

Pesticide newsletter N°3 - May 2021

Civil Society Activities



<u>European Citizens' Initiative for an agricultural policy that saves</u> <u>both bees and farmers</u>

Justice Pesticides is a partner of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Save bees and farmers". In order to protect bees and the health of citizens, we ask the Commission to propose legal acts to phase out synthetic pesticides by 2035, restore biodiversity and help farmers during this transition period.

For this, it is necessary to: Gradually reduce the use of synthetic pesticides in EU agriculture by 80% by 2030, starting with the elimination of the most dangerous products, so that synthetic pesticides are no longer used by 2035; restore natural ecosystems in agricultural areas so that agriculture becomes a means to restore biodiversity; reforming agriculture by prioritizing small-scale, diversified and sustainable agriculture, promoting a rapid increase in agro

ecological and organic practices, and enabling independent farmer training and research in pesticide-free and GMO-free agriculture.

The European Citizens' Initiative "Save bees and farmers" aims to be a catalyst for the transformation of agriculture, towards a model based on agro ecological principles that promote biodiversity. Such an agricultural model preserves natural resources, prevents soil erosion, increases soil fertility and contributes to climate protection by absorbing more greenhouse gases than it produces. Such an agricultural model is the only possible answer to the growing challenges of the loss of biodiversity and the climate crisis, and is the only one that will ensure food production for future generations.

Phasing out pesticides is therefore a basic prerequisite and an important lever in this transition from a chemical-based agricultural model to a biodiversity-friendly, nature-based model. Phasing out pesticides over 15 years is an ambitious challenge. The transition of our agricultural model to agro-ecology represents an important change for many actors, in particular our farmers, but with a strong political will, the transition is within reach.

In a short <u>video</u>, our Board member Marie-Monique Robin, French journalist, author of "Le monde selon Monsanto" and "Le Roundup face à ses juges" explains the importance of the issue of this ECI.

If we succeed in obtaining at least 1 million signatures, the European Commission and the European Parliament will have to take into account our demands. Help us to reach this goal: every signature counts! We have reached almost 60% of our target, but we still need to collect about 400.000 signatures. Sign and share this initiative.

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