustainable solutions of crop protection.

One of the key speakers in the debate was David Pimentel from Cornell University, who has a live long experience with working on pesticides including a 22-year farming experiment measuring corn and soybean yields in a system with and without artificial inputs, where pesticides were replaced by agronomic practices like rotation and cover crops, but delivered exactly the same yield, increased employment, lowered costs, and even reduced soil erosion. A very good example for that it is feasible to start encouraging farmers to start applying Integrated Pest Management, understood as first use a combination of different preventive agronomic practices, use non-chemical methods when available, and use chemical crop protection products only as a last resort.

You can find all presentations and the conclusion on:
<http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/120619.html>

Around 150 participants taking part in this event, covering national representatives from ministries, EU civil servants and policy makers, as well as a huge range of Brussels based stakeholders.

The debate on reducing pesticide dependency is not only relevant at the EU level, but also highly relevant in the national context. The EU Directive on sustainable use of pesticides oblige member states to convert this new legislation into national law by end of last year, while they by end of this year, need to develop National Action Plans, and inform the European Commission about how they intend to reduce their use and impact of pesticides.

Though, in a IPM forum organised by DG SANCO on the 20 June, DG SANCO reported that so far only 13 Member States had completed transposition into national legislation, nine had partially done so, and five had not done this. It was also reported that of 16 Member States for which they have information, six of them already have a NAP, although three will be revised to ensure they satisfy the SUD requirement. So as you see implémentation is only happening very slowly, and if it was not enough, in many the Member States the level of ambition in the NAP remains very low (see article from PAN Germany reporting about the situation in Germany in the part on national work..). So definitely much more work still to be done.

Henriette Christensen, Policy Officer, *PAN Europe*

Lunch debate on crop rotation in the European Parliament, 29 May 2012

On the 29th May 2012 the IFOAM EU Group, Friends of the Earth Europe, and PAN Europe in cooperation with S&D MEP Karin Kadenbach and Green MEP Martin Häusling organised a lunch debate on *"Crop Rotation and Legume Production: Cultivating a More Sustainable and Resource Efficient Farming Policy"* in the European Parliament.

With this event we wanted to make it clear that although the Commission's proposed measure on crop diversification is a positive step, it does not have the potential to bring about the array of positive environmental and socio-economic effects that basic crop rotation practices and more advanced systems can deliver.

We had asked a few experts to give presentations on the topic, including:

MEP Martin Häusling, who in 2011 made a report on the protein deficit in the EU explained that over the last decades crop rotation has become an exception rather than the rule on farms in many countries across the EU. Referring to the report he outlined that in the last 10 years the production of leguminous crops in the EU had dropped by 30% and today represents only 3% of EU crop land. Instead the EU imports 40 million tons of protein crops, mainly soy, every year, equalling 20 million hectares of arable land, to meet its demand for protein livestock feed (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2011-0026&language=EN>). He stressed that it was essential to ensure long-term viability of EU farming by designing effective CAP greening measures that make agronomic sense for farmers.

Christine Watson (Leader of the Soil Team at the Scottish Agricultural College) explained the environmental benefits of crop rotation and legume cultivation. She highlighted that policymakers need a more temporal approach (crop rotation) to cropping systems rather than the spatial approach (crop diversification) as envisaged under the current proposals. She emphasised that with good planning and knowledge exchange crop rotation cannot only decrease input costs, but reduce the risk for farmers by contributing to weed control and limiting dependency on inputs. She advised policymakers to place long term benefits rather than short term gains at the heart of farm policy.

Anouk Cormont (Researcher at Wageningen University) illustrated the potential of domestic legume cultivation for livestock feed on arable and mixed farms in four regions in the Netherlands and Germany. She outlined that a study conducted by her team looking at the income of farmers in these regions found that allocating 20% of arable land for grain legume cultivation could deliver many benefits. Moreover, in two of the regions cultivation would lead to increased income for farmers, while in the other two regions the loss of income would require relatively small compensation of about 19 euro per hectare through CAP support. She explained that current CAP direct payments were not taken into account in the income calculation. She added that their study clearly demonstrated the fact that legume cultivation can reduce input dependency.

Christoph Dahlmann (Project manager with the German small farmers association ABL in North-Rhine Westphalia) argued that if Europe is going to respond to the current challenge of filling the gap of Europe's protein feed deficit, crop rotation and increased legume cultivation need to be fully embraced. He said it is now time for the EU to shift towards more sustainable cropping systems under the new greening component within the CAP, and support farmers who incorporate legumes into their cropping systems by encouraging more research, breeding programmes and training in order to develop even more sophisticated systems in the future.

Henriette Christensen, Policy Officer, *PAN Europe*

IFOAM, Friend of the Earth Europe, PAN Europe and APRODEV, has since then also elaborated a joint briefing on crop rotation illustrating that:

Firstly, crop rotation can help significantly to respond to current environmental challenges faced by European food and farming in terms of protecting and enhancing our water resources, securing soil fertility, reducing our dependency on external inputs, such as synthetic nitrogen, and pesticides as well as contributing to action to climate action.

Secondly, studies have found improved yields using crop rotations. Therefore implementing crop rotations does not have to mean compromising profit in the medium term.

Finally, crop rotations could have the added benefit of reducing Europe's dependence on imported Proteins for animal feed, with leguminous cultivation as a part of a strong crop rotation measure leading to win win' effects for the farmers and the environment, and could be a guarantee for ensuring EU's long term food security.

To see the factsheet go to: <http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html>



The debate on indicators beyond GDP also relevant to the EU debate on resource efficiency

As a contribution to this debate Connie Hedegaard, member of the European Commission responsible for Climate Action, made a remarkable contribution, see:

http://ecocouncil.dk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1745:eu-commissioner-on-climate-action-connie-hedegaard-sends-her-greetings&catid=109:economy-and-politics&Itemid=208

Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for climate action, repeat the message on the need to stop considering business as usual, recently in 15th June 2012 where she again said:

« It is not possible to continue the business as usual ...make it expensive to be stupid and get the right targets for what to reduce. It is not easy but the alternative is much worse »

This debate is not only relevant for the OECD, Rio and others it is also relevant for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the use of pesticides.

As©

The 'business as usual approach' in the agricultural sector, has been estimated by David Pimentel (2009), as annual economic and environmental losses due to the application of pesticides in the USA to be:

public health, \$1.1 billion/year
pesticide resistance in pests, \$1.5 billion;
crop losses caused by pesticides, \$1.1 billion;
bird losses due to pesticides, \$2.2 billion; and
ground water contamination, \$2.0 billion.

Numbers of the business as usual approach also exists in the EU, where annual economic, environment and health consequences caused by pesticide are estimated to:

Studies in the UK and Germany US\$257m and \$166m, respectively, paid by sufferers of pesticide-related poor health, the environment and citizens (Pretty & Waibel, 2005).



UK water companies spent £189 million removing nitrates and £92 million removing pesticides from their water supplies between 2004-2005 and 2008-2009 (National Audit Service, 2010) (+/- 350 M €)

To change this paradigm change in European agriculture is indispensable. The European model of farming based on diversity is broken, and an ever increasing amount of the European farming is producing standard products for supermarkets giving very little attention to production methods, heavily relying on external inputs (covering not only pesticides and fertilizers but also antibiotics).

As a result farmers are increasingly being squeezed by supermarkets offering low prices for standard products to farmers and by input industry. The way forward for European farmers is getting out of this dependency, and start a conversion from input intensive to knowledge intensive agriculture, producing with nature not against it.

The way forward for the EU debate on resource efficiency and the debate on the Common Agricultural Policy is targeting at a paradigm change putting crop rotation for arable farmers at the centre, which over time, can help farmers save money.

For instance Katsvairo, 2000 concluded that rotated low chemical management increased net returns for continuous corn under high chemical management by:

- 70 USD/ha or even more in moldboard plow and
- 120 USD/ha or more in chisel tillage.

For more information on the entire debate on resource efficiency and innovation in the agricultural sector see PAN Europe paper on innovation on: <http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html>

Henriette Christensen, Policy Officer, *PAN Europe* with Karin Ulmer Senior Policy Officer Trade, Food Security and Gender *APRODEV*.

(more information about this subject at the end of this newsletter)



CHEMICALS

Historical court decision granting access to court for NGO's.

