

EU urged to discard glyphosate studies from lab accused of falsifying data

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Environmental groups have called on the European Commission to discard any studies used in pesticide risk assessments which were carried out by Germany laboratory accused of falsifying test results.

Analysis commissioned by campaign groups Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe, Corporate Europe Observatory and Global 2000 found that the Laboratory of Pharmacology and Toxicology (LPT) Hamburg carried out at least 14% of the regulatory tests, including for the [controversial 2017 reapproval of the herbicide glyphosate](#).

LTP has been accused by activists and media of mistreating animals and manipulating results. But the company has said inspections by local authorities had shown the accusations were wrong. An inspection in December by the Hamburg public health agency found that the "suspected manipulation of examination data could not be confirmed", the company said in statement.

Following a further, extended re-inspection later in December, the firm said, "there were no complaints regarding the continuation of LPT's GLP status". A full inspection report is expected this month.

LTP added that for the foreseeable future, it will not conduct any studies with monkeys, dogs or cats "due to the political pressure and pressure from the media".

PAN Europe said the lab was "caught manipulating GLP [Good Laboratory Practice] toxicity studies by replacing dead animals with living ones, changing tumour data to 'inflammations' and generally distorting the data to please its clients."

The commission should discard studies carried out by LPT from any dossier currently involved in pesticide risk assessments at EU-level, the group said.

An EU source told ENDS the German government's Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is "currently checking the allegations mentioned in the press" as the authorisation process "follows very strict procedures, in line with international standards tests which are performed by laboratories".

"Member states have the responsibility to implement the GLP", the source added, by inspecting laboratories regularly or conducting audits on studies.

Germany is one of [four countries](#) responsible for a glyphosate safety review. The company LPT was named as the source in 14 investigations by the state-run BfR, while the national regulator [came under fire](#) for malpractice last year.

Angeliki Lyssimachou, environmental toxicologist at PAN Europe, said "the vast majority of studies leading to the approval of a pesticide are carried out by the pesticide industry itself, either directly or via contract laboratories such as LPT Hamburg".

Although EFSA committed to [boost transparency](#) publishing non-confidential aspects of industry studies, “tests must be carried out by independent laboratories under public scrutiny, while the financing of studies should be supported by industry”, Lyssimachou said.

Hans Muilerman, chemical policy officer at PAN Europe, said that for years, regulators "have been defending the belief that an industry-funded GLP study is more reliable than a non-industry, non-GLP study”.

Meanwhile, “thousands of relevant independent pesticide studies showing harm to humans or nature have been discarded by regulators because they are not GLP”, he added.

Last week, the European Court of [Auditors warned](#) the commission’s efforts to monitor and reduce the risks resulting from pesticide use are still too vague, coinciding with [previous studies](#).

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Follow-up: PAN Europe [press release](#), campaigners' [study](#), Global 2000 [press release](#) (in German)