PRESS COMMUNICATION

Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe

Brussels, 13-04-16; Info:
Angeliki Lysimachou,
Tel: +32 496 392930
angeliki@pan-europe.info

EP objects non-professional and public use of glyphosate but favors a 7-years renewal in agriculture

The European Parliament voted today on the objection to the European Commission's proposal to renew glyphosate for another 15 years. The vote was in favour but the original text was significantly amended.

While PAN Europe welcomes the decision of MEPs not to approve any non-professional uses of glyphosate and not to approve any uses of glyphosate in or close to public parks/playgrounds/gardens, it feels that an authorisation of this hazardous chemicals for another 7 years in agriculture, a new amendment, puts human health, the environment and future of agriculture at risk.

We are glad to see that the European Parliament recognises that the endocrine disruption potential of glyphosate has not been assessed properly, and glyphosate may indeed be an endocrine disruption as independent literature has reported. But this should have been a reason to block its re-authorisation process considering that exposure to endocrine disruptors at low environmental levels may result in serious adverse effects in babies in the womb and newborns.

Time is needed to assess the endocrine potential of glyphosate and to reach a scientific consensus on the carcinogenicity and genotoxicity of this chemical.

Furthermore, adopting an IPM system is already a requirement for all Member States, where pesticides should be used as a last resource in agriculture. Even though IPM is not properly implemented (or not at all), to apply something that is already required by an EU directive shouldn't be considered a success.

Angeliki Lysimachou highlights "Europe needs to move towards a toxic-free future and develop an agricultural system based on the use of non-toxic alternatives. Glyphosate is one of the toxic chemicals that can be completely replaced by mechanical weeding, precision farming and the use of less toxic substances like acetic acid (vinegar), phytotoxic oils (close) and salt-based herbicides."