PAN-Europe -and its member Stichting Natuur en Milieu in the Netherlands- in 2008 asked the Commission for a review of Commission Regulation 149/2008 allowing for a massive relaxation of pesticide residue standards in food. Instead of reviewing the regulation, the Commission but responded that the NGO's had no standing to ask for an internal review because such a request would qualify as a legislative act that cannot be reviewed on the basis of the EU-legislation, that only foresees the internal review of 'administrative acts' of 'individual scope'. The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg now rules that the criteria of 'individual scope' is not part of the Aarhus convention and is an invalid application of the convention. The right of access to justice is also about decisions of general scope like most of the environmental regulations of Commissions. The court further stated that the Aarhus convention takes precedence over secondary community legislation, all implementing rules, and decisions made by Commission. This means that the possibility of asking for the internal review of Commission Regulations is now open for environmental NGO's such as PAN-Europe.

PAN-Europe will now ask Commission to start the review of Regulation 149/2008 following the request already sent to the Commission in 2008 and put an end to the massive relaxing of the food standards. In the meantime, the Food Authority EFSA has decided to lower again the range of relaxed standards because of high health risks for humans, proving that PAN-Europe had good reason to ask for a review.

The court verdict is a historical one because NGO's have been denied standing in court for over 15 years. Several attempts have been made by PAN, Greenpeace and others but had all failed until now. The court decision will create a fair playing field because industry has always been able challenge decisions in court and the finding will now improve the lobby power of NGO's.

Hans Muilerman, Chemical Officer, *PAN Europe*.



New PAN Europe report, Twisting and Bending the rules.

EU Member States and Health DG SANCO allow data gaps on a massive scale in the approval process of pesticides. This is what PAN-Europe learned in its analysis of one of the major derogation systems (case by case revocation) of regulators called 'Resubmission' ([PAN report on resubmission](#)).

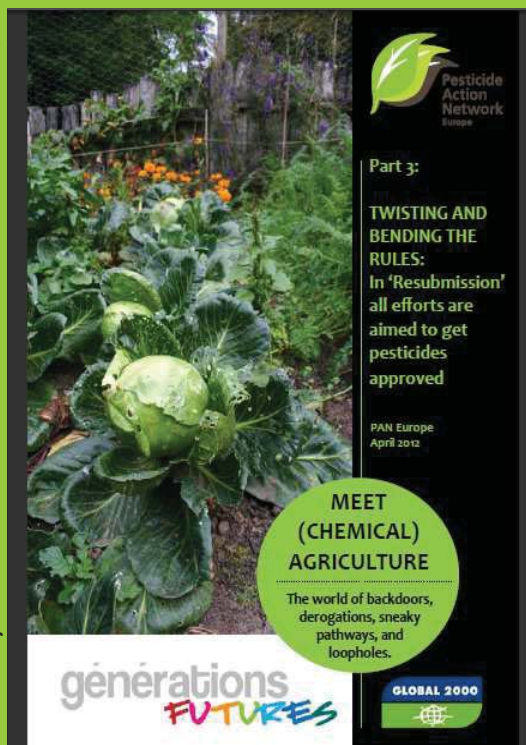
In a sample taken from the resubmission-pesticides, in ten out of ten cases of approved chemicals studied, it turned out that an environmental risk assessment was not possible for lack of data. In eight out of ten cases, consumer risk assessment was not finalised due to a lack of data. For the pesticide Bromuconazole, even five data gaps were considered acceptable. These decisions expose people and the environment to unknown risks. Data gaps are not allowed according to pesticide Directive 91/414; all required toxicity studies need to be performed.

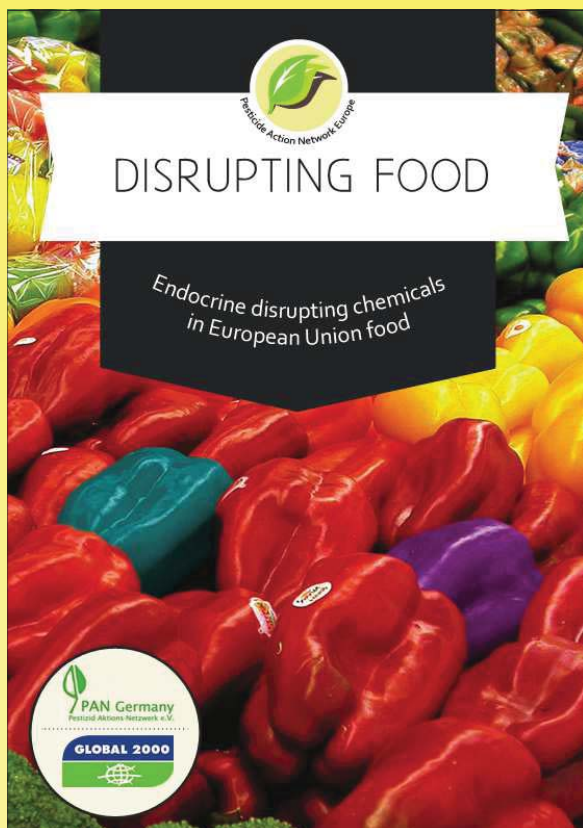
Resubmission is a new process developed behind the curtains of the Standing Committee of national representatives and Commission in 2007 which grants the pesticide industry a second chance in the event that their chemicals are banned or withdrawn. On top of this they are granted years of free market access during the process of evaluation in exchange for a "voluntary withdrawal" of their chemical. The threat of massive numbers of court cases from chemical industry and the political desire to "finalise" the much-delayed evaluation of pesticides most likely caused this strange 'deal' with industry. Industry could not resist such an advantageous offer and in the end applications for 87 different active substances were done, completely paralysing the evaluation system of SANCO and Food Authority EFSA now for more than 3 years.

The 'friendly' evaluation of this group of pesticides not only allowed approvals with data gaps, PAN-Europe's new study "Twisting and bending the rules" also revealed that member states and the Commission will never ban a pesticide solely because of environmental risks. In ten out of ten cases studied, the condition of not having unacceptable effects on the environment was not met; in seven of ten cases, even high risks for the environment were considered acceptable. This is a grave violation of the rules and a systematic undermining of the central criterion for pesticide approval: no unacceptable effect on the environment.

While giving industry such an enormous present, the necessary work on the renewal of the pesticide system –as required by the new Regulation 1007/2009- has been halted and no work is being carried out on the reconstruction of the outdated and insensitive toxicity test requirements. Further, no work is being done on either renewing the old risk assessment methodologies looking for substitutes for pesticides.

Hans Muilerman, Chemical Officer, *PAN Europe*.





PAN Europe identifies up to 30 different endocrine disrupting pesticides in European food...

Go to www.disruptingfood.info

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) are PAN Europe's top priority for the year 2012. In June, a new campaign was launched with a kick-off strategy thanks to the publication of our "consumer guide" which will be translated into five different languages over the course of the summer.: Spanish, German, Polish, Italian and many other hopefully.

EDCs in European food: a major health concern

PAN Europe's consumer guide is an exclusive survey of European food items. This new publication reveals the level of pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties in European fruits and vegetables. These pesticides are capable of « disrupting » the hormone system of the human body, which is responsible for the normal development and functioning of all vital organs.

More and more top-level scientific studies have shown the dangerous effects of endocrine disruptors on health over the last years, linking them to rising chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hormone-related cancers (breast, prostate, etc.), brain damage and infertility (see report by Prof. Kortenkamp commissioned by the EU : « State-of-the-art assessment of endocrine disruptors », 2012.). EDCs are complex chemicals capable of having effects at even very low doses such that there is no « safe » level of exposure (see Vandenberg/Soto/Heindel/VomSaal et al. Endocrine Reviews, June 2012); and the ability to « add up », leading to even more dangerous chemical mixtures (« cocktail effects »).

