



## Newsletter about Pesticides

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### Jurisdictional News



#### **USA : EPA must review its decision to allow glyphosate**

On June 17, 2022, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals [ordered](#) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reconsider its findings on the safety of glyphosate use.

In the U.S., pesticides must be registered with the EPA in order to be approved. According to the U.S. Constitution, pesticides that cause "unreasonable adverse effects on the environment" must be excluded. EPA registration can only be granted if the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) safety

standard is met. This standard refers to the need for "no unreasonable risk to humans or the environment, taking into account the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide."

In 2020, the EPA has renewed its [decision](#) to register glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, the most widely used herbicide in the world, produced by Monsanto. According to the Agency, glyphosate did not pose an unreasonable risk to the environment and human health, even though the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) had produced an evaluation in 2015 classifying glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen. The IARC had relied on independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies published in scientific journals, while the EPA primarily [considered](#) studies submitted by Monsanto and companies with a prevailing interest in the substance's approval.

The court's June 17 decision responds to lawsuits filed by two groups of plaintiffs: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) on the one hand, and Center for Food Safety (CFS), Beyond Pesticides, Rural Coalition, Organización en California de Lideres Campesinas, and Farmworker Association of Florida on the other. The petitioners claim, among other things, that the EPA has failed to adequately assess whether glyphosate can cause cancer, and has failed to meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The federal appeals court agreed with the petitioners, and ordered the EPA to reconsider its 2020 conclusion that glyphosate posed "no health risk to people exposed to it by any means, such as in the yard, on farms, on roadsides, or as residue left on crops." According to the court, the EPA's analysis of glyphosate is ["flawed."](#)

CFS called the decision "a historic victory for farm workers and the environment." The decision is especially interesting because it comes at a time when glyphosate producers and sellers are highly exposed. Bayer, which bought Monsanto in 2018, is facing thousands of lawsuits in which users of Roundup herbicides argue that exposure to the product was instrumental in causing their cancer.

According to **Jay Feldman**, Beyond Pesticides' Executive Director, "with this lawsuit, the agency's obstruction of the regulatory process will no longer be tolerated," and "the EPA should begin to shift food production to less toxic alternative practices and materials that meet its legal obligation."

As the European Union is in the midst of reviewing assessments for the renewal of glyphosate's authorization in its territory, this wake-up call to the EPA should prompt regulators to take the necessary precautions to make a reasonable

decision that is in line with the most reliable scientific findings, which means rejecting glyphosate's renewal application.

*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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