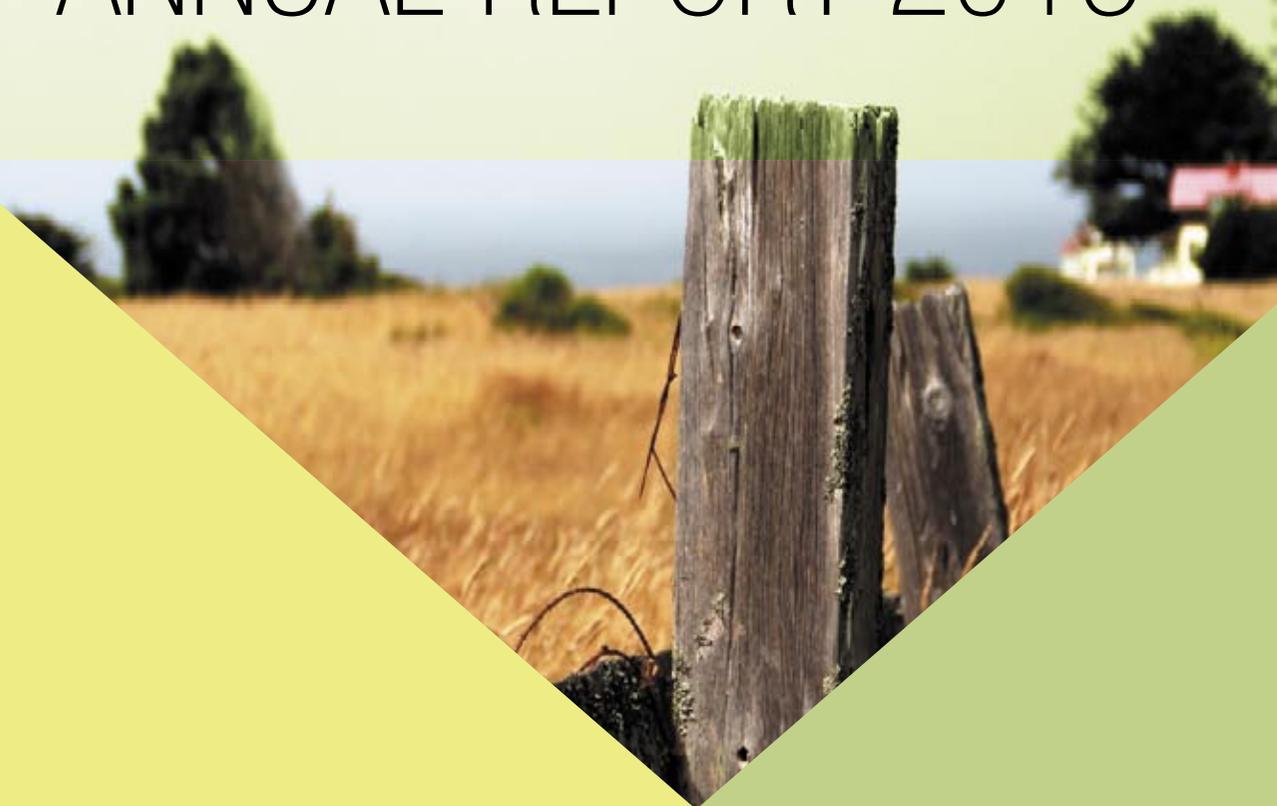


# Pesticide Action Network Europe's ANNUAL REPORT 2013



**Pesticide  
Action  
Network**  
Europe

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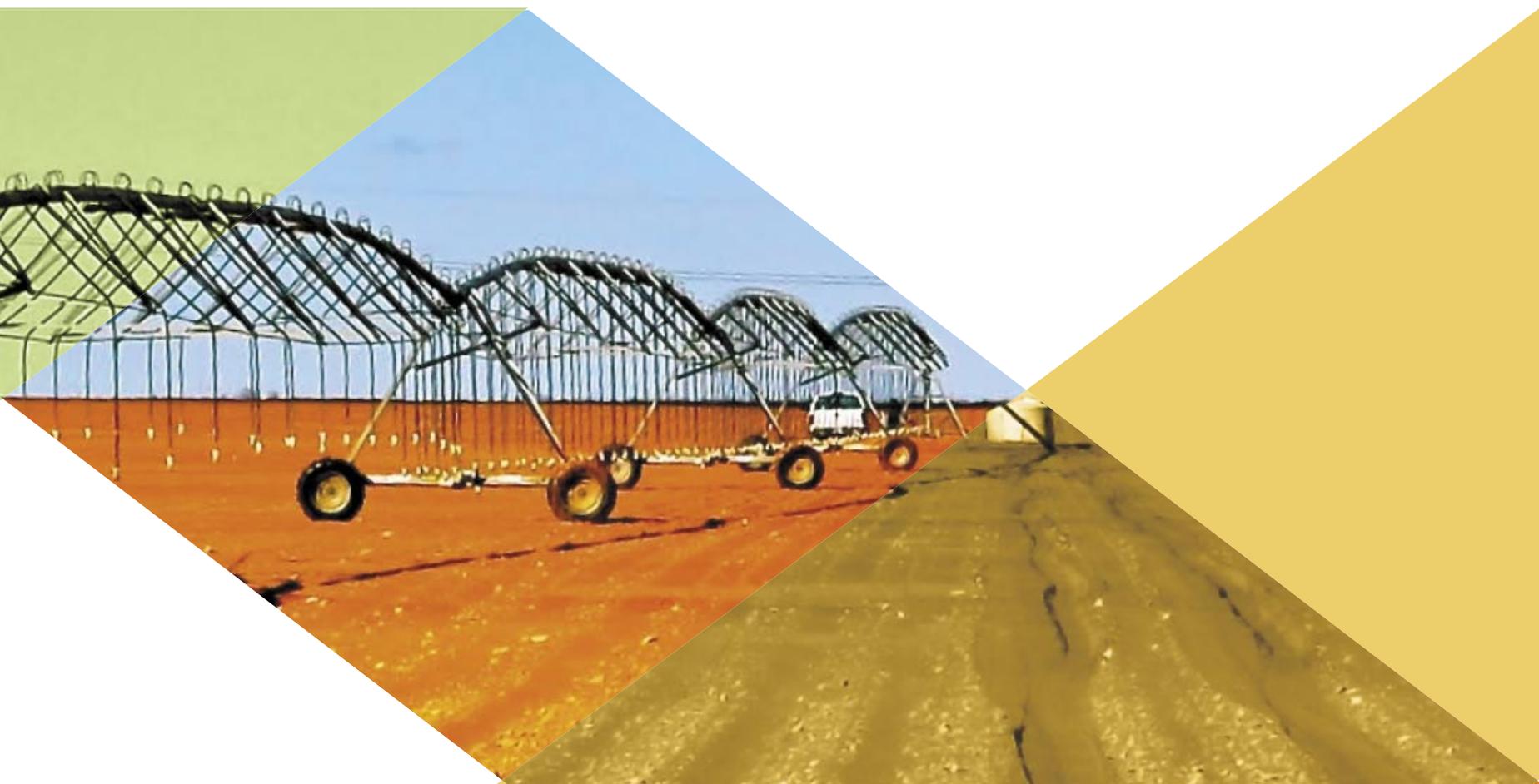


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# 1. INTRODUCTION BY PAN EUROPE PRESIDENT FRANCOIS VEILLERETTE

As you will see in this activity report you are about to read PAN Europe has been more active than ever in 2013! Just to take one major exemple : on the crucial debate on EDCs our network has been on the forefront of civil society action, vigorously denouncing the fact that the Commission didn't do its job on the definition of criteria and that EFSA even managed to add elements in its opinion which are not part of the Regulation 1107/2009 ! On the other hand, and on the positive side this time, the IBMA-PAN Europe joint symposium on 'Feeding Europe with less pesticides' of December enabled us to show that alternatives to pesticides are largely available for producers ! This considerable work wouldn't have been possible without the considerable involvement of all the staff, the Board and all the active members of PAN Europe. I want to pay a special tribute here to Isabelle Pinzauti who left PAN Europe a few months ago after having the responsibility to start the EDC campaign for PAN Europe. A special tribute also for 2 former Board members Daniel Lesinsky and Valentina Lukova who left the Board after serving so effectively for many years. Many, many thanks to them for their disinterested work ! Of course I also have to gratefully acknowledge the valuable financial support from the European Union allowing us to also focus on expanding our network and gather our members in the general assembly where we together set a work program for the years to come.



## 1.1 What is PAN Europe?

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) was founded in 1982 and is a network of over 600 non-governmental organizations, institutions and individuals in over 60 countries worldwide working to replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives. Its projects and campaigns are coordinated by five autonomous Regional Centres.

PAN Europe is the regional centre for Europe. It was founded in 1987, today bringing together 34 consumer, public health and environmental organizations from 25 European countries.

PAN Europe is managed by a board of directors consisting of seven board members while four part time staff members take care of the daily management.

## 1.3 Our focal points in 2013

PAN Europe activities include being involved in the EU decision making process; disseminate information and raising awareness on pesticide problems, regulations and non-chemical alternatives; organize workshops and conferences and promoting dialogue for change between government, private sector and civil society stakeholders.

PAN Europe challenges pesticides authorisations in court at European and national level and coordinates our network of members for joint action and policy interventions.

In 2013 we worked on implementation of the so-called pesticide package agreed in 2009, covering among others the EU regulation on authorisation of pesticides and the Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, and on maximum residues levels of pesticides in food and feed.

We reinforced our campaign on bees and neonicotinoid pesticides; on conflict of interest, access to the EU court, worked for international bans on some of the most hazardous pesticides and worked on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and on the Plant Health Reform.

Our activities included among others:

- { One high level symposium jointly with researchers and SMEs on 'Feeding Europe with less pesticides' in the European Parliament ([www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/131205.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/131205.html))
- { One conference 'Our disrupted food - EDCs in pesticide residues' with high level scientists and EU institutions representatives ([www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130930.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130930.html)) and one conference 'pollination friendly agriculture is possible' also in the European Parliament: ([www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130322.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130322.html))
- { Organised 1 workshop for scientists on honeybee toxicology, and 1 workshop for scientists on chemicals.
- { Participated actively in five advisory committee meetings of DG SANCO, addressed four conferences, participated in 40 workshops with other stakeholders and in 30 conferences, as well as ten meetings linked to the European Innovation Partnership agricultural productivity and sustainability.
- { Organised one meeting for our members briefing about pesticide use reduction, the EU ban on three neonicotinoid pesticides and introduction of the new pesticide tax in Denmark.
- { Prepared ten reports and articles, compiling and sharing research findings on pesticide hazards and best EU practices on non-chemical alternatives and IP successes with fellow NGOs in the EU.

The PAN Europe team (2013). From left to right: Henriette Christensen, Isabelle Pinzauti, Martin Dermine and Hans Muilerman



## Our mission

*PAN works to replace hazardous chemical pesticides with sustainable and equitable alternatives in agriculture, urban areas, homes and gardens.*

*PAN Europe is committed to bringing about a substantial reduction in pesticide use throughout Europe. Pesticide (including biocides) reduction is a prerequisite for improvements of public and workers health, protection of the environment, and its strict implementation is in line with the precautionary principle.*

## How PAN Europe developed in 2013

PAN Europe's General Assembly was held in Brussels on 29th May 2013, where we succeeded in gathering our members, showing we were active and getting new members involved, and establishing a solid work programme, identifying which topics to work on, for the years to come. This allowed us to increase our membership in 2013 with ten new members, of which one being a new national PAN group.