PAN Europe « consumer guide »: a new campaign against pesticides

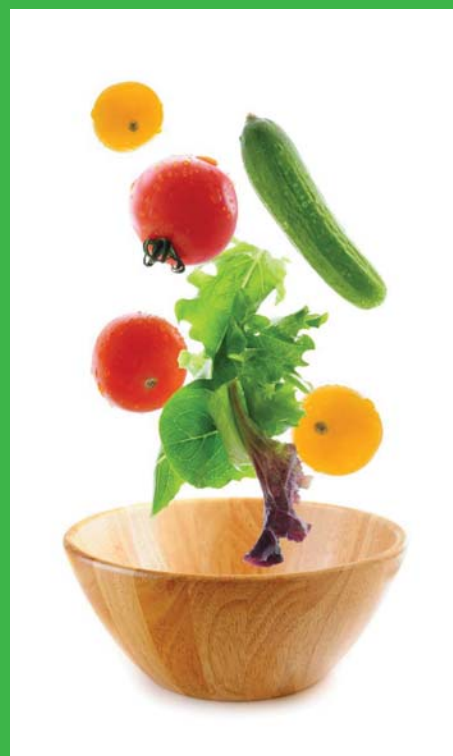
In reaction to the current European legislation on EDCs, PAN Europe investigated endocrine disruptors in food and published its results in the “consumer guide”. A ranking of the 10 most “disrupting” food items gives readers a good overview of the level of “contamination” of European food and the possibility to avoid the food items with the highest level of endocrine disrupting pesticides. **Overall, up to 30 different pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties were identified. Lettuce happened to be the most “contaminated” food item, closely followed by tomatoes, cucumbers and apples.** Along with these warnings, this guide provides consumers with several practical tips for the everyday life to minimize exposure to endocrine disruptors. Eating organic products remains the best solution, especially when it comes to children and pregnant women.

PAN Europe’s new campaign on EDCs in food started on June, 5th with the release of the “consumer guide” on a special website: www.disruptingfood.info. It is available for download for free in both French and English. This website was designed for the campaign and it will be updated with ongoing PAN Europe actions on the subject. Consumers and PAN Europe friends are invited to subscribe to the “Newsletter” of the campaign if they wish to be informed of our next action and to join in it next September. Along with this, a Facebook page was finally created for PAN Europe with daily updates and news.

The campaign is supported by our fellow NGOs partners. Réseau Environnement Santé (RES, France), France Nature Environnement (FNE, France), Inter Environnement Wallonie (Belgium), who have made press releases of their own. Thanks to our new communication tools (website, facebook), the campaign was well covered by the media, both at the European (ENDS, Europolitics...) and national levels; involving such leading newspapers as Le Parisien (France), Aujourd’hui en France (France) and radio like RMC (France) or RTBF (Belgium).

The campaign goes on, reaching both consumers and organic farmers who are eager to support our effort to reduce the use of pesticides and promote a safe, eco-friendly, agriculture. Success will be achieved with the involvement of the public. PAN Europe calls upon all its partners to join in now!

Lucie Daniel, Former Communication Officer, *PAN Europe*



Endocrine disrupting pesticide Prochloraz challenged in court.

In May 2012 PAN Europe filed a court case against the decision of EU Commission to authorize the chemical Prochloraz. This chemical is known for its endocrine disrupting properties, but the Commission chose to completely disregard all the evidence from available scientific studies on endocrine disrupting effects for humans and granted Prochloraz ten years of access to the European market.

Prochloraz is a fungicide approved for a wide variety of crops in the European Union. Evidence of its negative effects has already been presented by a large number of scientific studies. These adverse effects include the feminisation of male offspring and sexual malformations. The unborn are especially vulnerable to this type of chemicals. Indeed, exposure during key stages of development in the womb can lead to behavioural effects in later life. Despite these alarming effects, Prochloraz was eventually re-approved by the EU Commission in the late 2011 after a very short withdrawal. But Commission did not consider the available evidence regarding human exposure at all.

In December 2011, PAN Europe sent a request to the Commission for an internal review of the approval. The Commission, according to regulations, must consider current scientific knowledge and ensure that harmful effects on humans are prevented. After a negative decision of Commission on 9th March 2012, PAN Europe's lawyer Mr. J. Rutteman sent our appeal to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

While the Commission has to come up with criteria for endocrine disruption by the end of 2013, this type of chemical is still marketed. PAN Europe believes that people in Europe should be protected against the adverse effects of such chemicals in the meantime and that no endocrine disrupting pesticides should therefore be allowed on the market.

Prochloraz is also part of the “re-submission” regime of Commission in order to escape from the usual stricter testing protocols. A report by PAN on the flaws of this regime was published in the end of March (link: [PAN report Resubmission](#)).

Hans Muilerman, Chemical Officer,
PAN Europe.



WEEK WITHOUT PESTICIDES

PAN Europe's celebration of week for alternative to pesticides in Brussels

As part of this years week for alternatives to pesticides, PAN Europe organised two events aiming at making Brussels based citizens aware of the damage that pesticides caused and make them realise that the alternatives are already there:

On 21 March: a workshop on pesticide free gardening targeted to children and families at the Maison des Enfants of Etterbeek.

About 60 children from 5 to 8 and of many different origins, many of them coming in the framework of the little trip organised by the garderie of their school attended the workshop. Plus 20 other children with their parents too part in this workshop (place: Maison des enfants Etterbeek).

A professional person from ADALIA, Bastien Domken, was invited to explain to the children about beneficiary insects and their life circle, and we distributed ladybird larvae to each children, allowing them to discover the beauty of nature and its importance in the ecosystem.



On 22 March: Mundo B, Ixelles, a workshop on pesticides free gardening and compost.

As part of the week for alternatives to pesticides, PAN Europe organised a projection of the film 'pesticide mon amour' [<http://pesticidemonamour.com/>] with participation of the filmmaker Erik Freyel and an expert panel (Monique Lefebvre, responsible for the Jardin Jouet Rey in Etterbeek (Worms), Natalie Rose, Nature and Progrès Brussels, Simon Moliner, le Jardin Collectif Jouet Rey (Worms). Around 25 citizens took part in this debate.

During the workshop we, among others, disseminated material on "Un jardin naturel et convivial – 100 conseils pour respecter l'environnement et favorise la biodiversité" and "Composter pour reduire ses dechets" both made by Bruxelles Environnement.

Thanks to these activities we succeeded in:

- Starting contacts and discussions with the civil servants in two communes in Brussels, from different services to speak to them about the problematic of using pesticides on sidewalks, in parks, public football fields, playgrounds, schools and other public places. Both communes showed an interest in deepening this debate further and organising events next year as part of the Pesticide Free week.

- Establish another building block in mobilising different Belgium environmental NGOs to work together, learning from each other, in the fight against pesticides (ADALIA, Natagora, VELT, Nature and Progrès).

These activities were made possible thanks to a grant from Foundation Roi Baudouin.
(Read more about this subject in the articles "Our members' actions")

The European Commission is not doing enough to protect the Honeybees.

Things have been moving intensely in the past months regarding honeybees and their chronic disappearance. Scientists, European Commission, European Parliament, EFSA and now PAN-Europe are dealing with honeybees and the hazards of neonicotinoides.

The ball has started rolling with two publications in Science on neonicotinoides affecting honeybees and bumblebees earlier this year. Therefore, the European Commission has asked EFSA for advice on both articles as well as for a complete review of the pesticides risk assessment protocols used by the industry for honeybees.

EFSA's conclusions on the scientific articles were unfortunately a bit too apolitical: "worrying evidence of toxicity of neonicotinoides at nectar concentrations are provided but more research needs to be done."

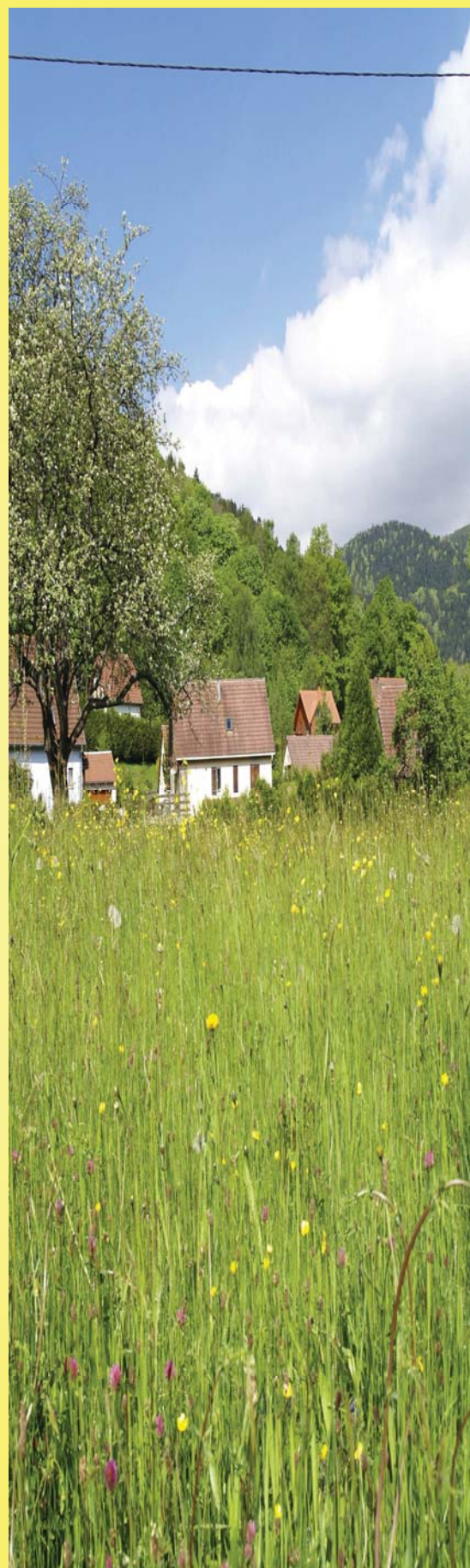
As is often the case, evidence is there is not deemed sufficient for action. EFSA's evaluation of risk assessment for bees is of major importance for the beekeeping sector and for pollinators in general. In fact, the Authority has explained that only the tip of the toxicity iceberg - acute toxicity - is evaluated, acknowledging that pesticides that are currently in use which have not been proven to be safe for bees.

