

Dear reader,

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

The PAN Europe Team

News from the team



We need effective buffer zones against a cloud of pesticides

A hot topic in pesticide use: how to protect citizens, water and nature from the spread of these toxic chemicals? If pesticides are allowed, what minimum buffer zone should be applied? The recent proposal from the European Commission for pesticide reduction (SUR) says 3 metres for sensitive areas. This is far from enough. [Read more.](#)

From toxic 12 to 10? EU Commission finally plans to ban some very toxic pesticides

The EU Commission is proposing to ban two fungicides and one insecticide due to their high toxicity to human health and the environment. Good news but it took far too long. Dimoxystrobin and Oxamyl should have been banned in 2016 and Iaconazole in 2018. [Read more.](#)

IPCONAZOLE & DIMOXYSTROBIN	
TYPE	Fungicide
USE	Seed treatment
AUTHORISED	16 member states
HEALTH HAZARDS	Toxic to reproductive system, liver & pancreas
ENVIRONMENT HAZARDS	Toxic for amphibians & aquatic life
REGULATORY STATE	Approved until 19/2024
ALTERNATIVES	IPM (incl. crop rotation and equipment disinfection)



Lower residue limits for pesticides in food to protect pollinators

The EU Commission adopted new rules to lower the Maximum Residues Levels (MRLs) of bee killer pesticides [clothianidin](#) and [thiamethoxam](#) in imported food. This follows their ban since 2018 on their outdoor use. [Read more.](#)

Pesticide debate in EU Parliament - Save Bees and Farmers

Rapporteur Sarah Wiener delivered her report at the EU Parliament. She proposes more ambition with an 80% reduction for the most toxic pesticides in 2030, larger buffer zones and many other improvements. The report will be the basis for further debate, while the intensive agriculture lobby is trying to delay any step towards more sustainable agriculture. [Read more.](#)



Highlights from Members



Belgian Flemish region challenged in court for better protection against pesticides

Environmental and nature organisations sue the Flemish government in court over its pesticide policy. Nature should be better protected, as well as schools and rest homes. The case started on February 6 before the Brussels court. If the Flemish government is proved wrong, it must amend the regulations, otherwise, penalty payments will follow. [Read more.](#)

PAN Netherlands wants more organic products in supermarkets

PAN UK has been [ranking supermarkets](#) on pesticide reduction targets for a number of years. Inspired by this, PAN Netherlands reviewed organic products in supermarkets. Here ALDI is the least sustainable, with Albert Heijn in the lead. However, the market share of organic products in supermarkets is stuck at a very low 3.3%. They urge the government to introduce regulations to promote growth and sales of organic products. [Read more](#) (in Dutch).



La Rioja bans the use of glyphosate in urban green public infrastructures

The new Riojan law prohibits the use of glyphosate in the treatment of urban green infrastructures and for the elimination of vegetation in public domain infrastructures, such as roads and paths under its jurisdiction. [Read more](#) (in Spanish).

France planning to ban S-Metolachlor herbicide, finally

France is planning to ban the main uses of S-metolachlor herbicide. The substance and its breakdown products are highly toxic to water organisms. The herbicide is also a suspected carcinogen. Générations Futures and Water organisations in France have asked for a ban for a long time. Great result, but what took the authorities so long? [Read more.](#)



Please support our work!

Our work to eliminate the use of toxic pesticides is more important than ever before! With your support, we can change policies and practices for the better protection of our health and environment.

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Interesting further reads

- You can already [register](#) for our upcoming event "Agroecological transition in Bulgaria".
- The Industry's way to [delay sustainable farming](#) in the EU.
- South Tyrol's way to [pesticide clouds report](#) in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Shocking spraying statistics released in a court case against Umweltinstitut München.
- Call for EU legislative framework for [sustainable food systems](#).

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