



Newsletter about Pesticides

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Legislative and regulatory news



EU: 50% Reduction of pesticides by 2030?

The [proposal](#) for a "Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products" regulation published by the European Commission on June 23, 2022 sets a target of a 50% reduction in the use of pesticides and the risks associated with them by 2030.

The Commission has come under strong pressure from member states and the pro-pesticide industry. In particular, 12 Member States published two [position "non papers"](#) calling for the Farm to Fork strategy to be watered down or its implementation to be

postponed. On June 15, 2022, the Commission published an [update](#) on the progress made in achieving the reduction targets set out in the strategy for the period 2011-2020. This update shows that the use of pesticides is decreasing, but too slowly in view of the environmental and health urgency and is even tending to slow down. It was only 1% between 2019 and 2020. Nevertheless, the pro-pesticide and intensive agriculture lobbies continue to oppose the European regulatory advances in favor of a reduction of pesticides.

The Commission's proposal for a regulation seems ambitious, but it risks being compromised by the indicator chosen to measure the reduction of pesticide use, according to a large number of European associations, including our partner [Génération Futures](#).

The indicator in question, the Harmonized Risk Indicator 1 (HRI1) is biased. A [report](#) by the Austrian NGO Global 2000 (translated by our partner *Génération Futures*) shows that this indicator systematically underestimates the risks of synthetic chemical pesticides and overestimates the risks of active substances of natural origin used in organic agriculture.

Moreover, for our partner PAN Europe, the 50% pesticide reduction target is not [ambitious](#), and could be achieved relatively easily by conventional farmers through minor changes in practices and without yield reduction. PAN EU proposes to adopt a more ambitious target of an 80% reduction in pesticides by 2030, and their complete elimination by 2035, as called for by the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "[Save Bees and Farmers](#)", which has gathered more than one million signatures in Europe. A rapid slowdown in the use of pesticides would have long-term benefits for crops, restoring biodiversity to ecosystems and protecting farmers and citizens from the health risks of these toxic products.

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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