The conventional agriculture industry has counterattacked by sponsoring the European Bees and Pollination Week, where conferences have been presenting the lack of biodiversity and diseases as causes of the pollination crisis. Pesticides? Nooooo, never!

Despite the new scientific evidence of sublethal toxicity of neonicotinoides, the criticism on the weaknesses of the toxicity evaluation scheme - not forgetting about the example of re-birth of the Italian beekeeping sector after Italy has banned neonicotinoides in Italy in 2008 -the European Commission is still not moving and neither are Member States.

Therefore PAN-Europe has decided to change the rhythm of the dance by beginning this year two court cases at the European Court of Justice and a few national cases.

Martin Dermine, Bees Project, *PAN Europe*



Sharing biodiversity? with whom?

EUROPEAN BEES AND POLLINATION WEEK PRESENTATION

During the European Bees and Pollination week , a symposium organized by different companies to talk about Bees collapse from a very different point of view than the NGOs as you will read.

Noa Simon, from CARI and Martin Dermine from PAN Europe attended this two-day symposium in the European Parliament . This conference was supported by BASF and we could hear the ECPA representative in his presentation explain that “pesticides help biodiversity”. The word “pesticide” was nearly never uttered by the speakers, carefully chosen because they wouldn’t blame chemicals...

In front of this situation here is the European Bees Coordination’s press release of June the 8th:
(and some more information in the next article)

“Once again, the chemical industry and the big cereal and seed cooperatives have organised a remarkable communication exercise at the European Parliament. This time the subject was biodiversity and pollination, terms that they have appropriated as own flag. This was done in a conference with title “Biodiversity, a culture to share” organised by the French “Réseau pour la biodiversité” (5-6 June) from which they are all the main partners.

The first part of the biodiversity conference intended to summarise the problems of honeybees and biodiversity. The second part dealt with biodiversity management. Philippe Lecomte, president of the Réseau and maybe the only beekeeper in Europe defending that the intensive agricultural model poses no problem to biodiversity, enumerated the problems of honeybees: pathologies (Varroa, mainly, and Nosema) and lack of food resources.

One could wonder what is happening with the other pollinators. Why they are disappearing if there is not Varroa killing them? A mystery...

Some interesting presentations showed the status of biodiversity in Europe with a worrying picture for the centre-north of the continent. The ideas and messages treated were presented in a seemingly equilibrated way, without one noticing that there were some pieces not shown in this puzzle, namely the loss of habitat or the impact of the intensive agricultural model with a prophylactic or systematic use of pesticides. “

OUR MEMBERS' ACTION

Week for Alternatives to Pesticides (Pesticides Action Week)

From 20 to 30 March 2012 was held the 7th Annual Pesticides Action Week. This operation was attended by tens of thousands of people (associations, farmers, consumers, local authorities etc.) for a 'future without pesticides'.

750 events were organized mostly in France but also in 21 other countries (4 countries more than in 2011): France, Belgium, UK, Germany, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, Congo, Georgia, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Canada.

Various events were organised: film screenings, debates, workshops, training, demonstrations, site visits, symbolic marches, organic meals, exhibitions, shows, etc.

Farmers have also organized "open farms days", the discovery of organic gardening or organic orchards.

Municipalities also attended the event and organized various events: pedestrian tours through cities to discover the efforts of the team and non-chemical weed control techniques and visits to "free pesticides urban zones". There were dozens of trips to learn how to look at nature differently and better understand the impact of pesticides on biodiversity: home gardens, night out in search of newts, training, technical conferences, demonstrations, workshops for young and older people, and conferences with experts and personalities such as Pierre Rabhi (agroecologist), Francois Veillerette Marc Dufumier (agronomist) etc..

One of the highlights of the event was a major conference at the "Palais du Luxembourg" (French Senate) 23rd and 24th March on "Pesticides and Health, what kind of change is needed for improvement?". On the first day, a scientific conference was held with leading experts and the next day technical workshops aimed at pesticide victims, on legal issues and on alternatives for farmers were held. To discover all the videos of the two days visit our website: www.congrespesticides.org.

These first 10 days of spring (which is a very symbolic period because spring is the time when pesticide spraying starts again every year) have been the occasion of a great citizen mobilization for a future without pesticides, supported by local and national media (radio, TV and newspapers). All these events were targeting the same objectives: to inform of the risks of pesticides and to promote alternatives to pesticide use.

Initiated in 2006 by the ACAP group, Citizen Action for Alternative to Pesticides, and coordinated by Generations Futures, the event is for everyone: consumers, citizens, municipal officials, farmers, businesses, children, gardeners, and the simply curious. The operation is backed by more than 35 partners. Again this year, new networks have joined the operation (in France: Ecomaires, Synabio, Ecocert, the Hummingbirds, Altereco, ONEMA / Ecophyto 2018). This 2012 edition is marked by increasing internationalisation and strengthened links with new international partners: Bund (Germany), IFOAM (International), Friends of the Earth Europe, Soil Association (UK).

These closer links have an effect on the promotion of the event in these countries. Hopefully this will result in 2013 in many more efforts in these countries, the ideal being that some national structures accept to coordinate the event in their own countries, like Belgium with Adalia or ASOL in Togo. Now 'rendezvous' the 20 to 30 March 2013 to perpetuate this action for hope and solutions with the 8th occurrence of the Pesticide Action Week !

For more information: pesticidesactionweek.org

Nadine Lauverjat, *Générations Futures*



Salon International de l'Agriculture

Paris, Monday, February 27, at 10am, at the "Salon International de l'Agriculture" (SIA), for the first time in France (and probably in the world), professional users of pesticides, and direct victims of these products went to demonstrate - with the association Phyto-Victims - at the stand of UIPP (Union of Industry Plant Protection) - the lobby group of agrochemical companies in France. Each wearing a T-shirt on which their name and the disease they were suffering was printed. Participants also displayed large posters showing examples like a photo of a victim coupled with sentences like "Pesticides have made me a paraplegic" or "Pesticides have made me a widow."

Among the protesters were farmer Paul François, who was recently in the media spotlight for his successful lawsuit against the U.S. firm Monsanto and the widow of Yannick Chenet, a farmer who died last year. This action was supported by Generations Futures, which has been present alongside Phyto-victims since its creation in March 2011. François Veillerette, Generations Futures' spokesman, said in a press release issued for the occasion "during the last sixty years, French agriculture was gradually made totally dependent on massive use of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides). Hazardous synthetic pesticides have been used by tens of thousands of tons each year during this period. This massive use of pesticides unfortunately has a dark side, *which its promoters would like to hide. This of course includes environmental pollution. But what the advocates of pesticides absolutely want to see stay in the shadows, it is the exorbitant impact on human health of the massive use of synthetic pesticides in agriculture.* And it is the farmers themselves who pay the heaviest price for this hidden health disaster. Today, farmers, widows and other professional victims of pesticides dare to show themselves in broad daylight and accuse a system that made them sick. This is a great step forward. Generations Futures want to pay a tribute to the courage of these victims and to all the suffering that they and their families are going through. Courage is indeed necessary to testify while the entire agro-industrial system has been imposing an 'omerta rule' on this subject for half a century! "

"This demonstration of Phyto-victims at the Salon of Agriculture now allows people to see the real price paid by workers, in agriculture and other sectors, for the use of massive quantities of synthetic pesticides for half a century" he concludes.

Other supporters were added to the list including WWF France, FNAB, the professional federation of organic agriculture, and the agricultural trade union Confederation Paysanne.