During the General Assembly a new board was elected by unanimity consisting of seven highly qualified persons: Sandra Jen, Gergely Simon (both Individual Members), François Veillerette (Générations Futures, France) and Nick Mole (PAN UK) have been re-elected as members of the new board, which will also welcome three new members Nadia Bennich (Vivosano, Spain), Lusine Nalbandyan (AWWHE) and Andrzej Nowakowski (Individual Member). Both Daniel Lesinsky (CEPTA, Slovakia) and Valentina Lukova (National Movement of Friends of the Earth, Bulgaria) who have been board members for many years decided to step aside. We thank them for their help and commitment.

During the meeting, PAN Europe also welcomed two new PAN National Organisations: PAN Swiss which has just been created and PAN France – better known as Générations Futures.

PAN Europe's newsletter now has around 1500 subscribers, and we are receiving more and more requests from citizens around Europe wanting to get involved.

{ Please find here all the articles and more }  
{ <http://pan-europe.info/News/PANEnews.html> }

## How the press spoke about PAN Europe in 2013

Our organisation is the only one focusing its work on the use of hazardous chemicals in conventional agriculture, their negative impact on the environment and human health as well as the possible alternatives to avoid these harmful outcomes. In 2013, Brussels based media and some national media have been talking about PAN, our work and our ideas for the future.

Of course one of the most popular topics was the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals debate, both from a regulatory point of view – in press such as Euractiv or Chemicalswatch- but also in Belgian media. In fact, PAN has been invited to raise awareness on this crucial topic for consumers, on both Belgian National radio and TV. This shows once more that consumers are worried about these omnipresent chemicals and want to know more about them.

PAN Europe work on bee declines also interested a lot the media, even the New York Times where our Chemicals Officer, Hans Muilerman has been cited. This is a topic that raises worries everywhere and PAN Europe has been very active in helping to achieve the ban of several pesticides harmful to bees also through its media intervention on the Belgian National radio, the French international TV channel TV5 Monde or in the French press together with PAN France.

PAN Europe has also been working a lot on pesticide regulation in the Netherlands, reaching a lot of press there and informing Dutch consumers about some important scandals (see article on this topic [Link](#))

With even more impact in 2014, PAN Europe has also been very active in terms of showing conflicts of interests both on the national and European level.

We hope that this presence in the media will continue and grow also taking into account other topics such as the alternatives to pesticides or the National Action Plans, crucial topics for the future of a sustainable agriculture in Europe.

### Production methods and climate change

{ As we are often contacted by citizens asking how to take action, we created a video on youtube, explaining how you can grow your own vegetables, even in towns and do something about climate change, see: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO17Jt5YUp4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO17Jt5YUp4) }

## 2. WHY IS THE BATTLE ON PESTICIDES IMPORTANT

- { Many pesticides have been shown to increase the risk of cancer, especially through effect on DNA mutations or through being reprotoxic<sup>1</sup>. For many pesticides, there is a solid body of evidence for endocrine disrupting properties that are harmful to human health and the environment, alone or in combination<sup>2</sup>. The health effects of these risks (cancer, cognitive and sexual disorders, and mental disorders) are growing<sup>3</sup> and it's highly likely that these pesticides are contributing to these trends<sup>4</sup>. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure.
  - { Pesticides often contaminate the air, water, sediment, and are harmful to wildlife and beneficial insects (such as bees and natural predators of insect pests) and to soil micro-organisms. At the same time, EU citizens continue to consider pesticide residue levels in fruit, vegetables and cereals as their main concern regarding food-related risks<sup>5</sup>.
  - { A few scientists have already tried to estimate the economic value of pesticide use:
    - { Studies in the UK and Germany have conservatively estimated annual external costs of pesticide use to be US\$257million and \$166million, respectively, paid by sufferers of pesticide-inflicted poor health, by the environment and by citizens<sup>6</sup>.
    - { A recent French study<sup>7</sup> estimates the overall costs of water pollution from nitrogen and pesticides to be 1.5 billion Euro in France.
- It is therefore not only beneficial for public health, the environment and biodiversity to reduce pesticide use, but the use of pesticides also has a great cost to society.

### Public opinion surveys reveal a continued high concern of European citizens about health impacts from pesticides in all aspects of their lives:

72% of EU consumers regard pesticide residues in food their number one concern, a higher percentage than when last surveyed in 2005. (Special Eurobarometer 354: Food-related risks, November 2010)

Europeans are also highly concerned with potential health impacts from pesticides and herbicides for home use (in gardens and greenhouses) (Eurobarometer 314: Europeans' attitudes toward chemicals in consumer products: risk perception of potential health hazards).

1. European Parliament study, *The benefits of strict cut-off criteria on human health in relation to the proposal for a Regulation concerning plant protection products*, PE 408.559, 2008

2. Hass et al., *Adverse effects on sexual development in rat offspring after low dose exposure to a mixture of endocrine disrupting pesticides*, *Reproductive Toxicology* 2012, 34:7

3. Colborn T., *Neurodevelopment and Endocrine Disruption*, *Environm. Health Perspect.* 112 (9):944, 2004

4. Colborn T., *A Case for Revisiting the Safety of Pesticides: A Closer Look at Neurodevelopment*, *Environm. Health Perspect.* 114 (1): 10, 2006

5. Eurobarometer 354 from 2010 on Food-related risks

6. Pretty & Waibel, *Paying the price: the full cost of pesticides*, in J.Pretty, editor. *The pesticide detox.*, 39-54 Earthscan, London, UK., 2005

7. [www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/ED52-2.pdf](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/ED52-2.pdf)

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF EU POLICY OF RELEVANCE TO PESTICIDES

### 3.1 Implementation of EU regulation 396/2005 on maximum level of pesticide residue levels in food and feed

In 2005 the European Union agreed on setting EU maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides to protect public health, the EU law makes it clear that 'It is also important to carry out further work to develop a methodology to take into account cumulative and synergistic effects.' Which still remains to be done.

*Each year the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) monitors the EU progress in the European monitoring report. In the report released in 2013, relating to 2010-pesticides residues<sup>8</sup> EFSA claimed that pesticide residues in food pose no long-term risks to humans.*

PAN Europe feels this claim is totally unjustified since EFSA doesn't calculate the numerous mixtures of pesticides in the food sold in European shops and assumes people are exposed to only one single pesticide in their entire life. However, about half of our food contains pesticide residues and more than 26% of all vegetables and fruit sold contains more than one pesticide (see Figure below, based on EFSA data). On a daily basis, European consumers will eat dozens of different pesticides. The contamination in some products is very high; in one sample of food one can find up to 26 pesticide residues. Calculating the risk just based on one pesticide makes no sense and is unscientific. The EFSA claim should therefore be abandoned since it creates a false feeling of safety.

### 3.2 Implementation on 1107/2009, the battle on defining EDCs

In 2009 The European Union finally agreed on a new EU law on autorisation of pesticides. Many important elements of the published regulation need further detailing, guidelines and Commission regulations before being used in practice. For 2013 the main elements were the revision of the data requirements (tests industry needs to perform), uniform principles (risk assessment methodologies), use of science (European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) guideline) and the criteria for endocrine disrupting pesticides. Ongoing pesticide evaluation also got our attention.

Some highlights are :

**Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs): a long way to go before effective regulation.**

According to pesticide Regulation 1107/2009 European Commission should present "a draft of the measures concerning specific scientific criteria for the determination of endocrine disrupting properties" by December 14, 2013. And a day before that date the same for biocides; the Commission failed to do so. The Commission neither presented "scientific criteria" nor "the measures for the determination of endocrine disrupting properties" to the Standing Committee.

8. [www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/130312.htm?utm\\_source=homepage&utm\\_medium=infocus&utm\\_campaign=pesticideresidues](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/130312.htm?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=infocus&utm_campaign=pesticideresidues)



## EFSA's work on EDCs:

Just before the beginning of the 2014 Pesticide Action Week, PAN Europe co-organized with HEAL on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March a Breakfast Press Briefing to give some more precise information to journalists on EDCs issues as well as challenges concerning the future EU regulation. It has also been the occasion to film a short Call for Action on EDCs (watch it on [www.disruptingfood.info](http://www.disruptingfood.info)).

The day after, the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, EFSA released its [opinion](#) on endocrine disruption. Unfortunately this has been a big disappointment for PAN Europe.

In fact, EFSA mainly adds confusion to the debate by introducing a new category of substances: the “Endocrine Active Substances” (EAS). The legal text agreed in the pesticide Regulation 1107/2009, doesn't mention EAS and aims to ban pesticides with “Endocrine disrupting properties which may cause adverse effects”. In reality, EFSA didn't propose criteria for endocrine disrupting properties and neither for adversity. What they did is add elements, which are not part of the Pesticide Regulation at all, mainly industry-developed ideas on mode-of-action, human relevance and secondary effects.

PAN Europe decided to write a [letter](#) to Commissioner Borg to explain our arguments and position, a position that is of course very different from industries one as it has been clearly described by the journalist Henriette Jacobsen in her article [Pesticide industry and NGO clash over EFSA definition of endocrine disruptors](#).

The answer we received a few weeks later did not reassure us concerning the future of the European Union EDCs definition and future application of this in the pesticides legislation. In fact, “in its reply Commissioner Borg writes that EFSA has endorsed the definition of endocrine disruptors recognised at international level by the World Health Organization (WHO). Therefore, the Commission disagrees that EFSA is not respecting EU law when setting the criteria for endocrine-disrupting properties.” – from Euractiv Article ‘Commission backs EFSA's definition of endocrine-disrupting chemicals’ where you may read more details on the issue.-

## European Commission missed the deadline for presenting the criteria for endocrine disrupting pesticides

The effects of the delay will be serious. Many pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties such as Glyphosate and 2,4-D will get a revised approval next year while their endocrine effects will not be assessed now the criteria and measures are missing. And the widespread exposure of the public to endocrines in food will likely be responsible for more negative (child) health effects in future. A serving of salad on average contains a comparable amount of endocrine disrupting chemicals from pesticide residues as does the contraceptive pill.

PAN Europe believes that what is happening is totally unacceptable.. DG Environment has been working on the criteria for two years and suddenly –without any justification– the process of proposing scientific criteria was halted. Scientific criteria are now made subject to an economic impact assessment which does not make sense. And this could mean that instead of the best scientific criteria to protect EU citizens, criteria are chosen that have the lowest costs for industry and agriculture. This is not in line with the pesticide Regulation that aims to protect people and the environment.

For the endocrine disrupting chemicals in products, in toys, plastics, cosmetics, etc. the situation is even more unsure. The promised European “horizontal” criteria counting for all substances will not be published and the future protection by Europe against the harms of these substances is uncertain.

