

Dear Sir or Madam, dear decision makers,

Exactly two days before the European vote on the reauthorization of glyphosate, the “Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues” (JMPR) of the World Health Organisation emerged and essentially repeated its conclusion from 2004 and 2001 assessment on glyphosate that “it is unlikely that glyphosate ingested through food constitutes a cancer risk to humans”.

Below we address the reasons for which, we urgently advise you and all decision makers not to take into account this “last minute” assessment of the JMPR for your decision about the reauthorization of glyphosate in the European Union.

The JMPR was criticized last year within the WHO after the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) -also of the WHO- identified and classified the three pesticides diazinon, malathion and glyphosate as potentially or rather probably carcinogenic to humans- the JMPR had previously classified all these pesticides as harmless. A task force within the WHO was installed to investigate the reasons behind this discrepancy between the evaluations of these two committees of the WHO. IARC’s final report can definitely be perceived as a criticism on the working method of the JMPR.

However, all the recommendations to the JMPR therein, including the recommendation to check the JMPR-guidelines as well as to produce new precise criteria for the consideration or rather the exclusion of independent and regulatory studies, were not implemented.

Source: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/main_findings_and_recommendations.pdf?ua=1

Furthermore, in the last years JMPR has received repeatedly accusations for insufficient transparency and unresolved conflicts of interest of its members. The current working group

for the risk assessment of glyphosate was apparently led by two experts, Alan Boobis and Angelo Moretto, who maintained longstanding and close relations to the industry lobby ILSI (International Life Science Institute). ILSI is financed by numerous industrial groups, including the producers of glyphosate Monsanto and Dow. These experts have already been removed from the European Food Safety Authority Pesticide Panels due to their ties to the pesticide industry (PAN Europe- Poisonous injections). In contrast to this industry-dependent expert group, the assessment of the IARC that glyphosate is “**probably carcinogenic to humans**” is based on a transparent and thorough evaluation of the best available scientific literature by 17 international experts who had no conflicts of interest.

For these reasons, let us please remind to the decision makers of the European Union on behalf of the Standing Committee of Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) about the potential consequences of a reauthorization of glyphosate:

1. Violation of pesticides regulation No 1107/2009 and the EU's precautionary principle embedded therein by political decision makers
2. An EU-wide increase of malignant Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, that could easily be prevented by refusing the reauthorization of glyphosate.
3. A relevant number of people, whose cancer disease can be attributed to an exposure to glyphosate, will likely blame the decision makers for their foreseeable health damages

Therefore, we strongly recommend you to vote against the reauthorization of glyphosate.

For more information please find attached the Open Letter from the 12th of May, 2016, which was signed by 39 European

organizations for environmental and consumer protection, and medical doctors.

Kind regards,

Information about the interest conflicts of the JMPR:

<https://www.global2000.at/presse/industrie-beziehungen-und-interessenskonflikte-werfen-schiefes-licht-auf-glyphosat>

<http://www.pan-europe.info/sites/pan-europe.info/files/public/resources/reports/pane-2014-a-poisonous-injection.pdf>

<http://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2016/05/busy-may-professor-boobis>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/en/News/2016/Industry-ties-JMPR-glyphosate/>