The objective of this effort was to help victims of pesticide professionals to express themselves and to counter the claims of chemical manufacturers who claim that pesticide use does not poison anyone. Therefore, this Monday, Feb. 27, these men and women - farmers, widows of farmers, farm workers, employees of food industry, dockers - have shown that pesticide victims do exist and they have made their voices heard on this occasion.

This event attracted a lot of media attention and enabled a delegation of victims to meet the French Minister of Agriculture (Bruno Lemaire) and the European Commissioner Ciolos. They also were able to make an appointment with the office of Prime Minister to report on the situation of professional victims of pesticides. Meanwhile, a mission of the Senate on "Pesticides and Health" was launched and met the victims. Parkinson's disease linked to pesticides entered the list of occupational diseases which is a significant progress. Things are now moving forward and, in France, the situation will never be the same now on this issue. It is now time to create an identical movement across Europe and even beyond, PAN Europe will certainly have a unifying role to play!

Check out videos of the action here:

<http://www.phyto-victimes.fr/2012/03/phyto-victimes-au-salon-de-l%E2%80%99agriculture-act-2/>

<http://www.phyto-victimes.fr/2012/03/phyto-victimes-au-salon-de-lagriculture-acte-1/>

Nadine Lauverjat, *Générations Futures*



THE BELGIAN PESTICIDE-FREE WEEK

The fifth Pesticide-Free Week was held from 20 to 30 March 2012. This campaign takes place yearly in sync with 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 put forward alternatives allowing the use of pesticides to be reduced. For the first time, Brussels joined the campaign, making it a major event throughout the French speaking part of the country.



This year 147 activities were organised such as conferences, exhibitions, visits, demonstrations and debates. Adalia encouraged people to bring their old pesticides to specialised disposal facilities by rewarding them with some 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, some lucky children received a few ladybirds each to release in their garden. We explained how useful insects are, especially ladybirds that eat aphids. Back home, the children told their parents that they should use ladybirds instead of pesticides against aphids.

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 won't be needed any more since everyone has gone pesticide-free!

Photo source: Marc Segond



Bastien
Domken-
Adalia
asbl



Illegal pesticide waste storage in Gdansk leads to DDT, atrazine and HCB pollution

HCB and DDT waste is stored 60 meters away from Gdansk Bay (Baltic Sea), on property owned by the incineration company, Port Service. The TV crew of VTN found out that most of the toxic HCB waste has been imported from the Ukraine. 14,000 tons, some has been stored in some bags, some completely improperly contained.

The hazardous waste storage methods of the Port Service company in Gdansk do not fulfil the minimum requirements of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (BC) and ignores goals of the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of hazardous wastes. The company's waste storage and packaging practices breach the Basel Convention in a variety of regards. Highly hazardous HCB's and other toxic pesticide dust are polluting the area which is not only gravely dangerous to aquatic environment but also hazardous to people in the area. HCB is banned under the Stockholm convention, because of its high toxicity and the fact that it accumulates in the bodies of living organisms, including humans.

Greenpeace has taken samples from around the area of Port Service in Gdansk. According to the Basel Convention guidelines, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) waste should be stored in closed buildings or in containers and absolutely no leakage is allowed. In this case, hazardous waste - including POP wastes- are stored in loose, leaking plastic bags, causing major environmental pollution. According to the BC guidelines waste types should be stored separately. On Port Service's site in Gdansk, all waste types have been stored together.

Greenpeace took 9 samples: one from an open bag next to the fence (not results we got from the lab), one soil sample from inside the facility near the fence, and seven from the outside area. In all samples even 20-50 meters from the fence, HCB was found. Despite the area not being used for agriculture, we found several other pesticides in the top of the soil. The maximum DDT concentration was 0.564 mg/kg and the maximum HCB 4.214 mg/kg and the maximum atrazine concentration was 2.537 mg/kg. We can say with extremely high certainty that the pollutants came from the Port Service facility, and the pollution is the consequence of the inappropriate storage.

The most dangerous substances were alpha-HCH, HCB and DDT. All of these substances have been restricted for many years and HCB and DDT are banned under the Stockholm Convention. The measured values breach the legal limit of most EU countries (though disappointingly, there are no common European soil limit values). The Polish HCB limit is surprisingly high for industrial areas. In many countries, the maximum limit value is 1 mg/kg, but Polish law allows 15 mg/kg. For atrazine which is also a hazardous substance, but does not accumulate in human tissues, the limit value is just 0,05 mg/kg. For that reason HCB levels did not breach the limit value for industrial areas, but atrazine exceeded the Polish maximum limits almost 20 times outside the plant and 50 times inside the plant. Stricter alpha-HCH and DDT industrial limits exceeded the limits in the sample from inside the plant. We measured several other pollutants like prometryn and simazine. Tragically, there is no limit value for most the most hazardous pollutants.

Greenpeace demands

- Immediate complete monitoring of the whole area for all pollutants
- A clean-up of the contaminated area inside and outside the plant
- Repackaging and proper storage and handling of hazardous substances at Port Service

Greenpeace recommendations to Polish decision makers

- Coherent limit values for all pollutants
- Stricter limits for such dangerous substance like HCB
- Set limit values for many more chemicals, or at least general limit values for groups of chemicals (like pyrethroid insecticides, or triazine herbicides)

Gergely Simon

Regional toxic expert - Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe
PAN Europe Board member

Table: Testing results. Above threshold is marked with red. (file attached)

Ensuring Corporate Accountability: the Permanent People's Tribunal Session on Agrochemical TNCs

On December 3 2011, PAN International brought charges against 6 Agrochemical Transnational Corporations to the Permanent People's Tribunal for violations of human rights including the right to health, economic, social and cultural rights, rights of indigenous peoples, rights of women and children. The charges were not only against the 6 Agrochemical TNCs – Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer, DuPont, Dow and BASF but also the countries where they are headquartered since they have failed to hold the TNCs accountable for their wrongful acts, and WTO and WB who have facilitated their growth, power and influence.

PAN International has consistently documented the horrifying impacts of pesticide use on poor communities, small farmers and agricultural workers who suffer acute and chronic health effects of pesticides and other ongoing violations of human rights by these producers of agrochemicals. In the last three years PAN worked to document cases of human rights violations and presented it to the PPT in December 2011.

Throughout Asia, Latin America, Africa and elsewhere, thousands of plantation workers are suffering adverse health impacts due to their exposure to one of the most toxic pesticides, paraquat. Paraquat, a product of Syngenta, has no antidote and causes a litany of health effects. Because of its hazards, paraquat is not allowed in Switzerland as well as in the European Union. Women paraquat sprayers suffer from skin damage, burns, blindness, discolouration and loss of nails, nose bleeds, and respiratory problems. Nagama, a former plantation worker said, "I had to resign from my job when I was 45 years old because of ill health due to paraquat poisoning." She added, "Paraquat is banned in Switzerland (Syngenta's home state), why then is it still sold and used in Malaysia?"

In India, Monsanto and Bayer buy seeds from farmers and companies that hire more than 400,000 children each year to grow genetically modified and other cottonseed. These children work long hours, get paid less than the minimum wage, and are exposed to highly hazardous pesticides. In 2006, Bayer announced that its genetically engineered rice, Liberty Link - not approved for human consumption, had contaminated the US rice production and the rice exports to Europe and the rest of the world.

