

MONSANTO



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European Commission  
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Brussels, 20 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Classification of glyphosate by the International Agency for Research on Cancer**

The active substance **glyphosate** (CAS 1071-83-6) was recently subject of review by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as part of its 'Meeting 112' (Lyon, March 3-10, 2015).

With this letter, Monsanto would like to inform you about the opinion of the IARC panel, which is now available and published in *The Lancet Oncology*.

The IARC panel classified glyphosate as a "Category 2A Carcinogen" which suggests that this substance should be considered a 'probable' human carcinogen under the criteria and interpretation of the IARC classification system.

Monsanto joins members of the European Glyphosate Task Force (GTF) in their profound disagreement with this IARC-classification for several reasons.

As noted by observers in the meeting, the IARC panel was very selective in the publications they reviewed and opted to exclude other relevant scientific publications without clear exclusion criteria.

The publications reviewed by IARC were already included in a more comprehensive toxicology assessment reviewed by Germany, as Rapporteur Member State for the EU re-registration process. This toxicology assessment also included a very robust series of highly relevant, toxicology studies including multiple long-term toxicology studies conducted according to international standards.

Based on the overwhelming weight of evidence, the German authorities made clear statements in the renewal assessment report (RAR, 2014) and the revised renewal assessment report (2015) that glyphosate is not carcinogenic: “*Classification and labelling for carcinogenicity is not considered appropriate by the RMS...*” and “*Epidemiological studies in the whole did not provide evidence of carcinogenicity in man.*”

Monsanto and the GTF trust that these conclusions will soon be confirmed by EFSA and the EU Commission at the next stages of the ongoing EU evaluation since the conclusions contained in the RAR are also completely in line with comprehensive assessments conducted by regulatory authorities from countries world-wide who are responsible for ensuring public safety.

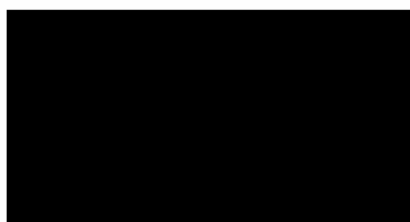
It is imperative for society that conclusions about a matter as important as safety (food, operators, workers, non-professional users etc) are objective, thorough and based on quality science that adheres to internationally recognized standards. In our view, the IARC review of glyphosate does not meet the standards used by regulatory authorities around the world.

Monsanto and the GTF would therefore like to question the relevance of the recent IARC classification and point to the ongoing EU evaluation of glyphosate as the reference for the regulatory evaluation of the toxicological properties (and therefore classification) of glyphosate, including its carcinogenic potential.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Monsanto Europe S.A./N.V.



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[www.glyphosate.eu](http://www.glyphosate.eu)