



## Newsletter about Pesticides

N°7 – February 2022

### Civil Society Activities



#### **EU: Pesticide lobbies against the reduction targets of the Green Deal**

On July 14, 2021, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced the measures included in the [European Green Deal](#). These measures aim to reduce the amount of pesticides used by farmers for a transition to organic farming and to limit global warming. These announcements have displeased many players in the agrochemical industry who have lobbied to encourage decision makers in the European Union to lower their ambitions.

This is demonstrated by the well-documented [investigation](#) of DeSmog, an independent media that offers an antidote to scientific denial and misinformation. DeSmog has identified 14 companies that have pushed the European Union to reduce its environmental policies and agrochemical resolutions in recent years. Most of these companies are giant multinationals,

such as Bayer or Corteva. According to the European transparency register, thirteen of these entities are recognized as official lobbies.

How do they do it? By organizing meetings through their representatives with various EU institutions working on agriculture, the environment or chemical risks. And for such meetings, they do not hesitate to pull out all the stops. For example, the German chemical group BASF organized a wine tasting with members of the European Parliament about a year ago to discuss European agricultural policy, during which the MEPs were offered six small bottles of good wine. In total, BASF and the other major chemical companies are said to have spent the equivalent of at least 45.9 million euros in two years on their lobbying activities. This enormous sum is, however, derisory when compared to the 234 billion euros that the agrochemical sector represents worldwide.

Reacting to DeSmog's investigation, Natacha Cingotti, Health and Chemicals Policy Manager at our partner Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL), said, "Under the current regulatory system and related stakeholder consultation processes, it is a fact that the dominant players are the very companies that are destined to profit from the sale of harmful chemicals, not those advocating for the protection of health and the environment." There is undeniably a major and very unhealthy imbalance in the representation of the various interests that can influence the European Union's decisions on agricultural policy.

*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.*

**I donate to Justice Pesticides**

[Back to Justice Pesticides website](#)