In 2007, guards from Syngenta's hired Security Company, in Brazil shot and killed one activist of MST, Valmir Mota and injured many who were peacefully protesting the illegal field experiments of genetically engineered crops. The guards also shot another farmer in the head, which resulted in the loss of her one eye. Celso Barbosa who survived, said "We (Via Campesina) were protesting sterile seeds that would make us dependent on TNCs. We decided to occupy Syngenta's fields." He added that, "the Swiss government publicly apologized for Syngenta's violence in Brazil". But Syngenta continues to expand its market with impunity.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (many produced by Syngenta, Bayer and Dow) travel northwards and accumulate in the environment contaminating the arctic which had devastating effects on the way of life of the Arctic tribes. Vi Waghiyi, Yupik succinctly described it in her statement at the PPT, "*The health and well-being of our Arctic Indigenous Peoples is connected intimately to the climate, wildlife, and the Arctic ecosystem spiritually, culturally and traditionally. The corporations are contaminating us without our consent and affecting our lands, our subsistence foods, the health and well-being of our people, our children and future generations, and our traditions and cultures. They must be held accountable and prevented from causing further harm.*"

In Africa, there are 50,000 tonnes of prohibited and obsolete pesticides. They are often stored in deteriorating and leaky containers without adequate safeguards. Dr. Abou Thiam in his statement at the PPT, "*Obsolete dumps in Africa are like ecological bombs waiting to go off.*"

The monopoly control of Agrochemical TNCs in food and agriculture has led to loss of livelihoods, and loss of food sovereignty. In the U.S., many agricultural farms have been contaminated with genetically-engineered crops, and have lost significant access to traditional seeds. Yet, instead of recognizing that they have violated the farmers' rights to reject GE crops, Monsanto has even sued these farmers for alleged "seed piracy." Monsanto has taken these farmers to court for alleged intellectual property rights infringement, and forced them to pay the company millions of dollars. Javier Souza, Agronomist from Buenos Aires University said, "*The push of Monsanto's RR Soy into Argentina has led to the loss of livelihood and food sovereignty.*"

There has been a drastic decline of bee populations across the world, which started in the mid-1990s. At the same period that Bayer introduced neonicotinoid pesticides in the market, honeybee populations started dying everywhere in Europe, US and in other countries. This has imperilled the livelihoods of thousands of beekeepers and compromised food security and jeopardized the ecosystem. In the beginning of 2008, Bayer's application for clothianidin was rejected by the French authorities; and as a precautionary measure, Italy's Agriculture Ministry also suspended neonicotinoides in 2008. In 2009, Italy's neonicotinoid-free corn sowing resulted in no cases of widespread bee mortality in apiaries around the crops. This had not happened since 1999. Italy's suspension on the use of pesticides containing clothianidin, thiametoxam and imidacloprid for the coating of any plant seeds "as a precautionary measure", seems to have worked wonders, judging from the fresh data collected on the ground by researchers, beekeepers and regional authorities alike.

To silence critics and independent research, these agrochemical TNCs have harassed and discredited scientists who have upheld the truth. Syngenta has harassed and attempted to discredit Dr Tyrone Hayes, a scientist who exposed the negative impacts of Syngenta's pesticide, Atrazine. Dr. Hayes said, "Syngenta asked me to manipulate data, hide data or purchase my data. I refused." Scientists like Dr Hayes who speak the truth, lose their funding and are isolated from the rest of the scientific community. The TNCs have also influenced the focus and outcome of the research by donating research grants to universities or funding research that is corporate owned especially when universities are vulnerable due to privatisation. Agrochemical TNCs have used the threats of and actual legal suits and counter suits to silence critics and tie activists in litigation for years.

Corporate power and concentration in food and agriculture is enormous. Just six corporations (Bayer, Syngenta, BASF, Dow, Monsanto and DuPont) control 72 percent of the 44 billion US\$ global pesticides market in 2009. The top 10 seed companies (many are also agrochemical companies) control 73 percent of the global proprietary seed market that was valued at 27.4 billion USD in 2009. Monsanto accounts for almost 27 percent of this market. This handful of corporations wield excessive power and influence, and in many cases influence the food and farming policies and practices at community, national and international levels.

The violations of human rights presented at the PPT have shown very clearly, widespread and systematic violations of people's rights to life and health and livelihoods. These violations impact on the economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights and in particular the rights of women and children. The onslaught of agrochemical TNCs and the monopoly control of the means of production particularly land, water, and seeds is evident. This monopoly control have devastated farmers, local small food producers and indigenous communities who are losing their basis of survival, their culture, and identity and their knowledge and skills

The legal and policies framework have made it impossible for communities and vulnerable groups that are the most affected to have access to justice. They face huge obstacles to hold these TNCs, parent company and their agents who have contributed to death, ill health and environmental damage liable.

The lack of corporate accountability and remedy under international and local laws as well as the deliberate failure of these agrochemical TNCs to observe the customary rights and norms under international law, have devastating impact on people, livelihoods and environment. It has also been aggravated by the complicity of the States and their failure to protect their citizens from this onslaught. In spite of current existing international instruments such as Conventions that define rights, it is not possible to make TNCs accountable. At the global level there is a lack of mechanisms for corporate accountability.

These agrochemical TNCs continue to escape liability for their conduct outside of their host states. The United States, Germany, and Switzerland, where the headquarters of the six corporate defendants are located, bear not only responsibility but legal liability for their failure to regulate the export of dangerous agrochemicals and the genetic engineered seeds and crops that inflict great environmental harm and endanger the health and lives, both directly and indirectly.

For PAN, the PPT was an important means to demonstrate the need for a global system of accountability and justice for TNCs, since such flora do not exist. The PPT was an important venue for survivors as "a people's court for the dispossessed" which exposes injustices not addressed by governments and the United Nations.

Next Steps

The people's response in the face of this serious onslaught of violations of rights to health and livelihoods has been to strengthen the people's movements and consolidate the resistance against globalization and the tyranny of the agrochemical TNCs. PAN working with people's organisations will continue to strengthen and support the survivors of violations of human rights to bring these TNCs to justice and to hold them accountable for their human rights violations. We will continue to publicise the corporate violations of human rights and work towards a global mechanism for corporate accountability.

Pesticide Action Network Asia and Pacific (*PANAP*) Coordinator Sarojeni V.Rengam

German environmental NGOs left NAP process.

The effects of decades of pesticide use can be seen everywhere: pesticide residues in food, contaminated water bodies, pesticides in bee-hives, reduced biodiversity. In Germany 54% of the total land area is under cultivation. Therefore agriculture forms the largest habitat for wildlife. On more than 95% of the arable land, pesticides are the first choice to protect agricultural crops from competition (grasses and weeds), fungi, pests and



In order to reduce risks and negative effects of pesticide use, the so called “Reduction Programme Chemical Plant Protection” was launched in Germany in 2004 and meetings of this “Forum” with participation of stakeholders involved, as ministry, farmer organizations, environmental NGOs, food and pesticide industry, etc. took place regularly. With the upcoming new EU pesticide legislation the former Reduction program’s name was changed into

National Action Plan (NAP) in 2009. Adopting a NAP now is no longer voluntary. The EU Sustainable Use Directive (DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC) now obliges member states to adopt National Action Plans (NAP) to set up quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables to reduce risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and to encourage the development and introduction of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques in order to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides.

In order to meet the new requirements, work within the NAP-Forum had been intensified. Several meetings and additional working group meetings focusing on specific issues such as biodiversity, water protection, residues in food and indicators took place under the guidance of the agricultural ministry. PAN Germany which has been active in the process since 2004 co-ordinated the environmental groups in the NAP-Forum. In 2009, PAN addressed lack of biodiversity conservation in the NAP and called for more ambitious goals. Alone and together with other environmental NGOs, PAN published position papers and concepts focusing on biodiversity and clean water, pesticides residues in food, and indicators. All documents are available on <http://www.pan-germany.org/deu/~news-1035.html>. PAN made efforts to bring issues such as a bee-bread indicator, a crop rotation index and adequate measures to reach goal of +20% organic agriculture area to the table.

After lobbying for years for improved policy action on environmental and health issues, PAN Germany decided to leave the Forum in November 2011. Though the continuous engagement of the environmental NGOs contributed to an improvement of the NAP draft, this decision had been taken because PAN Germany did not see that the SUD (Sustainable Use Direction) goals – risk reduction for environment and human health and reducing dependency from chemical pesticides – could be reached with this insufficient NAP-Draft. Along with others, PAN criticized the lack of transparency within the process, the lack of ambitious goals and measures to protect surface and ground water from pesticides that partially do not even meet policy standards, the lack of coherence, the lack of limitation of monoculture, and the lack of obligations for wider crop rotation, a strong focus on “voluntary” measures, a lack of financial support for needed non-chemical plant protection research, and more. PAN Germany explained this step in a letter to the agricultural minister Ilse Aigner and left the NAP-Forum together with Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Greenpeace Germany, German Association of Energy and Water Industries (BDEW), and the German Professional Beekeepers Association (DBIB). The group further made their actions publicly known. Irrespective of this step, the Federation of German Consumer Organisations (vzbv) and the German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water (DVGW) also left the NAP process. That left the NAP Forum which met last time in December 2011 without a consumer NGO representative, without participation of an environmental & protection NGO, and without a representative of water suppliers. PAN Germany and the other NGOs followed the invitation by the Agricultural Ministry to explain their decision and made it clear that just “cosmetic improvements” will not change the organizations’ decision.

