



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Jurisdictional News



Germany: Beekeepers compensated for the loss of their honey contaminated with glyphosate

On June 20, 2022, the German Regional Court of Frankfurt-am-Oder issued a [decision](#) recognizing the full liability of a farmer who used glyphosate on his farm near that of a beekeeper, resulting in contamination and the loss of a large quantity of honey.

In 2019, in the German region of Brandenburg, a Dutch agricultural company used glyphosate on its flowering fields. Bees from **Sebastian** and **Camille Seusing**'s hives, located not far from the farm, foraged on the flowers in the fields and the beekeepers' honey was contaminated by the herbicide.

Analyses of the honey showed that the level of glyphosate residues measured in the honey was up to 152 times higher than the permissible threshold, according to the legislation on plant protection products. As a result, the beekeepers had to destroy 550kg of their honey production, which caused significant economic damage, leading them to quit the business. They went to court to claim compensation for the damage caused.

In order to avoid residues in honey, the plant protection service of the state of Brandenburg has been calling on farmers not to use glyphosate-based herbicides on flowering plants for several years. Nevertheless, many damages similar to the one suffered by Mr. and Mrs. **Seusing** keep occurring.

On June 20, 2022, the court found the agricultural company fully liable for the damages caused by the illegal and negligent violation of the beekeepers' [property rights](#), and awarded them €14,544 in damages for the harm caused.

This judgment is a first! Prior to this, when a beekeeper's honey was contaminated by agricultural pesticides used by a third party, the beekeeper could not claim compensation for the damage. With this decision, which will set a precedent, the judge affirms that the use of pesticides, although authorized, is conditional on the [absence of damage](#) resulting from them. For **Thomas Radetzki**, director of our partner, the [Aurelia Foundation](#), "*The fact that farmers can be held responsible for damage caused by pesticides will hopefully contribute to reducing the frequency of such damage*".

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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