{ See our press release:  
{ [www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130320.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130320.html) }

## Pesticide approvals in the EU - put birds at risk:

In 2013, two new pesticides for seed treatment, Sedexane, a Syngenta fungicide for wheat, and Penflufen, a Bayer fungicide for potatoes, were both shown to present high risks for birds according to the EFSA opinions<sup>9,10</sup>. Health DG SANCO however proposes to approve these pesticides in the Standing Committee on 17th of May. A third pesticide with high risks for birds, Methiocarb, a Bayer insecticide for oil rape seed, has already been on the market since 2007 through a derogation allowing them to show that the high risks for birds aren't high. They failed to do so, but Methiocarb is still poised for continued market access.

PAN Europe identified around 40 pesticides showing a high risk to birds according to the different EFSA opinions<sup>11</sup>, and regardless they were all approved in the pesticide Standing Committee in recent years.

A landmark Europe-wide study Flavia Geiger et al.<sup>12</sup> investigated the negative influences of agricultural intensification on birds and showed that of the 13 components of intensification they measured, use of insecticides and fungicides had the largest negative effects. PAN Europe has sent out messages to all national representatives to vote for a ban on these three pesticides to help protect the birds of Europe.

{ See our press release on:  
[www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130517.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130517.html) }

Furthermore, the Pesticide authorisation bodies in Europe compete for industry applications, sacrificing the protection of the environment.

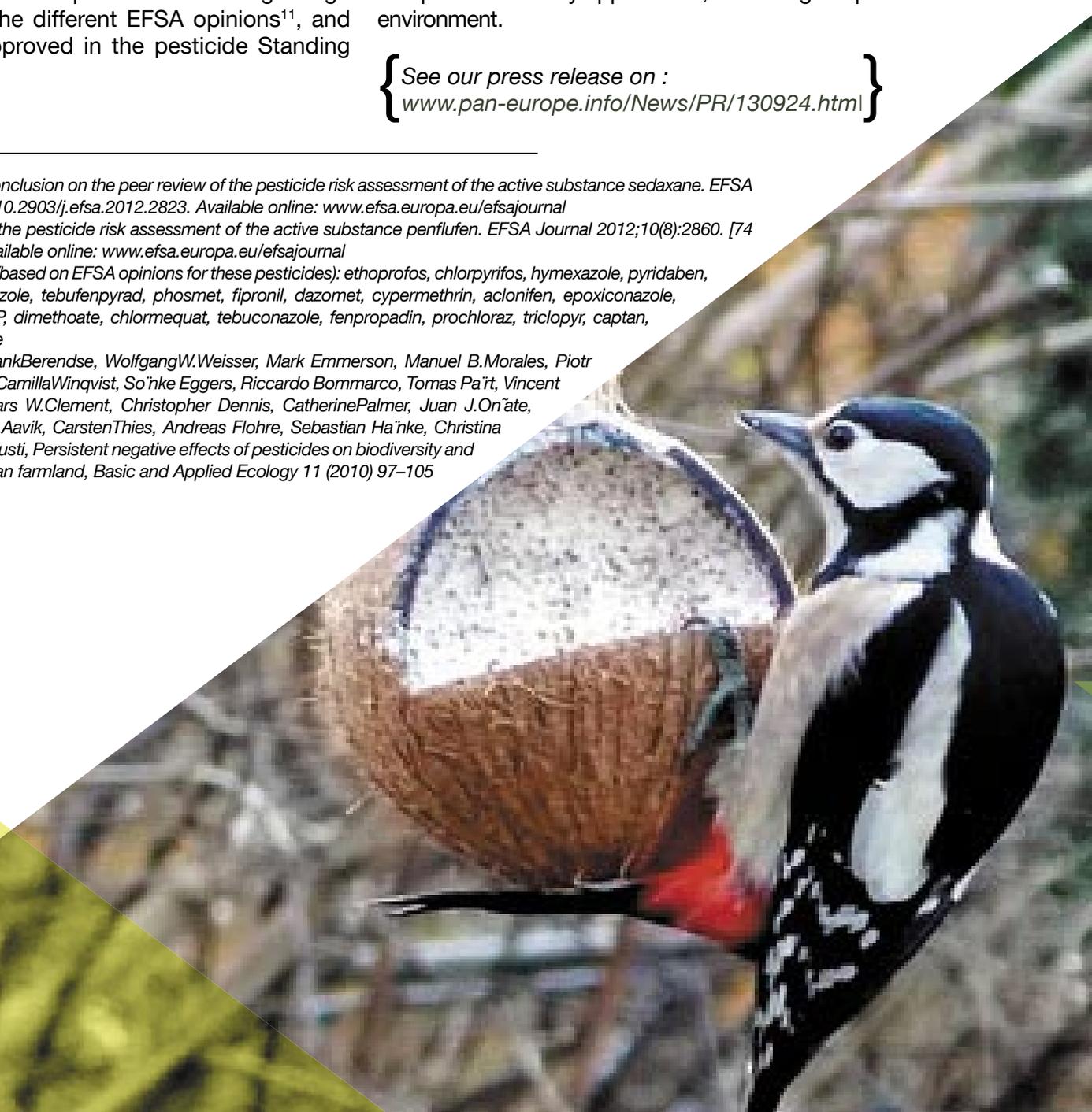
{ See our press release on :  
[www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130924.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130924.html) }

9. European Food Safety Authority; Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance sedaxane. *EFSA Journal* 2012;10(7):2823. [76 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2823. Available online: [www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal)

10. Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance penflufen. *EFSA Journal* 2012;10(8):2860. [74 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2860. Available online: [www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal)

11. Examples of these group of 40 are (based on EFSA opinions for these pesticides): ethopropofos, chlorpyrifos, hymexazole, pyridaben, oryzalin, oxamyl, glufosinate, triticonazole, tebufenpyrad, phosmet, fipronil, dazomet, cypermethrin, aclonifen, epoxiconazole, imidacloprid, sulcotrion, dichloroprop-P, dimethoate, chlormequat, tebuconazole, fenpropadin, prochloraz, triclopyr, captan, folpet, mancozeb, maneb, abamectine

12. Flavia Geiger, Jan Bengtsson, Frank Berendse, Wolfgang W. Weisser, Mark Emmerson, Manuel B. Morales, Piotr Ceryngier, Jaan Liira, Teja Tschardtke, Camilla Winqvist, Soñke Eggers, Riccardo Bommarco, Tomas Pařt, Vincent Bretagnolle, Manuel Plantegenest, Lars W. Clement, Christopher Dennis, Catherine Palmer, Juan J. Onãte, Irene Guerrero, Violetta Hawro, Tsipe Aavik, Carsten Thies, Andreas Flohre, Sebastian Hañke, Christina Fischer, Paul W. Goedhart, Pablo Inchausti, *Persistent negative effects of pesticides on biodiversity and biological control potential on European farmland, Basic and Applied Ecology* 11 (2010) 97–105



## The 120 days derogation creates huge loopholes:

25 Million kg of a very hazardous pesticide, the soil fumigant Metam Sodium, is released in the European environment every year based on an ex created by DG SANCO and even the EU Member States that have banned Metam still allow its application as “essential use”. Italy is by far the biggest user of this pesticide with 11 Million kg used in 2011 in vegetables and fruit<sup>13</sup>. In practice, mandatory restrictions on the use were largely not applied by Member States.

This is the conclusion of a new report by PAN Europe ([PAN report metam 2011](#)), evaluating the use of this loophole in 2011. The use of Metam causes severe air pollution and endangers residents.

Evidence has shown that Metam poses risks of cancer and other harmful effects for the unborn<sup>14</sup>. Furthermore, metam and the by-products left after its decomposition kill soil organisms like earthworms, pollute groundwater, and pose a high risk for birds and mammals, and a risk on pollution by long-range transport<sup>15</sup>. Fifteen EU Member states, including France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal, use this derogation and do not seem to care about its implications for sustainable agriculture. The fact that the 12 other Member states do not need Metam Sodium, clearly puts the need of this derogation as “essential use” into question.

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13. Use is reported in rice, lettuce and like, tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucurbits, carrots, bulb & stem vegetables, potatoes, tobacco; replanting vines & orchards, flowers

14. Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance metam, European Food Safety Authority, *EFSA Journal* 2011;9(9):2334

15. Conclusion regarding the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance metam, *EFSA Scientific Report* (2008) 203, 1-97

{ See PAN Europe’s report on:  
[www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/  
 PAN-report on essential use of Metam.pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/PAN-report%20on%20essential%20use%20of%20Metam.pdf) }





### 3.3 EU introduces a partial ban on three neonicotinoids

2013 was a bee-friendly year for DG Health and Consumers. In a matter of a few months, DG Sanco moved to partially ban 3 neonicotinoids harmful to bees as well as fipronil.

This historic move to protect bees is an important step forward in the protection of the environment, bees being just the tip of the iceberg.

Beekeepers, environmentalists, and scientists applauded the Commission's decision to follow EFSA's opinion on the high risk posed by these insecticides to bees. The Commission has imposed a partial ban on neonicotinoids and fipronil in Member States (MSs), on bee-attractive crops. The Commission didn't have a choice, EFSA's conclusions on the risk posed by these substances to bees are clear: they pose a high risk to bees due to their high toxicity at acute as well as chronic and sublethal levels. EFSA also identified an important number of data gaps that did not permit a conclusion of an absence of harmful effects to bees.

Like others, after nearly 20 years of use of these bee-killer insecticides, we welcomed the courageous move of the Commission to protect bees. The Commission has been under a great deal of pressure from several influent Member States (Germany, UK) and by the pesticide industry to not implement the ban. Nevertheless, PAN-Europe criticizes the fact that the Commission has chosen to follow EFSA's opinion on certain aspects (honey bees) but not on others (risk to soil-nesting bumblebees or solitary bees). Indeed, even though the ban is a positive step forward for the environment, it does not apply to all crops. For instance, it will still be allowed for use on winter cereals. This will lead to soil, surface, and ground water contamination. It has been scientifically proven that if a bee-attractive crop is grown the following year on contaminated soil, nectar and pollen will contain neonicotinoids residues. Half-lives of neonicotinoids can be over 10 years under certain crop conditions!

For this reason, PAN-Europe, alongside French rural organisation Confédération Paysanne, has requested that the European Commission conduct an internal review in order to take into account

all aspects of neonicotinoids' toxicity to protect all bees and pollinators, not only honey bees. The Commission decided not to consider our request, arguing our request was of general scope and did not comply with Aarhus convention. In 2012, [a judgement from the European Court of Justice](#) obliged the European Commission, in a similar case, to take into account the requests of NGOs. The European Commission went to appeal on the Court decision and Court will take a decision on this in a few months. In the meantime, our case on neonicotinoids is blocked.

[Bumble bees used as pollinators in glasshouses].

#### Court cases on neonicotinoids

PAN Europe has launched early this year an action at EU-level to protect bees from toxic effect of neonicotinoids insecticides. The European legislation on maximum residue limits (MRLs) states that MRLs should be fixed in order to ensure high level of protection of human and animal health (Regulation 396/2005). The MRLs of neonicotinoids in honey and pollen have been fixed at 10 or 50 µg/kg, depending on the substance.

Sublethal and chronic toxicity experiments have proven adverse effects to bees at very small concentrations (less than 1 µg/kg). Therefore, PAN Europe has introduced a request to lower the setting of MRLs for honey and pollen in order to ensure a better protection of honeybees and respect the European legislation.