The inter-ministerial consultation of the NAP-Draft has recently begun. In addition to leaving the NAP-Forum, we will carry out a critical evaluation of the provisions as soon as the official proposal is released.

Susan Haffmans, *PAN Germany*

The new European Biocide Product Regulation: Opportunities and Obstacles

In May 2012, the Council of the European Union formally adopted the EU's new Biocide Products Regulation (BPR), which will to replace the EU's existing Biocide Products Directive 98/8/EC. The provisions of the Regulation will go into effect on September, 2013.

The BPR, which regulates the marketing and use of household insecticides, disinfectants, preservatives and preservatives had previously adopted by the European Parliament in January this year. PAN, HEAL and the WECF criticised the results of the revision in a common [press release](#), for a variety of reasons including the wide range of "derogations" and the lack of substitution plans for hazardous biocides as well as too little added value for public health, especially concerning the likely risks of antibiotic resistance from unbridled growth of biocide use.

In Germany for instance, more than 35,000 biocide products exist on the market. Most of them in the fields of hygiene, material protection, preservation, and pest control. Simultaneously, we observe an increasing number of everyday products that are treated with biocides, including leather articles treated with anti-mould products, mouse pads or other synthetic materials treated with antibacterial coating or textiles with "anti-odour" labels. With the new legislation consumer rights are however strengthened through e.g. specific labelling requirements for such treated articles and biocide products containing nanomaterials.

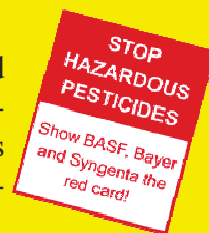
The new fact sheet "[The European Union's new Regulation on biocides](#)", published by PAN Germany, provides a summary of substantial improvements and shortcomings of the BPR from the perspective of environmental and consumer protection. It aims to help the interested public, NGOs and the media to get a clear and quick picture of future provisions or to find an easy understanding of the complex legislative text.

PAN Germany advocates stricter approval procedures to increase transparency, better consumer information as well as a sustainable use of biocides including the promotion of harmless alternatives. The fact sheet is available in English and German as a printed version as well as a free PDF-document on the PAN Germany website: <http://www.pan-germany.org/gbr.htm>.

Show pesticide companies the red card! Stop highly hazardous pesticides!

- Take action and sign the letter against highly hazardous pesticides -

The multinational chemical companies BASF, Bayer, and Syngenta control nearly half of the world pesticide market. Because of their huge distribution networks, these companies have an enormous influence on how and with which pesticides crops are produced. Further, because independent extensions services are rare, pesticide companies often advise farmers on the local level and promote their products in the process.



Many of their pesticides are however highly hazardous. Each of these three companies market more than fifty highly hazardous pesticides that endanger and harm people and the environment worldwide. Such pesticides can, for example, cause cancer, damage the nervous system, make people infertile, or kill bees, and they endanger people, animals, and ecosystems worldwide. This has been shown in an international investigation conducted by PAN Germany.

Enough is enough! Join the online effort against highly hazardous pesticides by signing the letter at <http://action.pan-germany.org/gbr/~aktionsmail.html> calling on the corporations to end sales of highly hazardous pesticides. The online initiative will run through October 2012. Ask your friends join in via email, Twitter, or Facebook and to also sign the letter.

(There is a convenient way to share this action with friends by email at: <http://action.pan-germany.org/gbr/~freundeinfo.html>).

Susanne Smolka, PAN Germany

Reducing the use of hazardous pesticides in Georgia

From August 2010 until July 2012 the project “Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries: potential of implementing safer chemicals including non-chemical alternatives - tools for Georgia and the EECCA region“ was implemented by the Georgian NGO Greens Movement Georgia, SEMA, the Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association (GEBMA) and coordinated by WECF. The project received financial support of the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. The aim of the project was on of various initiatives to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture in Georgia (Caucasus), to improve legislative regulation and to identify and demonstrate the usage of non-hazardous bio pesticides in agriculture.



Process of liberalisation of pesticides in Georgia

Before 2003, the legislation of Georgia was mainly based on approaches and norms from the Soviet period, which were fairly strict with regard to requirements for production, use and disposal of hazardous chemicals. After 2003, in line with general liberalisation of the regulation in the country, the laws in the field of production use and disposal of the hazardous chemicals were also loosened, which had a negative influence in the issues of protection of human life, health and economic interests. The project observed a loosening of legislation in the field of hazardous chemicals in Georgia has been done through a very simplistic approach, and in many cases the only action was elimination of this or that law. During the same period, Georgia became party to number of international conventions and treaties, and the country made important commitments, including a number in the field of hazardous chemicals.

Based on the above reality, the Stockholm Convention (adopted in 2001, entered in force in 2004) should serve as a legal milestone in the field of production use and disposal of the hazardous chemicals. Despite the fact that in Georgia, issues covered by the Stockholm Convention are regulated by not less than four ministries, and many lower level state authorities, there is still not a single legal act in place that would aim towards regulating these products. For example, there is structural relationship between these institutions, and the rights and responsibilities of the Focal Point are not defined. Further, yet to be addressed are defined requirements for accountability and creation of unified national database.

Serious deficiencies in the field of informing consumers in process of sale of the registered pesticides and other chemicals have been identified.

The Georgian pesticide market

The Georgian market is saturated with various chemical pesticides. Currently, in such a small country as Georgia, up to 190 active substances and about 400 their various derivative complex preparations have been registered. Most of them are low quality, chemical pesticides produced in China, India, Turkey and Bulgaria. Also on the Georgian market there are various pesticides from Europe, produced by the companies like BASF, Syngenta, Bayer, Newfarm, and Dupont. The total yearly quantity of imported pesticides is about 1300-1500 tons, a large increase when one considers that in 2010 approximately 8000 kg chemicals regulated by Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were imported to Georgia (Based on the Customs Office data).

According to statistical data, the total area of tilled soil in Georgia is 472 thousand ha, with 100,215 ha

Year	Insecti- cides (kg)	Fungi- cides (kg)	Herbici- des (kg)	Germi- cides (kg)	Rodentici- des (kg)	Other (kg)	Total kg)
2011	264 589	773 051,6	328 076,2	32 917	25 775	84 920,4	1 509 329
2010	240 337	804 266	166 387	780	39 054	54 640	1 305 464

Table : Overview of import of pesticides in 2010 into Georgia by types. (Source: web page of the Ministry of Finance)

In the experts' opinion, the European products are high quality, technologically pure and respectively expensive. As for Chinese, Indian and Turkish products, both, their price and quality are quite low and hence their reliability is doubtful. Further, for the purpose of importing cheap chemical preparations, some importers registers several analogues of one and the same preparation produced in China, India or Turkey.

Though there are about 150 specialized pesticide shops, farmers' houses, and distribution networks. Consumers are generally unaware of the risks related to pesticides' application. Further packaging and marking (Georgian text and application instructions on the labels) of pesticides are not regulated neither controlled.

Adequate measures are needed

To mitigate the risk of harmful environmental impacts of the pesticides the project identified, among others, the following required measures are needed:

- The strictest regulations of marking and labelling the harmful chemicals should be established, providing maximum information about harmful properties of such substances;

- Current regulations of storage, packaging, distribution and application of harmful chemicals and chemical substances should be reviewed;

- An extensive campaign should be arranged to improve the population's awareness of pesticides' application safety rules;

- Personal protection means should be available at the specialized shops and such personal protection equipment should be offered together with the application instructions;

- Before application of the pesticides the equipment should be tested;

- Reliable data base on the properties of authorized pesticides should be made available in Georgian language to importers, retailers, authorities and farmers

- A campaign on the substitution of harmful pesticides should be starte

Steps moving forward: Establishing a pesticide database in Georgian language

Due to the observed illegal importation and the low awareness on the risks of pesticides among authorities, users and other stakeholders, the project took it upon itself to develop a handbook with a pesticide database in Georgian language. The Handbook will present the basic principles on pesticides toxicity and safe use, and safe alternatives of hazardous pesticides. For each in Georgia, registered pesticide information is given on its chemical formula, CAS, IUPAC numbers, physical and chemical properties, preventive and first aid measures, etc. It is intended for practitioners, agricultural workers, toxicologists, health physicians, teachers and students of universities, scientists and others. Synonyms and trade names of pesticides will be provided alphabetically.

Steps moving forwards: Substitution of harmful pesticides

In Georgia, there are some officially registered bio-pesticides. However up to now there is no market for alternative pesticides. Distributors state this is due to their high prices and low demand, while low demand actually is caused by lack of information among the public. Therefore accurate information about alternative pesticides, their reliability and effectiveness should be provided.

