

**From:** [REDACTED] [greenpeace.org] [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 9:05 AM

**To:** [REDACTED] (CAB-KATAINEN)

**Subject:** Glyphosate – state of play

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to provide some additional elements for the upcoming discussion on Europe's most heavily used weedkiller, glyphosate.

**Given its widespread use, glyphosate has been found practically everywhere** – in streams all over Europe, in foods such as bread and flour, in drinks such as beer, and in people's urine. Among just over 2,000 people tested in Germany, 99.6% were found to have detectable levels of glyphosate in their urine.

**Human health impacts remain controversial.** The WHO's International Agency on Cancer (IARC) has classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans", based on publicly available data. By contrast, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) dismissed all evidence that glyphosate could cause cancer. EFSA stated that "unpublished studies" unavailable to the IARC experts formed the "core basis" of its evaluation. Ninety-six independent scientists, including several of those involved in the WHO's cancer review, slammed the EFSA assessment as "not supported by the evidence".

The Commission has mandated EFSA to assess, by 31 August 2017, whether glyphosate could disrupt the human endocrine system.

**Environmental impacts are documented.** EFSA has identified a high long-term risk to mammals arising from all uses considered, and a high long-term risk to birds arising from of the major uses (e.g. pre-planting, pre-harvesting of cereals). ECHA has classified glyphosate as "toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects".

**The European Parliament has said only professional uses should be allowed**, and any new EU licence for glyphosate should be limited to 7 years. MEPs also urged the Commission and EFSA to "immediately disclose all the scientific evidence that has been a basis for the positive classification of glyphosate and the proposed re-authorisation, given the overriding public interest in disclosure". However, EFSA has finally rejected a request for full access to the studies underlying the agency's assessment.

**Almost 700,000 people have signed an ongoing European Citizens Initiative to ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides. The Commission registered the initiative only in January.**

I would be happy to explain these points further in a meeting with your responsible cabinet member.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Greenpeace European Unit

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