#### Intervention in the case of Bayer, Syngenta and BASF against Commission

PAN-Europe took part in the creation of an alliance between several organisations (European Beekeeping Coordination, Client Earth, Greenpeace Europe, Bug Life and SumOfUs) aiming at intervening in the case neonicotinoids producers started against the European Commission in order to support the Commission with our expertise and arguments.

### 3.4 Implementation on EU Directive 128/2009 on sustainable use of pesticides

Back in 2009, Member States agreed on an EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUD) aiming at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of integrated pest management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.

The national implementation consists of converting the SUD into national law by 2011, while by 2012 National Action Plans (NAPs) that fix overall quantifiable objectives, targets and timetables and proposing specific actions have to be developed.

24 National Action Plans developed by Member States are now online, at: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/sustainable\\_use\\_pesticides/national\\_action\\_plans\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/sustainable_use_pesticides/national_action_plans_en.htm)

PAN Europe, together with its members, is following this implementation carefully. In 2013 actions have included organising a workshop on this issue in May with our members, which we followed up in June, sending a [letter](#) to Commissioner Borg, questioning the seriousness of Member States. In July, we received an answer that our arguments will be discussed with the Member States.

Now that almost all NAPs are online we made a more detailed analysis 'Best practice NAP II', see: [www.pan-europe.info/Resources/index.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/index.html) where we conclude:

Member States ambition to reduce pesticide use is extremely low, problems include:

- { A Lack of overall objectives in the NAPs for pesticide reduction by the majority of Member States, and a failure to set quantitative objectives, targets, and clear timetables for pesticide use reductions as foreseen in the SUD.
- { The majority of Member States argue for implementation of the SUD by stating that they are enforcing other EU laws (MRLs to be respected in water; MRLs in food to be respected, in other words, they are recycling existing policy tools (financial schemes) without proposing new action, and some are even setting targets lower than the already fixed EU limits under environmental and public law.
- { Success indicators are often soft quantifiable measures (number of training hours, number of guidelines developed, number of certificates issued) important for awareness, rather than more concrete measures like introduction of good agronomic practices, use of alternative non-chemical products etc.

The shift towards increased use of non-chemical techniques seems more quantifiable in sensitive, public areas (especially parks, sport areas, highly populated areas, sidewalks) mainly cities, while few new actions are being proposed in the agricultural sector:

- { Many Member States (France, Germany, Netherlands, and Brussels region) are planning a ban on certain types of pesticide use in public areas.

However, although this approach is constructive, big loopholes in the name of 'fighting invasive species' are still expected.

{ Member States have a serious lack of concrete engagement in the agricultural sector.

While all Member States have encouraging definitions of what IPM could be, only one Member State (Finland) is considering punishing farmers by cutting their CAP direct payments in the event that EU law is not followed. Furthermore, only one Member State (Czech Republic) recognizes the need to update mandatory cross compliance rules, to make it more in line with SUD requirements. And while many Member States claim to be giving more attention to these requirements, none have really moved forward in substantially upgrading the financial support part of their rural development programming. Such measures are important in order to encourage farmers to take a holistic approach to farming, and laying out how farmers are to apply more agronomic practices and use of non-chemical products.

{ 2014 is crucial year for the SUD, as the European Commission will in November 2014 send a report on NAP implementation to the EP and the Council (art. 4.3). }



## 4. ONGOING REFORM OF EU POLICIES OF RELEVANCE TO PESTICIDES

### 4.1 The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

With the CAP reform, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/> all arable farmers above 15 hectares need to reserve 5 % of their land for Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) starting in 2015, which later might increase to 7%. While we do consider it fundamental to ensure that each farmer across the EU starts protecting biodiversity through so-called EFAs, we find it ridiculous that it is now allowed to produce certain crops, and even to use pesticides!

It will be for Member States to take the final decision on national level to decide 1) what can be grown in the EFAs and 2) if farmers can use pesticides to grow in EFAs. This vague approach definitely goes against the idea of using buffer strips to attract natural predators and pollinators, which could have been a way to start managing rather than killing all pests, in line with the principle of integrated production, it will now be in the hands of Member States to ensure a successful implementation.

As part of the CAP reform, Member States will be obliged as part of the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) to give advice on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the SUD.

Unfortunately, the Council and the European Parliament did not agree with the Commission's idea of introducing the

SUD and the WFD into the so-called cross compliance rules, conditions to comply with to receive direct payments. Instead, a joint statement was elaborated, in an addendum 2 to the CAP agreement, stating:

"The Council and the European Parliament invite the Commission to monitor the transposition and the implementation by the Member States of Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy and Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides and, where appropriate, to come forward, once these Directives have been implemented in all Member States and the obligations directly applicable to farmers have been identified, with a legislative proposal amending this regulation with a view to including the relevant parts of these Directives in the system of cross-compliance."

*So even though the CAP reform after years of negotiations is soon to end in Brussels the fight will still continue at Member State level, including among others a solid implementation of the SUD, and to fight for no use of pesticides in EFAs.*

*You can find details of PAN work on CAP here:  
[www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Campaigns/agriculture.html)*

## 4.2 The new EU common Plant Health regime

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, the European Commission adopted “a package of measures to strengthen the enforcement of health and safety standards for the whole agro-food chain” and, as part of this package, a proposal for an updated EC common Plant Health regime, see [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/pressroom/docs/cs-plant-health\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/pressroom/docs/cs-plant-health_en.pdf)

The new plant health regulation proposal aims to ensure the discovery and eradication of “new” pests at an early stage to reduce the possibility of their spreading. As part of this, Member States will have to establish proper survey programmes, and farmers and Member States will be forced to ensure early eradication of pests.

200 million euro has been reserved in the 2014-2020 EU budget to both ensure new requirements such as national survey programmes and to compensate operators for the value of destroyed plant subject to eradication plans.

The problem with this reform proposal which is still ongoing, is that, nothing is being proposed to prevent the pest from establishing in the first place, only observation no action.

Instead all focus is on early eradication, and that using all kind of hazardous chemicals to ensure this. In the reform proposal as it stands, there is absolutely no attention to the importance of preventative agronomic measures, to the importance of non-chemicals alternatives, and the logic foreseen in the SUD..

The proposal as it stands follows the following logic: first you get public support to produce in big monoculture farms, then you observe a potential problem, and you treat with all the hazardous chemicals you can, all compensated by public money. But is this not asking tax payers their money several times? Would it not instead have been much more logical to develop a system, building on the SUD, encouraging agronomic prevention, use of non-chemicals where needed, and only using pesticides as a last resort.

This is the message that PAN Europe has been transmitting – as one of the only NGOs present on this dossier – during the negotiation process in both Council and European parliament, but it remains to be seen how much this idea of us will be taken up by policy makers.

{ For our work on plant health see:  
[www.pan-europe.info/Resources/briefings.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/briefings.html) }



## 5. INTERNATIONAL LAWS OF INTEREST TO PESTICIDES

Part of PAN Europe's advocacy is to promote global action to better protect human health and the environment, including the EU's participation in relevant international pesticide-related forums and its responsibilities to support developing countries in particular. We play a watchdog role over European implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and the Montreal Protocol. More recently PAN Europe has joined PAN Germany, Clean Air Action Hungary, PAN UK and other members in international advocacy around the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) work on acutely toxic pesticides and on promoting the Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP) initiative of the FAO and WHO.

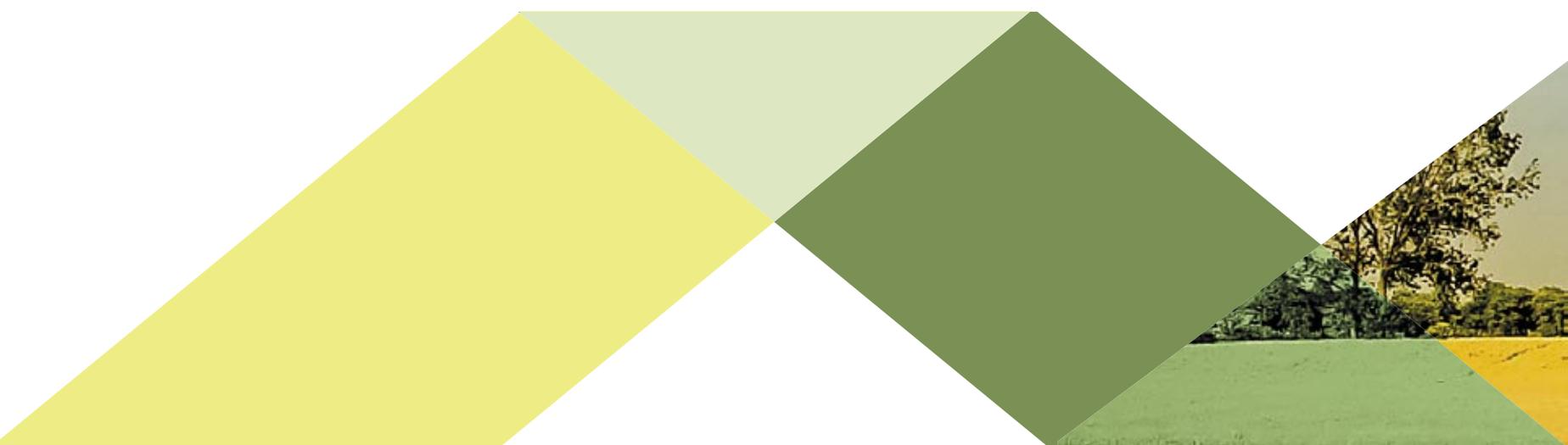
During the Conference of the Parties (CoP) for the Stockholm Convention in May 2013 where progress in phasing out endosulfan was discussed, PAN UK, for PAN Europe, assessed the hazard status of over 100 pesticides suggested by the POP Review Committee as possible substitutes for endosulfan. Our analysis revealed that 80 of 109 chemical substitutes feature on the PAN International HHP List for acute or chronic health hazards or high environmental concerns. This analysis was published in a position paper distributed to government representatives at the Stockholm CoP: Alternatives to Endosulfan: Adopt agroecology not potential POPs or HHPs<sup>16</sup>, highlighting that most of the substitute chemicals cannot be considered as safe and therefore agro-ecological approaches to pest management should be prioritised as the best alternative

to endosulfan. This advocacy helped to persuade government delegates to favour non-chemical alternatives over other equally hazardous pesticides in relevant POP Convention documents. We also recommended chlorpyrifos as a potential POP candidate, now that evidence of its long range transport and persistence has emerged.

PAN Europe ensured European NGO voices were heard via participation in the PIC Convention Technical Review Committee in October 2013. We also met the EC Environment Directorate desk officers responsible for liaison with the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions to discuss Commission and PAN priorities, including the need to implement the phase out of endosulfan in other regions, issues over potential POPs candidates (dicofol, chlorpyrifos, PCP) and interest in achieving more PIC nominations from developing countries.

We drew attention to the FAO/WHO HHP initiative in workshops and forums where PAN Europe was invited to speak, including a conference of biopesticide stakeholders in the UK in April 2013. Via PAN UK we provided written feedback to the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management Task Group on HHPs on the draft FAO/WHO Guidelines on highly hazardous pesticides (Sept 2013 version). These guidelines are part of the series accompanying the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and aim to help government representatives and other decision makers involved in pesticide policies and lifecycle stewardship, especially in developing and transition countries.