In addition to developing informational materials on substitution of harmful pesticides, the project established a demonstration plot on organic farming and a safe pest management for the cultivation of such prod-

The Ecological Council's event on indicators beyond GDP

In recent years a number of activities to evaluate happiness or sustainability have been initiated around the world, including France, Britain and South Korea as well as in the OECD and UN.

In 2009 the French *Stiglitz Commission* concluded that GDP is a poor measure, even to measure the economy narrowly. The Commission recommended focusing more on income and consumption than on production and to include health and environment as indicators for societal progress.

In the spring of 2011, OECD published their Better Life Index, which involves both objective and subjective aspects of wellbeing and emphasizes that wellbeing must not come at the expense of people in other countries or of nature and the environment. The term wellbeing includes health, education, employment, environmental quality, trust, social networks, housing, etc. There are 22 indicators and no weighting is made. Thus, one single grade is not given to the countries.

In November 2011, PAN Europe's Danish member, the Ecological Council raised the question - "how do we measure progress?" – As an alternative or a supplement to GDP. At their 20-year anniversary conference on the 11th of November, 2011 this question brought together a number of prominent speakers: Danish Minister for the Environment Mrs. Ida Auken, Professor of Sustainable Development, Tim Jackson, United Kingdom, Senior Economist Myung-Kyoon Lee, Global Green Growth Institute, South Korea, Head of Department Marco Mira d'Ercole, OECD, Associate Professor Inge Røpke, Danish Technical University, and Professor Mikael Skou Andersen, European Environment Agency. All of them made important contributions to the discussion of sustainable development and how this could be measured.

For overview of what these speakers said see:

http://www.ecocouncil.dk/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=942&Itemid=



The debate on indicators beyond GDP also discussed in Rio+20

At the UN level, the Global Sustainability Panel have to formulate a "new vision for sustainable growth and prosperity along with mechanisms to achieve and measure it" before the so-called Rio +20 World Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.

The UN has received Bhutan which is calculating a Gross National Happiness Index already for many years <http://www.uncsd2012.org/nationalpreparations.html>

RIO+20 was expected to be a highlight for the UN and major international players have agreed to initiate work to develop new indicators leading us towards a more sustainable and fair world. While the UNCSD zero draft still had a reference to the 'limitations of GDP as a measure of well-being (Article 111), the final text approved at the Rio+20 UNCSD conference simply states (Article 104) **"....We recognize that goals, targets and indicators, including where appropriate gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress.**" There is no mentioning of the need to move beyond GDP and it falls short of any concrete commitments to a working process with clear targets and action plans. It also does not address the need to measures economic, social, and environmental dimension in a balanced manner.

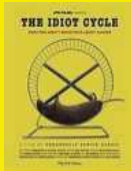
However, numerous side events on Measuring what matters (A4S, IIRC), appropriate measurement of progress (IIED), Green European Budget (GBE), social and environmental sustainability (FAIR), et al are advocating to work towards a coherent global framework which allows to align performance indicators for global sustainable development, national beyond GDP metrics and improved corporate reporting. Many encouraging initiatives exist such as **Ecosystems Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA)**, **Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)**, **Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)**, **Genuine Progress Indicator, (GPI)**, **Index for Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW)** - all trying to do that by strengthening the links between poverty and green development tools, such as natural capital accounting.

For example, the people of Ecuador approved a new Constitution in 2008 that included rights for "Nature or Pachamama to exist, persist, maintain itself and regenerate its own vital cycles, structure, functions and its evolutionary processes," and stating that "[a]ny person, people, community or nationality, may demand the observance of the rights of the natural environment before public".

Another initiative is the invitation by the www.sustainabilitytreaties.org, which has issued a set of treaties for example the Right of Mother Earth, Sustainable Production and Consumption. The treaty on Sustainable Economies suggests implementing a strategy to deploy the Genuine Progress Indicator world-wide and restitution of natural capital. They are open to participation and the hope is that convergence among different actors can speed up a shift in course.

For more information on Rio+20 debate on growth contact:
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Email: k.ulmer@aprodev.net





THE IDIOT CYCLE CAMPAIGN

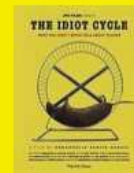
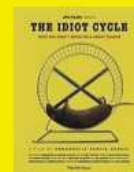
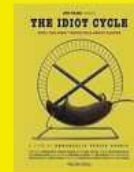
When? Starts September 10th, 2012.

Where? Indiegogo.com/IdiotCycle

Why? To raise money for Greenpeace's GMO campaign & the Organic Consumers Association's Label It campaign & stream The Idiot Cycle worldwide.

What? For every \$2,000.00 raised, we will stream The Idiot Cycle for 24 hours worldwide (on www.theidiotcycle.com) and donate 25% to Greenpeace & the Organic Consumers Association's GMO campaigns.

How? Stay updated: www.facebook.com/jpsfilms



The Idiot Cycle is the 2009 award-winning independent documentary about the links between the chemical, GMO and cancer industries. It was produced without any commercial partnerships, financial support from broadcasters or distributors, or state funding. The Idiot Cycle is independent of all financial conflicts of interest that could sway or influence the content of the film.

The film interviews scientists, researchers, and doctors (university professors and researchers and advisors to their respective governments) to reveal the vast conflicts of interest, lack of testing and scientific studies and absence of government enforcement that have been a detriment to protecting the public's health.

In light of the upcoming GMO authorizations in Europe this fall and the GMO labelling campaign in California, a number of non-profit associations have asked to screen the documentary to ignite a conversation with the public about the lack of health studies. We have also been approached by cancer associations and student groups who wish to highlight the need for more cancer prevention and more investigation into the causes of cancer, a subject sorely overlooked, with good reason. 1

Because of these requests, we have decided, with the public's help, to launch a campaign to transfer "The Idiot Cycle" into the public domain where it will belong to everyone.

But because JPS Films bears the sole financial responsibility of the film, we need to reimburse the costs of film before the rights can be transferred into the public domain. JPS Films has donated 90,000 euro and both the director and producers have donated their salaries to help this campaign.

We have made the first six minutes of the film available, along with other information, on the campaign site: www.indiegogo.com/theidiotcycle

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

WHAT?

For every \$2,000 raised JPS Films will:

- 1) Donate 25% of the funds to Greenpeace's and Organic Consumers Association's anti-GMO campaigns.
- 2) JPS Films will stream the feature documentary The Idiot Cycle worldwide for 24 hours on the film's web site

3) If you donate \$2,000, your name, company logo (linked to your web site) or association logo (linked to your web site) will be viewed on a page before the streaming page of The Idiot Cycle for as long as the film is streamed (which depends on how much the campaign raises).

WHY?

*Because you want a GMO free future.

*Because you want to support independent films like The Idiot Cycle (the film was produced without commercial partnerships, state funding, broadcaster or distributor support).

*Because you want friends and family to understand why you are concerned about toxic chemicals and GMOs.

*Because you want others to view The Idiot Cycle, to understand the need for cancer prevention.

WHERE?

Donate here: www.indiegogo.com/IdiotCycle

More information about the film: www.theidiotcycle.com

More information about JPS Films: www.japanesepopsongs.com

Updates about the campaign: www.facebook.com/jpsfilms

WHEN?

The campaign starts September 10th, 2012.

The campaign lasts 60 days, ending on November 9th, 2012.

We will begin streaming The Idiot Cycle on www.theidiotcycle.com on November 10th, 2012, when the campaign is finished. The amount of time the film will be streamed will depend on the amount of funds raised. For example:

If \$2,000 is raised, the film will be streamed for 24 hours. Of which \$500 is donated.

If \$4,000 is raised, the film will be streamed for 48 hours. Of which \$1000 is donated.

If \$6,000 is raised, the film will be streamed for 72 hours. Of which \$1500 is donated.

If \$8,000 is raised, the film will be streamed for 96 hours. Of which \$2000 is donated.

If \$10,000 is raised, the film will be streamed for 120 hours (5 days). Of which \$2500 is donated.

DONATIONS?

All donations are non-refundable. There are no individual perks.

Although \$4,000 is our goal, if we raise more, the film will be streamed longer, depending on the final amount (see above).

The campaign starts September 10th, 2012.

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Emmanuelle Shcick Garcia , *JPS Films*

1. All the statements of the movie are under the filmmaker's responsibility.