JUSTICE PESTICIDES

Newsletter about Pesticides

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Legislative and regulatory news

EU: Controversies over glyphosate assessment

The EU marketing authorization for glyphosate will expire on December 15, 2022. After a first reauthorization obtained in extremis in 2017 by the Commission, thanks to the unexpected reversal of Germany, for five years instead of 15 years, the battle around its reauthorization is thus reopened.

To determine whether the pesticide should be reauthorized, the European Union has mandated the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to assess its danger to human health and the environment.

The reports of these agencies should have been published this year, but they announced on May 10 a delay in the publication of their evaluation, with the finalization of EFSA's conclusions only expected in July 2023, due to the unprecedented number of comments received by these agencies.

The European Commission's Commissioner for Health, **Stella Kyriakides**, expressed deep concern about the delay in the assessment of glyphosate, while noting the high level of interest in the assessment process.

The EFSA assessment report is required for the reauthorization of glyphosate, but the current authorization is automatically extended until the end of the assessment process, unless a particular risk is identified, which is inconsistent with all the concerns about glyphosate.

Our partner PAN-Europe denounces the poor management of the dossier by EFSA and condemns the idea of a prolongation of the authorization pending the publication of the assessments. For the group, this decision to postpone is totally inconsistent with the numerous proofs already provided of the genotoxicity, the probable carcinogenicity, and the negative effects of glyphosate on the environment.

Echa's Risk Assessment Committee delivered its opinion on the risks associated with the substance on May 30, 2022, confirming its previous assessment that glyphosate cannot be classified as a carcinogen - i.e., a factor in human cancer - based on the available evidence. This opinion will be considered by EFSA and will form the basis for the discussion on the renewal of the marketing authorization of glyphosate in the EU.

Our partner Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), considers that ECHA has rejected the scientific arguments on the link between glyphosate and cancer put forward "by independent experts". Once again, ECHA has relied unilaterally on industry studies and arguments. On June 8, 2022, the Alliance published a report showing that the scientific evidence proving that glyphosate is carcinogenic was rejected in Echa's scientific assessment.

Our partner *Générations futures* had already denounced in 2021 an unequal treatment of studies from the agrochemical industry and scientific literature in the risk assessment report (RAR) for the renewal of the authorization of glyphosate of the four Member States rapporteurs for the file.

The organization also believes that the numerous studies produced by recognized agencies confirming the genotoxic and mutagenic effects of glyphosate should have prompted the European agencies in charge of assessment to re-evaluate the reliability of the studies provided by industry and

request additional ones. Yet, the evaluation of genotoxicity would have consequences on the assessment of the carcinogenicity of the substance.

The French National Commission on Ethics and Alerts in Public Health and the Environment (cnDAspe) has criticized the lack of harmonization of the transparency and conflict of interest procedures of the agencies mandated to carry out the reassessment of glyphosate. According to this group of experts, this could have consequences for the conclusions of the community's expert assessments.

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?

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