16. PAN International, May 2013, via: [www.panna.org/sites/default/files/PAN\\_STATEMENT\\_ON\\_POps\\_2013\\_F-1.pdf](http://www.panna.org/sites/default/files/PAN_STATEMENT_ON_POps_2013_F-1.pdf)



## 6. PAN EUROPE'S ACTIVITIES IN 2013

PAN Europe undertook a number of activities and awareness raising events in 2013, some of these events are mentioned below.

### 6.1 Industry infiltration in decision making

#### The Industry lobby club (LSI) involvement in WHO

Industry lobby club ILSI (Meek/Syngenta, 2003<sup>17</sup>) have developed a risk assessment tool based on existing practices in the US. The intention of the tool is to disregard adverse effects observed in (animal) studies and to qualify them irrelevant for humans. This focus on alleged “false positives” by industry is of course no surprise, given their mission of cost reduction and unlimited market access. It is however a surprise that this industry tool made it to the WHO<sup>18</sup>.

This could only happen when the same people involved in developing the industry tool, managed to infiltrate the WHO working group -posing as academics or civil servants (Bette Meek, Alan Boobis<sup>19</sup>, Joseph Schlatter). As proudly they acknowledge,<sup>20</sup> they state it is the “same framework”.

#### Industry infiltration in Dutch Wageningen University

An employee of German chemical multinational BASF, Mr. Bernhard van Ravenzwaay, has officially obtained a professor post at the Dutch agricultural university of Wageningen<sup>21</sup> in exchange for BASF-funding. Since he joined BASF, Mr. Van Ravenzwaay has a track record of studies published with a favourable outcome for industry. By acquiring a professor post in university, BASF will try to buy credibility for the views of industry, especially cost reduction by substituting animal testing by statistics such as TTC<sup>22</sup>.

And there are many similar 'unhealthy relations', see:

[www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/PANE\\_2013\\_Race\\_to\\_the\\_bottom\\_NL.pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/PANE_2013_Race_to_the_bottom_NL.pdf)

17. Meek, M. E., Bucher, J. R., Cohen, S. M., Dellarco, V., Hill, R. N., Lehman-McKeeman, L. D., Longfellow, D. G., Pastoor, T., Seed, J., and Patton, D. E. 2003. A framework for human relevance analysis of information on carcinogenic modes of action. *Crit. Rev. Toxicol* 33:591–653.

18. Boobis, A. R., Cohen, S. M., Dellarco, V., McGregor, D., Meek, M. E., Vickers, C., Willcocks, D., and Farland, W. 2006. IPCS framework for analyzing the relevance of a cancer mode of action for humans. *Crit. Rev. Toxicol.* 36:781–792.

19 See background Boobis and Schlatter, PAN report on TTC

20. *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part B: Critical Reviews*, Re: Guyton, Kathryn Z., Barone, Stanley, Jr., Brown, Rebecca C., Euling, Susan Y., Jinot, Jennifer, Makris, Susan (2008). Mode of Action Frameworks: A Critical Analysis. *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part B*, 11(1): 16–31

21. Seat on „Innovative approaches to reduce animal testing”, <http://www.wageningenur.nl/nl/agenda-wageningen-ur.htm>

22. PAN report on TTC

{ See: [www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/PANE\\_2011 - A Toxic Mixture - Industry bias found in EFSA working group on risk assessment for toxic chemicals..pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/PANE_2011_-_A_Toxic_Mixture_-_Industry_bias_found_in_EFSA_working_group_on_risk_assessment_for_toxic_chemicals..pdf) }



## The presence of the agro-chemicals in EU decision making

The presence of the agro-chemical companies in Brussels is huge, not easy for a few NGOs to match this heavy representation.

For an overview of what is at stake for the chemical companies, see: [www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/PANE - 2013 - Is the Pesticide Industry really serious about their slogan.pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/PANE - 2013 - Is the Pesticide Industry really serious about their slogan.pdf)

## PAN Europe, countering false arguments in the debate on neonicotinoid ban

In March 2013, the day before EFSA published its highly critical opinion on 3 neonicotinoids insecticides harmful to bees, an industry-sponsored study (HFFA 1/2013) on socio-economic impact of neonicotinoids suspension in Europe was published. This study, which was widely distributed in Brussels, amongst policy makers was full of inaccuracies that PAN Europe was quickly able to counter on the basis that it was; industry biased and non-transparent, and that the baseline used in the calculations were unrealistic and wrong; see: [www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/PAN Europe opinion on Humboldt report 2013.pdf](http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Briefings/PAN Europe opinion on Humboldt report 2013.pdf)

## PAN Europe organises farm visits highlighting production methods

The chemical companies are often organising farm visits here in Brussels to illustrate their new “wonderful” techniques. In 2013, we decided to do the same, but here showing the many wonders of non chemical production methods. As a result, in May 2013 PAN Europe organised a visit to an organic farm in the Belgian province of Hainaut, open for policy makers, civil servants and our members.

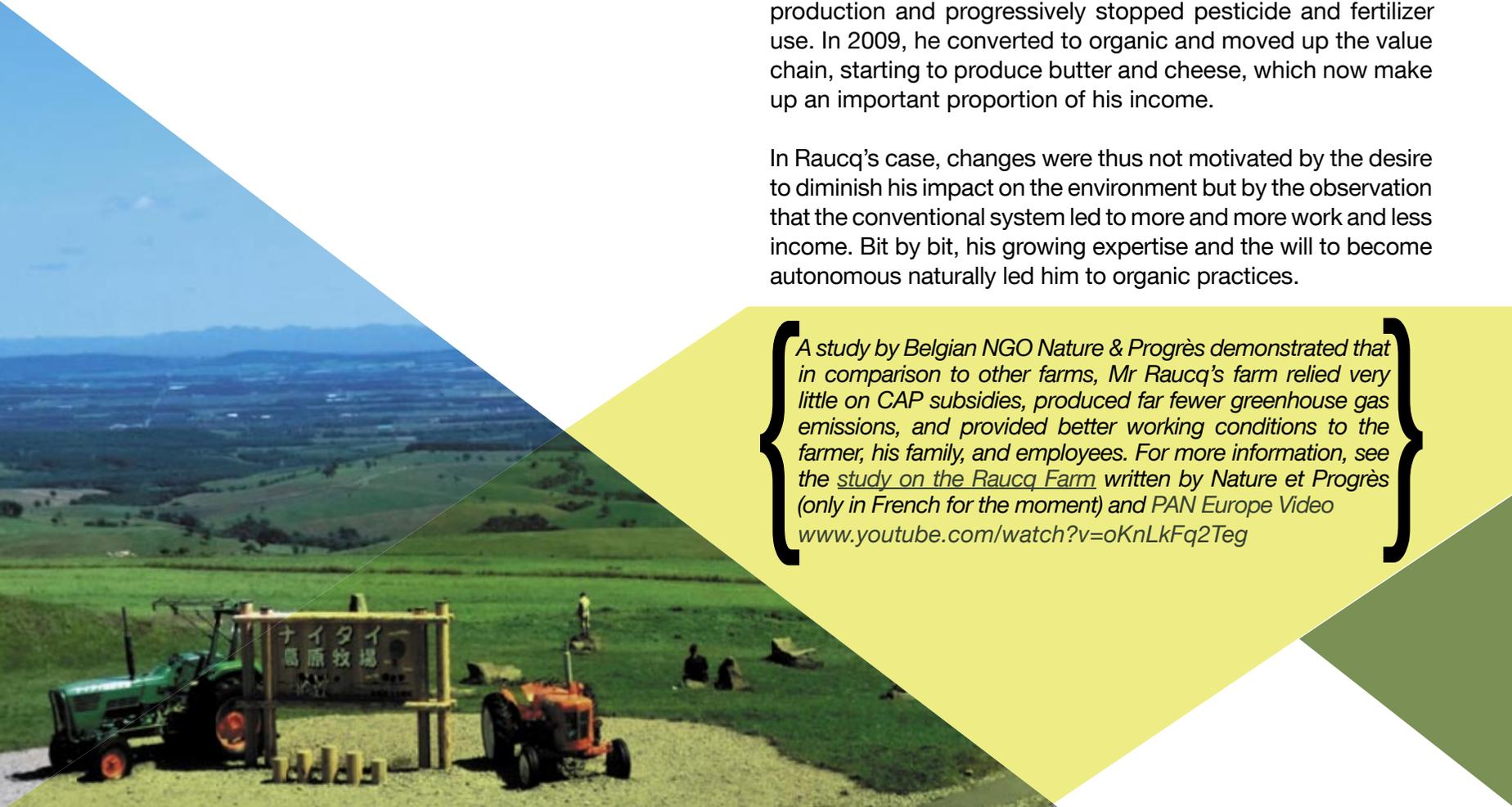
Farmer Daniel Raucq and his wife used to have his 45 ha farm dedicated to meat and milk production with Belgian Blue cows. Today, the farm is completely autonomous and organic, provides 3 full-time jobs, and Daniel, his wife and their son work fewer hours!

After starting out farming in the early 80's, Raucq started intensifying his agricultural practice. In 1988, he realized that he and his wife spent many hours working on the farm with limited incomes and that they were highly dependent on fertilizers and pesticides.

He then decided to reduce maize production and modified his grazing technique by reducing the size of the pasture parcels in order to increase their productivity. He gradually improved his grazing technique, restored permanent grasslands, sowed alfalfa, clover, and peas and in 1998, completely stopped maize production and progressively stopped pesticide and fertilizer use. In 2009, he converted to organic and moved up the value chain, starting to produce butter and cheese, which now make up an important proportion of his income.

In Raucq's case, changes were thus not motivated by the desire to diminish his impact on the environment but by the observation that the conventional system led to more and more work and less income. Bit by bit, his growing expertise and the will to become autonomous naturally led him to organic practices.

*A study by Belgian NGO Nature & Progrès demonstrated that in comparison to other farms, Mr Raucq's farm relied very little on CAP subsidies, produced far fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and provided better working conditions to the farmer, his family, and employees. For more information, see the [study on the Raucq Farm](#) written by Nature et Progrès (only in French for the moment) and PAN Europe Video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKnLkFq2Teg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKnLkFq2Teg)*





## 6.2 PAN Europe's clips

We asked our members “What are the hidden costs of pesticides?”

{ Watch the video:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWAFKL0xAfM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWAFKL0xAfM) }

During the symposium on ‘feeding Europe with less pesticides we asked speakers to answer the question “could we feed Europe with less pesticides?”

{ Watch the video:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLTkVVDDOHM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLTkVVDDOHM) }

## 6.3 Our campaigns - NEONICOTINOIDS and EDCs

In parallel to the active presence in the Brussels debate; PAN Europe together with its members and partners has been continuing to raise consumers’ awareness on a number of specific topics.

Beyond PAN Europe’s general homepage, we also have developed specific homepages regarding bees [www.savehoneybees.info](http://www.savehoneybees.info) and endocrine disrupting chemicals [www.disruptingfood.info/en/](http://www.disruptingfood.info/en/)

## 6.4 Our consumer guides

Thanks to our Polish Member *Spoleczny Instytut Ekologiczny* the Disrupting Food Consumer Guide has been translated in [Polish](#). It is also finally available in Italian and will be soon in Portuguese.

