

Brussels, 30 October 2018

Subject: PAN Europe PRESS INVITATION: Scientific and Civil Society Press Conference for the launch of the European coalition “Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation” - 31 October 2018 - 9h - Brussels

CITIZENS FOR SCIENCE IN PESTICIDE REGULATION - ENSURING A HIGH LEVEL OF PROTECTION FROM PESTICIDES IN EUROPE

We are pleased to invite you to the launch of the “Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation” coalition, a European initiative consisting of around 100 European and International civil society organisations and institutions, calling European regulators to reform the current risk assessment procedure to ensure that pesticides used in Europe pose no threat to human health and the environment.

This action comes at a crucial time, when the European Commission is reviewing the pesticides legislation as part of its REFIT programme. The European Parliament has published a series of reports on the topic and has set up a Committee to investigate the European Union’s authorisation procedure for pesticides. Furthermore, the Commission has presented a proposal to increase transparency in European Food Law.

All these actions point out the needs for an improvement of the pesticides’ authorisation system.

In order to make sure that citizen's voice is properly heard, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe has brought together a coalition throughout the EU in order to ask decision makers to seriously upgrade the current methods of assessing the risk of pesticides on human health and the environment.

On behalf of the coalition members, PAN Europe cordially invites you to the scientific and civil society press conference that will take place on 31 October 2018 in Brussels.

At this press conference, we will outline the concerns of the scientific community as well as those from NGOs active at EU- and national-levels. We will present the Manifesto that was agreed upon by the members of the coalition.

The manifesto will be distributed at the press conference and a press release will be sent the same day at 12h.

PRESS CONFERENCE

When: Wednesday 31st October 2018 at 9h

Where: Mundo B - Rue d’Edimbourg 26 - 1050 Brussels

Programme

8h30 – Welcome coffee - breakfast

9h – Introduction by Martin Dermine (PAN Europe)

9h05 – Presentation by Prof. Barbara Demeinex - Non-assessed health threats due to pesticides exposure + Q&A

9h20 – Presentation by Prof. Brian Wynne – The limits of risk assessment and the current implementation of the precautionary principle

9h35-10h15 – Pesticide Risk Assessment Reform campaign

- The IARC vs. EFSA glyphosate controversy (Helmut Burtcher, Global 2000, Austria)
- The glyphosate ECI and proposed amendments of the General Food Law (Sophie Perroud, HEAL)
- How the Commission bends the rules by inventing the negligible risk concept (Alice Bernard, Client Earth)
- Conflicts of interests in pesticide risk assessment (Nina Holland, Corporate Europe Observatory)
- Practical examples of intoxications related to pesticide use in France by François Veillerette (Génération Futures, France; President of PAN Europe)
- How justice helps improving health and environment protection (Arnaud Apoteker, Justice pesticides)
- Presentation of the Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation campaign by Angeliki Lyssimachou (PAN Europe)

Q&A

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe is a network of NGOs working to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides and have them replaced with ecologically sound alternatives. We work to eliminate dependency on chemical pesticides and to support safe sustainable pest control methods. Our network brings together 40 consumer, public health, and environmental organisations, and women's groups from across Europe.