

Dear reader,

New and serious cracks have appeared in the Omnibus plan to weaken the EU pesticide law. An assessment by researchers from Wageningen and Leiden universities shows that the proposal will complicate and not streamline regulation, with a shift of the burden of proof from the chemical industry to the taxpayer. A representative of the EU Commission had to admit in a hearing in the Dutch parliament that the proposal could weaken health and environmental protection. Many scientists and thousands of citizens have raised concerns. It is now up to national parliaments and ministers to decide on their input on the EU plans. It is very important that they are informed about the dangers of this proposal and you can help.

If you haven't done it yet: Raise your voice and let the ministers know that you want better protection of health, water and biodiversity instead of weaker laws.

**Raise your voice: For Health, Bees and Farmers**

*The PAN Europe Team*

## News from the team



### Diflufenican breaks down into TFA and must be banned

The case against diflufenican is now clear-cut. This herbicide, widely applied on winter cereals across Europe, breaks down into trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), an ultra-persistent "forever chemical" that is accumulating in groundwater and polluting our drinking water. Evidence shows that the legal threshold for groundwater is breached by diflufenican under real-use conditions. PAN Europe and Générations Futures sent a formal request to the European Commission to ban the substance in accordance with EU law. PAN Europe [Read more](#).

### The more pesticides, the fewer birds

A recent French study shows that common birds are far less abundant in agricultural areas where more pesticides are purchased. Negative effects were found for over 84% of the species studied. A reduction in pesticides would be a turning point in halting biodiversity loss, according to the scientists. But instead of addressing this, the EU is paving the way to keep harmful pesticides on the market indefinitely. [Read more](#).



### Pesticide-free agriculture is profitable and boosts yields

Can agriculture thrive without pesticides? The answer, backed by a groundbreaking 10-year study in France, is a resounding YES. Although pesticide-free systems yields were often below those of conventional farming, some reached equivalent levels or even exceeded them. Moreover, estimated income was twice, three times or more the French national minimum wage in 80% of the monitored arable land [Read more](#).

### Scientific assessment slams pesticide omnibus proposal

An independent scientific assessment commissioned by the Dutch Parliament concludes that the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus proposal will not achieve its stated objectives. Instead, it raises concerns over the protection of human health and the environment, and the shifting of the burden of proof from pesticide producers to society. The findings presented at the Dutch Parliament confirm what PAN Europe has long warned: the European Commission's proposal will cut costs for the pesticide industry at the expense of public health and nature. [Read more](#).



### EU Commission admits the pesticide Omnibus proposal could weaken health and environmental protections

A representative of the European Commission has admitted before the Dutch Parliament that there is no guarantee that the omnibus proposal on pesticides will not undermine the protection of human health and the environment - a key objective of the EU

pesticide law. This directly contradicts the Commission's claim when originally presenting the proposal that it will maintain high safety standards. [Read more.](#)

### Allowing residues of banned pesticides in imported food? A breach of EU law



A new independent legal opinion commissioned by PAN Europe, foodwatch and the Veblen Institute questions the legality of the European Commission's practice of permitting residues of banned pesticides in food imported into the EU. The findings leave no room for doubt: the Commission has the power to end this practice today and must do so for all 88 banned pesticides whose residues are still permitted in imported food. [Read more.](#)

## News from our members and partners



### No more derogations for banned pesticides in Romania

A Romanian court of appeal had the final say in a long, toxic story. There can be no more derogation to use banned pesticides. The court case was brought by our Romanian member, beekeeper organisation Romapsis, together with farmers' organisation Eco Ruralis. [Read more.](#)

### Danger for kids: PFAS pesticides and endocrine disruptors in snack vegetables



Snack vegetables are supposed to be a healthy, easy way to get kids to eat more greens. However, a new report by our member PAN Netherlands has sent shockwaves through the country, also resonating in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. While some snack vegetable samples were clean, other batches of these nice little tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers contained unpleasant surprises: PFAS pesticides, endocrine disruptors and a suspected carcinogen. Not exactly what you would like to give to toddlers. [Read more.](#)



### Chiquita's toxic bananas: exploitation and pesticide poisoning

The banana plantations supplying Chiquita in southern Guatemala are notorious for their exploitative and hazardous working conditions. New research by our member Public Eye exposes shocking abuses. This includes the regular aerial spraying of fungicides such as Mancozeb, often directly over workers in the fields. This substance has been banned in the EU since 2020, after being classified as an endocrine disruptor toxic for reproduction. Some testimonies attribute skin problems and even miscarriages to pesticide exposure. [Read more.](#)

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