{ In addition, a Consumer Guide partly updated has been published in French, Dutch and English. Don't hesitate to check it on [www.disruptingfood.info](http://www.disruptingfood.info) }

## 6.5 Our joint work with other NGOs

Together with our French Member Générations Futures, we conducted several expert reports in order to show the urgency of a strong preventive action in the endocrine disrupting chemicals area, see: [www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130710.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/130710.html)

PAN Europe has together with our members started to make contact with some supermarkets, but has by the end of 2013, still not established collaboration.

Finally, we also took part with more than 25 partners in the [EDCs Free Europe Campaign](#). This call for action has been launched by an informal coalition including trade unions, public health and healthcare professionals, advocates for cancer prevention, environmentalists and women's groups.

The campaign call to action is for:

- { A revamp of all relevant EU laws to reduce our exposure to EDCs.
- { Set out a timetable to capture all sources of EDC exposure "across the board".
- { Respond more swiftly to early warning signals.
- { Enhance public awareness of EDCs.

{ *You may become a campaign supporter [here](#).* }

## 6.6 Our conferences

### Farming without neonicotinoids to protect bees

In March 2013, PAN Europe, joined forces with the European Beekeeping Coordination and the Green (MEP Bart Staes), and organized a conference to question the use of neonicotinoids and pesticides in general in agriculture. Independent researchers, farmers, and an alternative producer to discuss to what extent coating seeds with neonicotinoids is necessary in conventional agricultural system.

The conference made it clear that systematic use of pesticides, especially with seed coating technology, impedes the development of integrated pest management (IPM) and a shift in farmers' mentality.

{ *For more information, please see [www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130322.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130322.html)* }

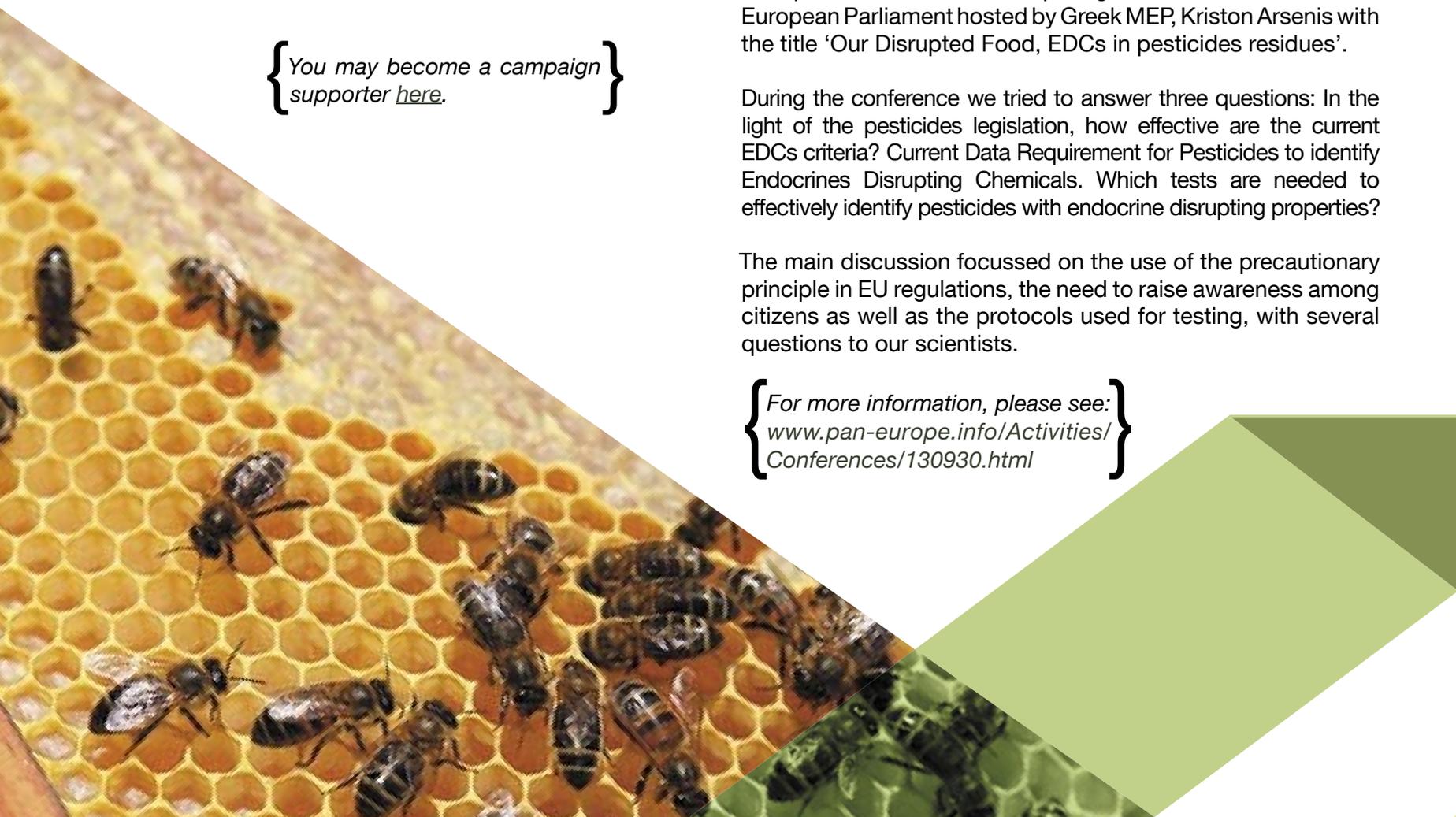
### PAN Europe Conference: Our Disrupted Food, EDCs in pesticides residues.

In September 2013 PAN Europe organised a conference in the European Parliament hosted by Greek MEP, Kriston Arsenis with the title 'Our Disrupted Food, EDCs in pesticides residues'.

During the conference we tried to answer three questions: In the light of the pesticides legislation, how effective are the current EDCs criteria? Current Data Requirement for Pesticides to identify Endocrines Disrupting Chemicals. Which tests are needed to effectively identify pesticides with endocrine disrupting properties?

The main discussion focussed on the use of the precautionary principle in EU regulations, the need to raise awareness among citizens as well as the protocols used for testing, with several questions to our scientists.

{ *For more information, please see: [www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130930.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/130930.html)* }



## Feeding Europe with less pesticides

In December 2013, PAN Europe together with the International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC) and the International Biocontrol Manufacturer Association (IBMA) organised a symposium on “feeding Europe with less pesticides” hosted by Bart Staes and the Greens in the European Parliament, Karin Kadenbach and the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament and Sirpa Pietikäinen and the Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats in the European Parliament.

The purpose of this symposium was to take stock of efforts to reduce, pesticide use and partly to explore what actions are necessary to ensure that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can be moved from vision to reality as foreseen in the SUDon pesticides.

The main discussions made it very clear that there are already many alternative products and methods which will make it possible to ensure a significant reduction in pesticides use, and there was a clear consensus among the organisers now the time for action to ensure a successful implementation of the SUD has come.

{ *For presentations and conclusion of the chairman see:*  
[www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/131205.html](http://www.pan-europe.info/Activities/Conferences/131205.html) }

## Scientific workshop in Switzerland

The launch of the public activities of our new national member, PAN Swiss, took place at a press conference we attended in Lausanne on October 11. We also participated to the two-days scientific workshop organised by PAN Swiss in Crans-Montana on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals. High-level scientists were present (Tyrone Hayes, John Peterson Myers), this meeting has permitted us to increase our network of scientists and better meet members and employees of PAN Swiss..



# 7. FROM OUR NETWORK

## Pesticides Action Week

**Great success for the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pesticide Action Week...see you for the 9th edition in 2014!**

This year, the Pesticide Action Week was a great success, confirming the rise of this event that is becoming increasingly important in the public agenda, for journalists as well as political and economic decision-makers.

Launched in 2006 by the French Organisation Générations Futures and ACAP - a group of 170 organizations Citizen Action for Alternative to Pesticides- the Pesticide Action Week is now supported by 35 national and international organisations, with 13 new partners this year.

Since its conception in 2006, the event has been coordinated by the Organisation Générations Futures, which specializes in pesticides issues.

During the first 10 days of spring, the public is invited to inform themselves about the risks linked to pesticides for both the environment and their health as well as on the alternatives to these products. This is done via hundreds of events throughout France and in more and more countries in the world.

Finally, with few resources, but a lot of motivation and effort bringing nearly 40 national organisations and hundreds of local partners together, Générations Futures has coordinated a major and unique global event. In fact, the event has grown every year including in several countries abroad where we also noticed a strong call for international expansion.

A few numbers concerning the event:

- { Nearly 1000 events were organized; mostly in France but also in 16 other countries: Europe: France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Turkey. Africa: Morocco, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Mali, Togo, Benin, Congo and elsewhere: Pakistan, Malaysia
- { **35 national and international partners including 13 new partners** this year, therefore involving new actors on this issue that concerns everyone: Association of Mayors of France, Slow Food, Greenpeace, Confédération Paysanne, the School and Nature Network...
- { More than **400 partners in France** have taken part with new actors such as Rural Family Houses, tourist offices, regional parks...
- { Hundreds of articles in the local press and on the Net as well as French National TV news.

**A week that touched the minds:**

**In addition, this week was an opportunity in France to:**

- { Start a **postcard campaign "Pesticides Alert!"** targeting the Ministers of Agriculture and Health for a drastic reduction in use of pesticides and the protection of victims of the chemical industry.<sup>23</sup>
- { Publish a call alerting **85 doctors** from Limousin on the dangers of pesticides.<sup>24</sup>
- { Publish an unprecedented investigation concerning the **potential exposure of children and pregnant women with suspected endocrine disrupting pesticides in food and non-food channel** (Survey EXPPERT 1).<sup>25</sup>
- { Launch a website [www.zones-in-pesticides.fr](http://www.zones-in-pesticides.fr) inviting everyone to show a pesticide-free area on a map of France. Nearly 2,000 areas have already been identified.
- { Launch a **Politicians Club** (Deputies, Senators, Mayors ...) committed for Alternatives to Pesticides, organizing an organic breakfast in the French Parliament.<sup>26</sup>

And hundreds of events throughout France with regions particularly active (Alsace, Brittany, the Eastern Pyrenees ...) with natural gardening workshops, film screenings, lectures, educational animations, training, equipment demonstrations, site visits, organic meals, exhibitions, performances, information stands, communication campaigns .... This year was again a great success and an event which is highly useful to demonstrate that we can and should do without pesticides.

*You may find the detailed report and some photos here  
[www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/une-belle-moisson-darticles-passages-radio-et-tele-pour-cette-8eme-edition/](http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/une-belle-moisson-darticles-passages-radio-et-tele-pour-cette-8eme-edition/)*

*Nadine Lauvergeat, Générations Futures*

23. [www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/alerte-aux-pesticides-les-cartes-petitions-a-diffuser-et-faire-signer/](http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/alerte-aux-pesticides-les-cartes-petitions-a-diffuser-et-faire-signer/)

24. [www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/alerte-aux-pesticides-lancee-par-85-medecins-du-limousin/](http://www.semaine-sans-pesticides.fr/non-classe/alerte-aux-pesticides-lancee-par-85-medecins-du-limousin/)

25. [www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/etude-expert-1-exposition-aux-pesticides-perturbateurs-endocriniens/](http://www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/etude-expert-1-exposition-aux-pesticides-perturbateurs-endocriniens/)

26. [www.comiteeluspesticides.fr/](http://www.comiteeluspesticides.fr/)

## The Belgian Pesticide Action Week

The sixth Pesticide-Free Week was also held in Belgium from 20 to 30 March 2013. It was timed to coincide with “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 200 activities were organised such as conferences, exhibitions, visits, demonstrations and debates. Adalia encouraged people to bring their old pesticides to specialised 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, local authorities were invited to see a demonstration of machines for weed control. They were told by the Wallonian government that in 2019, no more pesticides will allow in public areas. Good news!

