

Bulletin d'information sur les pesticides

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Civil Society Activities



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Belgium: Citizens' march to the Syngenta factory in Seneffe

On February 12, 2022, a group of citizens, supported by the collective Extinction Rébellion Charleroi and various groups, including Corporate Europe Observatory and SOS FAIM, [marched](#) from the Familleureux train station, near Charleroi, towards the Syngenta factory in Seneffe.

The [procession](#) was organized in memory of the poisoned farmers of the South and the murdered biodiversity and against the production on Belgian territory of forbidden pesticides which are then exported to the rest of the world.

The Syngenta plant in Seneffe produces pesticides based on thiamethoxam, a neonicotinoid whose marketing and use in outdoor crops have been [banned](#) since 2018 in the European Union, particularly because of the risks it poses to bees. However, the production and export of this substance is still allowed.

This factory, which is among the largest exporters of banned neonicotinoids, is a symbol of this immoral European policy that offloads the harmful effects on the environment and farmers' health of pesticides manufactured in the EU to the countries that import them, and allows the import of food products containing the residues of these banned pesticides. An [investigation](#) by Public Eye and Unearthed, reveals that between September and December 2020, European authorities approved 299 exports of banned neonicotinoids in the EU, representing nearly 3,900 tons of pesticides, containing more than 700 tons of imidacloprid, thiamethoxam or clothianidin. Nine EU countries are involved in these exports, with Belgium, France and Germany in the lead. Corporate Europe Observatory has produced a [video](#) denouncing this toxic trade.

The protesters demand:

- That the export of pesticides banned in the EU be prohibited;
- That food imports containing pesticide residues not authorized in the EU be banned;
- That the EU stops negotiating free trade agreements that harm health and the environment.

The demonstrators also demand that Belgium takes its responsibilities and prohibits this practice at its level. Indeed, France has provided for a ban on the production, storage and circulation of pesticides containing non-EU-approved active substances as of January 1, 2022 by the 2018 [EGALIM](#) law. According to the [Constitutional Council](#), the legislator had thus ensured a not manifestly unbalanced reconciliation between the objectives of constitutional value of the freedom of enterprise and of environmental and health protection.

Syngenta Seneffe is not the only plant targeted by the organizers. Other companies in the Antwerp region produce the same type of product. Another rally is planned for April 17 in the framework of the Farmers' Day.

If you've made it this far, can you make one more tiny effort?

Justice Pesticides needs your help to continue this work of investigation and information to support victims of pesticides.

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