



JUSTICE
PESTICIDES

Pesticide newsletter

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Civil Society Activities



France: 37 NGOs ask Emmanuel Macron to ban glyphosate in the EU

Our partner *Génération Futures*, foodwatch, and 35 NGOs, including Justice Pesticides, have decided to take the word of the President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron. At the World Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on September 4, 2021 in Marseille, he had firmly declared that he "wanted to carry an initiative for an accelerated exit from pesticides" during the French presidency of the European Union, which begins in January 2022.

The [37 civil society organizations](#) have launched a [joint petition](#) urging the French president to take action to ban [glyphosate](#) in the EU. As a reminder, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), an agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), had classified glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen" for humans (category 2A) in 2015, after a review of numerous public scientific studies. On June 30, 2021, [the multidisciplinary report](#) of the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) came to reinforce the analysis of the health risks of glyphosate.

If the danger of glyphosate is now a given for experts who use published scientific data validated by the scientific community, it is still possible for European agencies to dismiss these data and rely instead on studies produced by industry, most often questionable. Our partner, *Génération Futures*, published a [report](#) on November 16, 2021 highlighting that these industry-produced studies do not meet the requirements of the OECD guidelines. The worrying data in this report come on top of the scandals resulting from the "Monsanto papers", copy and paste of industry reports by the German agency in charge of the evaluation of glyphosate (BfR) in 2017 and the [scientific evaluation](#) of 2 Austrian researchers published in July 2021 demonstrating the unreliability of studies on glyphosate provided by the industry. However, the agrochemical industry lobbies continue their maneuvers to create doubt about the danger of glyphosate in order to block its ban.

Unfortunately, they are not without consequences since the renewal assessment report (RAR) produced in June by the group of four states (France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden) commissioned to study the assessment dossier of glyphosate for a decision on the renewal of its authorization in Europe after 2022 suggests that glyphosate would not be dangerous to health. This could pave the way for a possible renewal of its authorization in Europe. EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) and ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) will be the next to decide, following public consultations that ended on November 22, 2011 and collected more than 400 submissions.

Policy makers cannot be satisfied with agency opinions based on biased studies by the agrochemical industry and must use the conclusions of credible academic studies such as those of the IARC or Inserm on the risks of glyphosate, and ban this substance by applying the European precautionary principle in order to protect farmers, the population and the environment.

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