We are very happy to see that the Belgian Pesticide-free week has strong public support and has expanded each year. We hope that one day this campaign won't be needed any more since everyone has gone pesticide-free!

## The Spanish Pesticide Action Week

Fundación Vivo Sano launched its second Pesticides Action Week in Spain with different events across the country informing the public about the pesticide use and alternatives. The week event's highlights included the launch of the Documentary *“In Small Print”* on endocrine disruptors in Madrid, Barcelona, and Valencia as well as an organic cooking class in Madrid and a workshop on organic agriculture (natural preparations for diseases and pests in horticulture and alternatives to pesticides). Our partners Josenea from the North of Spain, organized visits of their organic farm in the Pyrenees. There were more than 130 people attending the events.

### *Our main events have been:*

*15 March: Launch of the documentary “In small print” on endocrine disruptors, Fundación Once (Madrid), 21 March launch in Valencia, 22 March launch in Barcelona*

*20 March: Organic Cooking: A cooking course with Marisa Fernández, Origen, Madrid*

*22 March: Workshop on natural preparations for diseases and pests in horticulture, Paracuellos*

*20-30 March: Organic agriculture: Visits of organic farm of Josenea, Finca Bordablanca, Lumbier (Navarra).*



### For more information:

- Vivo Sano's Video for the launch of the Pesticides Action Week in Spain [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiXRKTYpz\\_w&list=UUj9u3LxsUeEtmh9mD67PK0Q&index=2](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiXRKTYpz_w&list=UUj9u3LxsUeEtmh9mD67PK0Q&index=2)
- Trailers Documentary In Small Print: [www.vivosano.org/es\\_ES/Proyectos/InternationalProjects/DocumentaryInSmallPrint.aspx](http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/InternationalProjects/DocumentaryInSmallPrint.aspx)
- More information in Spanish [www.vivosano.org/es\\_ES/Proyectos/Proyectosfinalizados/Semanasinpesticidas2013.aspx](http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/Proyectosfinalizados/Semanasinpesticidas2013.aspx)
- Events during the Pesticides Action Week [www.vivosano.org/es\\_ES/Proyectos/Proyectosfinalizados/Semanasinpesticidas2013.aspx](http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/Proyectosfinalizados/Semanasinpesticidas2013.aspx)
- Our websites in English [www.vivosano.org/es\\_ES/Proyectos/InternationalProjects/PesticidesActionWeek.aspx](http://www.vivosano.org/es_ES/Proyectos/InternationalProjects/PesticidesActionWeek.aspx)

# OTHER ACTIONS

## PAN Swiss is born

In January 2013 PAN Swiss was born. The reality is that in Switzerland an average person is aware of the dire pesticide situation we are in. The Swiss trust that our always very rational government protects us. We like it clean, too. Visibly clean. There is no litter on the roads, people recycle trash, clean the beaches on the lakes and do their best to have a small carbon footprint. We want to buy local food so that it does not have to travel long distances by planes. Many choose not to drive cars.

Most people are acutely aware of the need to protect the environment, and respect the beauty of our surroundings. After the national referendum of 1993 called Agriculture Close to the Environment people are convinced our farmers are doing their best to protect nature.

And we spray. The lawns, gardens and vineyards all manicured to perfection with what we call weed killers. Our famous velvety apricots from the Valley are smooth and spotless. The strawberries are all shapely, large, red very aromatic and last for a good couple of days on the table.

We spray in pure goodwill because we were taught in schools to do so. Our parents did so. Our villages have publically displayed agendas carefully managed by experts (salesmen) from the suppliers depicting what to use and on which days. We think most mainstream people spray.

People really care - and actually do their best to treat plant with the so called phytosanitary products without disturbing the birds too much. To very precisely apply The Products, helicopters fly regularly over picturesque residential areas in the stunningly beautiful valleys so known for their skiing or on the gentle slopes around the lakes where multimillion dollar homes are nestled among the vineyards. We call it sulphating.

The government has taken measures to ban some pesticides. Atrazine was even banned four years ago (though just a couple of years later than in Europe). The government even spent some time studying endocrine disrupters. Regretfully for the time being, it still claims that this is an unfounded hypothesis. So, at least for now most mothers are uninformed. Doctors can't pronounce

“Endocrine disruptor”. Kids are fed “conventional” food in schools. High end restaurants serve beautifully arranged and elegantly served food with pesticide residues because the notion of organic is still not in the mainstream of the people's awareness.

PAN Swiss wants to change these perceptions. We know that people care. We want to work with them. We want to work to support farmers who produce pesticide-free, those who value and respect their own top soil. We want to support restaurants who don't serve pesticide residues in their food; mothers who want to give the kids pesticide free water; communes who don't spray pesticides in parks, playgrounds and football fields where children roll and kick ball on pesticide free grass. We want to support golf courses which don't want to be exposing their employees and their clients to the invisible chemical cloud hovering just above their greens. (And some clients like to lick the little white ball for luck).

We want to encourage the state to take measures to limit the seeping of pesticides into the ground waters and into our drinking water. We actually want Switzerland to go pesticide-free.

We have some good things going our way. There is an almost complete absence of the predatory retail chains. The two

dominant food retailers - COOP and MIGROS are both cooperatives, both are now making an effort to provide a larger choice of local, organic food. The Swiss Bio organization is sound, experienced, and very vibrant. Demeter, the association of biodynamic farmers is also well established here. There is Fib, a powerful research institute which provides science to organic farming.

And a great deal of discretely influential, well established organizations with huge member base.

Add to this a population of highly educated and sophisticated citizens used to finding solutions through a balanced civil dialogues, a rational government which has a long term perspective, and a country where intense industrial agriculture has never taken root (also thanks to the mountainous topography which encourages smaller, family farms) and you have a landscape full of potential for change. The change would be towards a new era of enlightened agriculture free of chemical inputs. And a society protected from their unconscious exposure to frivolously used pesticides.

The size of the country also makes it a setting in which would be especially feasible to roll out a long term, multi faced communications campaign alerting the society about the harmful effects of synthetic organic pesticides.



## EXPPERT Reports on EDCs

The issue of endocrine disruptors (EDCs) is now central to debates related to environmental health. France is preparing a national strategy on endocrine disruptors (SNPE – Stratégie Nationale sur les Perturbateurs Endocriniens) due to be published this summer. Generations Futures is a member of the steering group of this SNPE. At the same time, the EU should have its own strategy published in September and has to agree on a definition of endocrine disruptors to be excluded under the European pesticides Regulation by mid-December.

To show the urgency of preventive and political action in this area of EDs, Generations Futures, in collaboration with PAN Europe and with the support of the EEHI Foundation, decided to publish the EXPPERT reports (for exposition on endocrine disrupting pesticides), a series of several reports based on analyses to show the ubiquity of many EDs pesticides in our food and environment leading to a significant exposure of the population.

Our work focused on several aspects of this issue and is to be published in several parts. Part 1, published in March, focused on Ed's insecticides in cereals and at home and Part 2, released in July, to demonstrate exposure to Ed's pesticides through fresh food. A third part will follow later this autumn.

The EXPPERT <sup>127</sup> report showed that we are exposed to EDCs insecticides daily, especially through two families of chemicals: organophosphates and pyrethroids. This exposure may be through food (in this report we studied the presence of EDCs insecticide residues in cereals products), but also by the exposure to household insecticides, pesticides used for garden, in bedding, textiles, veterinary or human use.

For cereals based food products, 75% of the samples contained residues of pesticides - none exceeding MRLs - and in these 75%, all contained one or more substances, organophosphate or pyrethroid, suspected of being endocrine disruptors.

For non-food products, of the 181 commercial products studied, 108 contained one or several organophosphate or pyrethroid substances which are suspected EDCs.

The EXPPERT <sup>228</sup> report focused on strawberries because it is a favorite for children. Of 49 samples analyzed, 91.83% contained one or more pesticide residues and in total,

- { 71.42% of the samples contained EDCs pesticides! (35/49)
- { 65.38% of the French sample had at least one EDC pesticide residue (17/26)
- { 78.26% of Spanish samples have at least one EDC pesticide residue (18/23)

Similarly, we found a total of 37 different molecules with 8 different endocrine disruptors (chlorpyrifos-ethyl, endosulfan, Flutriafol, iprodione, myclobutanil, penconazole, pirimicarb, triadimenol).

Note that the concentration of residues of all but one of the molecules found was compliant with the MRL legislation. We have identified only one residue exceeding the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL): acrinathrin, which makes an overall rate of non-compliance of 2.04%.

27. [www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/etude-exppert-1-exposition-aux-pesticides-perturbateurs-endocriniens/](http://www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/etude-exppert-1-exposition-aux-pesticides-perturbateurs-endocriniens/)

28. [www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/enquete-exppert-2-des-pesticides-interdits-et-des-perturbateurs-endocriniens-pe-dans-des-fraises/](http://www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/enquete-exppert-2-des-pesticides-interdits-et-des-perturbateurs-endocriniens-pe-dans-des-fraises/)



These surveys have been written to alert our policy makers about the need to take immediate and strong measures to reduce human exposure to EDCs pesticides and to adopt an ambitious national strategy for EDCs.

While the text of the SNPE is supposed to affirm the key role that France claims to play on the endocrine disruptors issue, pesticides lobbies might succeed in significantly weakening the text! Indeed, one of the parts of the text, still to be validated as of today, calls for a “review the criteria of exclusion” of certain substances after an “impact study” taking into account “the consequences for the protection of health, the environment as well as the available active ingredients.” In other words, it opens the door to a major step back that could badly weaken the principles of the 1107/2009 Regulation which is based on the a priori exclusion of recognized EDCs. This part of the text of the SNPE reintroduces a certain form of risk assessment which is not present in the European text, in which the exclusion of EDC pesticides is based on hazard criteria

*{ For each EXPERT report, press releases in English and Spanish were written and are available online on related pages of our website [www.generations-futures.fr](http://www.generations-futures.fr). }*

*Nadine Lauvergeat, Générations Futures*

## Actions against EDCs in Spain

Fundación Vivo Sano in Madrid has been actively campaigning with several initiatives on EDCs in Spain over the past months. With the launch of its campaign “Hogar sin Tóxicos” (“Toxic-free Home”), Vivo Sano wishes to raise awareness about the chemical pollution in our households being a serious public health problem that needs immediate response, especially considering that the Western population spends on average about 90% of their time indoors, much of which is in the home. With this campaign, Vivo Sano aims to inform the population about the health impacts and improve government policies and measures that protect health and to influence companies to eliminate or significantly reduce the toxic substances that they use, which are present in a wide range of household products. In this context, Vivo Sano calls for support for their Campaign to remove BPA from food contact material in Spain.

