

Thursday, November 12th

1.4 million people oppose Europe's approval of Monsanto's round-up

Europe fails to prioritise citizen's safety

(Brussels) 1.4 million citizens oppose the European Food Safety Authority EFSA's conclusion today that the herbicide glyphosate "is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard". Those backing this petition are seriously concerned that today's finding could put the public at risk as it contradicts the conclusions earlier this year by the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which found glyphosate a "probable carcinogen".

Alice Jay, Campaign Director for Avaaz, said:

*"Monsanto's round-up could be the new DDT, but in spite of alarming scientific evidence, European regulators have failed to protect us. **EFSA has wiped out the precautionary principle like a farmer wipes out weeds with a lethal dose of glyphosate.** Now it is up to the Health and Food Safety Commissioner Andriukaitis to hold a full independent assessment, and suspend the herbicide until it is proven safe."*

- In the last 48 hours citizens from across the continent have sent over 11.000 messages [to the EU Health Commissioner raising their concerns](#)
- Over 1.4 million people have signed a [petition](#) calling on the EU to invoke the precautionary principle and suspend glyphosate until an independent scientific evaluation is complete.
- A detailed assessment of the concerns was published in a joint [open letter](#) by Avaaz and over 40 environmental and cancer organisations.

Today, EFSA concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans and no classification regarding carcinogenicity is proposed according to CLP Regulation. The EFSA peer review is founded in a report by German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) which is largely based on unpublished studies provided by the chemical companies producing glyphosate. The IARC study, that found glyphosate to be a probable carcinogen, was carried out by 17 world-class independent cancer experts looking at multiple published peer-reviewed studies.

Professor Christopher Portier, one of the co-authors of the glyphosate report by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said:

"As a researcher who has led risk assessment agencies, I am deeply concerned that EFSA is relying on the German analysis. An analysis that was driven by the desired outcome, not driven by the science as it should be."

ENDS

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With more than 40 million members, Avaaz is the biggest global citizen movement working to ensure the views and values of the world's citizens inform global decision-making. Previously, its members helped lead both the EU and the US to a ban of neonicotinoids in order to save bees worldwide.