



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Deputy Director General for the Food Chain

Brussels,
SANCO/E3/

Dear

Subject: New study entitled "Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize"

DG SANCO has been made aware of a research paper published on 19 September 2012 in the Food and Chemical Toxicology Journal and entitled "Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize."¹

The health effects of NK603 maize cultivated with or without Roundup and Roundup alone were studied during 2 years in rats. The authors of the study conclude that lower levels of glyphosate herbicide formulations, at concentrations well below officially set safety limits, induce severe hormone-dependent mammary, hepatic and kidney disturbances in rats. Similarly, disruption of biosynthetic pathways that may result from overexpression of the EPSPS transgene in the GM NK603 maize can give rise to comparable pathologies that may be linked to abnormal or unbalanced phenolic acid metabolites or related compounds.

I have asked the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to review the scientific publication. I have also invited EFSA to take into consideration the assessment of Member States evaluation agencies on the matter, including the relevant German authorities responsible for the evaluation of glyphosate.

As regards glyphosate, I would be grateful if Germany, Rapporteur Member State for this substance, could evaluate the new study as a matter of urgency and support EFSA's work by maintaining a close liaison during the evaluation.

I am copying my letter to the

Yours sincerely,

¹ Séralini GE, Clair E, Mesnage R, Gress S, Defarge N, Malatesta M, Hennequin D, Vendômois JS – Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize; *Food Chem. Toxicol.* 2012

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