In the spring, Vivo Sano launched the Pesticides Action Week in Spain with several activities, ranging from an organic cooking class to visits to organic farms all around Spain. The highlight of the week was the launch of Vivo Sano’s documentary “In Small Print” which has been screened in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. Scientific experts, who took part in the documentary, attended the official launch to answer questions from the general public. **In Small-Print** shows how we are affected by the chemicals with which we are in contact every day. Many of these substances have a direct impact on our hormonal system by mimicking hormones and with it altering the system, the so- called endocrine disruptors.

Vivo Sano’s research for this documentary revealed a significant increase in cases of cancer and infertility, but also of neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s or autism, which are related to chemical exposure. The documentary involved travelling all over Spain to interview internationally recognized experts to speak about their work, investigation and see their laboratory. They shared with us their concerns and challenges for the generations to come.

The aim of “**In Small-Print**”, is to inform and raise awareness of the risks from chemical substances and its health effects, showing where you can find endocrine disruptors and what can we do to protect ourselves and our children. The trailers to the documentary (in English) can be found [here](#)

*Nadia Bennich, Vivosano*

## Biocides – counteract the rising needless use

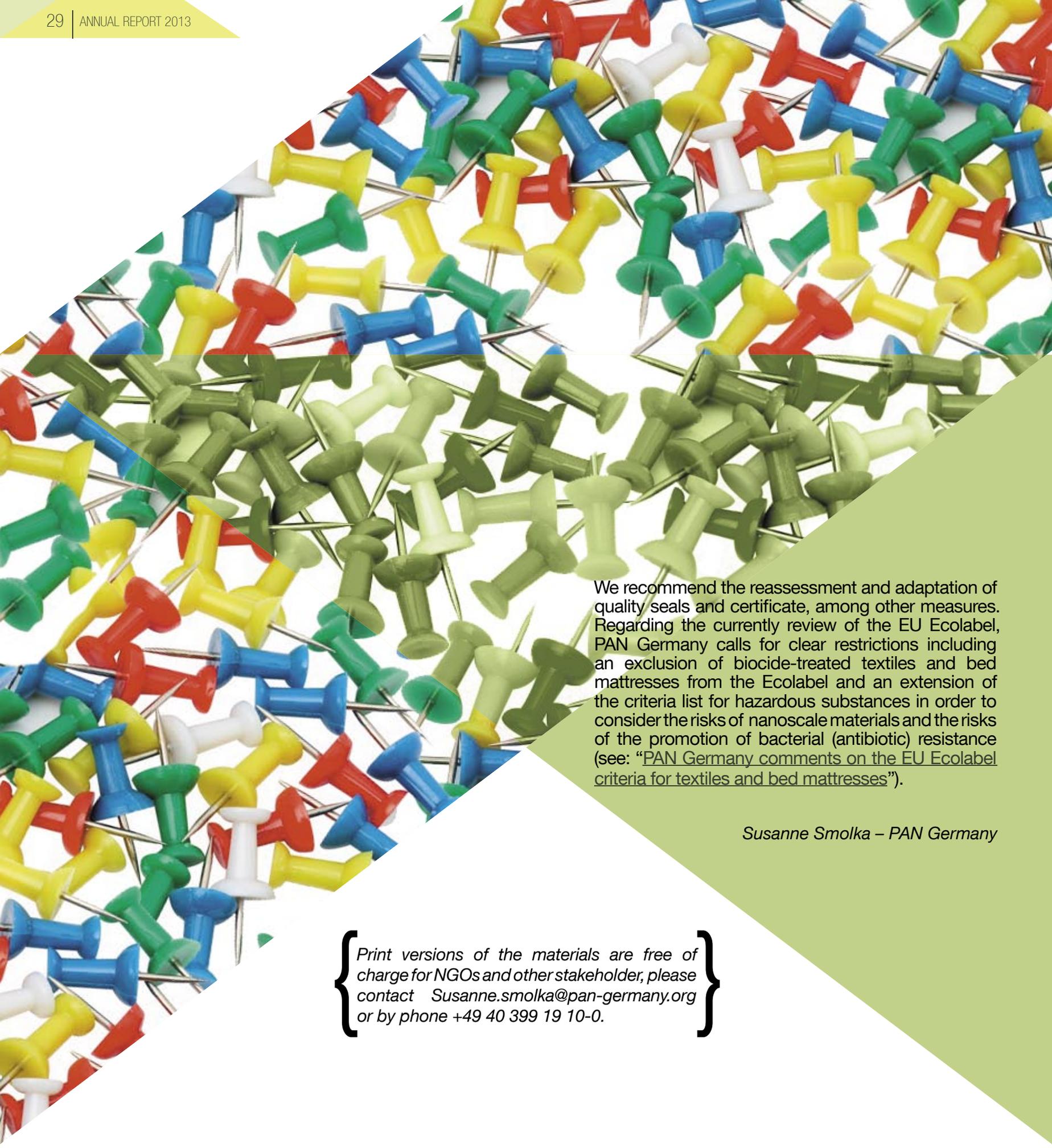
Products that combat pests and which are not used as plant protection products or as pharmaceuticals are called biocides. Since 2000, specific regulations apply to make biocide products available on the market within the European Union. Disinfectants, preservatives, protective substances, or household pesticides are subject to an authorization process.

With the introduction of the new Biocidal Product Regulation (BPR) 528/2012/EC, the EU now also regulates the use phase of biocidal products and articles that have been treated with biocides. PAN Germany followed the revision process as stakeholder since 2008 and called for concrete improvements of environmental and health protection standards. PAN Germany summarized the new provisions of the BPR in the fact sheet [“The European Union’s new Regulation on biocides”](#) (also available in German).

The BPR must be enacted by 1 September 2013 and consumer protection being – hopefully - improved by several new provisions. Organizations of the civil society should observe their implementation in the Member States, for example, how the administration bodies provide the general public with information on the risks of biocidal products and opportunities for use reduction or if suppliers implement the new label and information requirements accordingly. Biocides are not harmless, rather there are real risks for human health and for the environment and in addition, the use of biocidal products and biocide-treated goods for private use is unnecessary. Furthermore, many of these products are not compatible with the goal of sustainable and environmentally-sound consumption.

An example: More and more articles of daily use are treated with biocides to produce specific functions such as antimicrobial or odor-inhibition properties (e.g. textiles, shoes, bed mattresses and a great variety of plastic goods used in kitchen, bathrooms or offices). Consumer but also suppliers are not well informed and their awareness on the issue is limited. PAN Germany therefore published a brochure which summarized the new legislative provisions on biocide-treated articles, identifies important unresolved issues in implementation, and formulates recommendations for further action. An online-survey carried out by PAN Germany shows the wide range of “antibacterial” consumer products. With the brochure we aim to stimulate the discourse unnecessary use of problematic biocides such as triclosan, silver or nanoscale materials in consumer products: [“Biocide-treated Consumer Products: Markets – Policies – Risks”](#) (also available in German). A new easy-to-read consumer guide helps to raise consumer awareness about this issue (in German only): [“Giften auf der Spur – Biozide erkennen und vermeiden”](#).





We recommend the reassessment and adaptation of quality seals and certificate, among other measures. Regarding the currently review of the EU Ecolabel, PAN Germany calls for clear restrictions including an exclusion of biocide-treated textiles and bed mattresses from the Ecolabel and an extension of the criteria list for hazardous substances in order to consider the risks of nanoscale materials and the risks of the promotion of bacterial (antibiotic) resistance (see: [“PAN Germany comments on the EU Ecolabel criteria for textiles and bed mattresses”](#)).

*Susanne Smolka – PAN Germany*

*{ Print versions of the materials are free of charge for NGOs and other stakeholder, please contact [Susanne.smolka@pan-germany.org](mailto:Susanne.smolka@pan-germany.org) or by phone +49 40 399 19 10-0. }*

### Illegal HCB and DDT waste storage in Gdansk, Poland

Greenpeace was informed during the early summer 2012 about illegal pesticide waste, including POP wastes storage in Gdansk just 30-50 meters from the Baltic See. According to the Basel Convention guidelines, POP waste should be stored in closed buildings or in containers and absolutely no leakage is allowed. We found the hazardous waste in loose, leaking plastic bags, so the POP wastes are polluting the environment. According to the BC guidelines, waste types should be stored separately whereas in this case all waste types are stored together.

Greenpeace took samples in summer 2012 around the area of Port Service in Gdansk. We took nine soil samples both from inside and outside the facility in the storage area. In all samples, even 20 to 50 meters from the fence of Port Service, we measured HCB (Hexachlorobenzene), which is one of the “dirty dozen chemicals” from the Stockholm

Convention. HCB is carcinogenic (2B), teratogenic -disturb the development of an embryo or foetus-, an endocrine disrupting substance. Furthermore HCB is a POP, as it is very persistent and accumulates in the animal as well as human body.

Beside this area is not an agricultural area, Greenpeace found several other pesticides in the top of the soil. We can be almost sure that the pollutants came from Port Service facility, and the pollution is the consequence of the inappropriate storage. The most dangerous substances were alpha-HCH, HCB and DDT. All these substances are restricted for many years; HCB and DDT are banned under the Stockholm Convention. The Polish HCB limit is surprisingly high for industrial areas. In many countries the maximum limit value is 1 mg/kg, but the Polish law allows 15 mg/kg. For atrazine, which is a hazardous substance as



*Most of the HCB waste was transported to Gdansk from Kalush, a well-known Ukrainian contaminated site. Five hundred trucks and two ships of waste arrived to the Polish city through the Baltic sea. According to the official papers, the HCB concentration did not exceed 1,6% of HCB in this waste. However, in Poland some samples indicated even around 30% of HCB in waste.*

well, but does not accumulate in human tissues, the limit value is just 0,05 mg/kg. For that reason, HCB levels did not reach 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 were exceeded in the sample from inside the plant. We measured several other pollutants like prometryn, simazine, but there is no limit value for most hazardous pollutants.

Greenpeace informed local Authorities & Basel Conv. Secretariat about the testing results and asked for the immediate clean-up of the contaminated area inside and outside the plant; repackaging and proper storage as well as hazardous substances handling at Port Service and a complete monitoring of the whole area for all possible pollutants.

Supported by the pressure from Greenpeace and from the media, the whole management of Voivodship Environment Protection Inspectorate in Gdansk has been dismissed. The chairman of Port Service Company has been fired by the owners: German Blum Gruppe. The company's chairman has been accused to endanger the environment because National Environment Protection Office has withdrawn its previous decision, which would have allowed Port Service to import another 4.000 tons of waste from Ukraine. Pesticides and HCB waste left for incineration were temporarily secured with foil sheets. The local environment inspectorate undertook a serious inspection at Port Service. A number of additional irregularities, such as transgression of emission standards by the company, have also been noted. An expert study stated that in Elganow, where the toxic slag, ashes from incineration got disposed, that toxic substances can reach surface waters in 1.5 years, reaching groundwater would take about 3 years. The authority therefore decided that the waste have to be removed from there to a safer storage place.

But still, as of August 2013, 12.000 tons of ash contaminated with HCB and other pesticides are still in the unsealed pit in Elganow. And there is no one to pay for the clean-up. So instead of one toxic time bomb we have now two, one in Kalush and one near Gdansk.

*Gergely Simon,  
Greenpeace CEE,  
PAN Europe Individual Member*

