



Newsletter about Pesticides

N°8 – May 2022

Civil society activities



EU: Postponement of the revision of the Pesticides Directive

Since 2021, the European Commission has been working on the revision of [Directive 2009/128/EC](#) of 21/10/2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve an use of pesticides compatible with sustainable development, in the sustainable use of pesticides, as part of the implementation of the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy. The presentation of the legislative texts of this "nature protection package", which, according to a leaked proposal, provided for setting a binding target for the European Union of 50% reduction of pesticides by 2030, was supposed to take place on 23 March 2022. But it was [postponed](#) due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

EU NGOs consider that any delay in reducing pesticides exposes European citizens to [increased health risks](#) and are disappointed with the postponement of the review. In an [open letter](#) to the European Commission on March 21, they warn against misusing the current situation to advance the political agenda of some private sector lobbies, mainly from the agri-food industry, with regard to the EU's commitments on environment and health in general and on pesticides in particular.

One month later, on April 21, 2022, more than sixty associations, including Justice Pesticides, sent a [new letter](#) to the whole European executive, urging it not to lose sight of the vital issues of sustainability in the name of short-term solutions.

The conflict in Ukraine is indeed instrumentalized by vested interests wishing to remove crucial environmental and health commitments from the European texts under preparation. This conflict is however revealing of our dangerous dependence on fossil fuels, pesticides and fertilizers, and of the imperative need for a strong commitment to the ecological and social transition for resilience, energy independence and peace.

If you have made it this far, can you make one more small effort to allow us to continue this work of investigation and information to help the victims of pesticides?

Justice Pesticides needs you.

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