

European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

June 27th 2016

Dear Commissioner

Re: Legal status of the active substance glyphosate in the EU

I am writing to you on behalf of the 23 member companies of the Glyphosate Task Force (GTF) regarding the situation of glyphosate renewal in the EU.

Despite the very clear conclusion of the scientific evaluation of the Rapporteur Member State Germany, technical experts from 27 out of 28 Member States and EFSA, decision makers have failed to secure an EU re-authorization of glyphosate for a 15 year period.

This has resulted in an unprecedented and critical situation which **threatens to undermine the credibility of EU legislative procedures and puts the competitiveness of European agriculture at risk.**

Despite various opportunities to do so, the Commission choose not to put its own proposal for a re-approval of glyphosate to a vote of Member States at SCoPAFF at any stage between April and June 2016, knowing that no secure majority will be obtained.

It is now imperative that the College of Commissioners demonstrates leadership on this issue and exploits all possible avenues to ensure that the approval of glyphosate in the EU does not expire on June 30th.

We wish to emphasize, in the strongest possible terms, that we view the current situation to be a **direct consequence of the intense politicalisation** of a process which according to EU legislation, (and as Commissioner Andriukaitus stated himself in his press briefing of 1 June 2016) is meant to be based on science.

The long term consequences of the current situation for the EU regulatory system should not be underestimated. In our view, a clear signal is now being sent that **established rules and ways of reaching decisions can easily be side-tracked if special interest campaigns against modern technology and, in this case, modern farming, are allowed to unduly influence and politicise the application of EU rules. We would ask that reason and evidence should be the hallmarks of EU decision-making, rather than populism.**

As the applicant for glyphosate renewal in the EU, the GTF has had engagement on a consistent basis with relevant services in DG Sante and with the cabinet of Commissioner Andriukaitus.

However, considering the unprecedented nature of the current situation, we wish to communicate the following key points directly to you:

1. Although an extension of the current approval period is now required, this is a highly regrettable outcome which should not be considered in any way as a 'compromise' solution, but rather as **a dangerous precedent.**
2. An extension of the current approval period is not without consequence. It will create uncertainty and entail extra administrative burden for Member States and the European Commission.
3. The rationale for enacting an extension based on the requirement of taking into consideration the outcome of the EChA classification of glyphosate is entirely spurious. Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 clearly provides for a mechanism whereby the conditions of an approval can be amended, should new relevant scientific information come to light.
4. It is critical to underline that extensive regulatory evaluations of glyphosate have all concluded that it poses **no unacceptable risks. There is clear scientific consensus on the safety profile of glyphosate.**
5. Recent positions expressed by certain Member States regarding glyphosate renewal can be considered as a rejection of the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence and therefore represents **a marked departure from science-based decision making. We consider this to be highly irresponsible and fundamentally irrational.**
6. After careful assessment and review of claims made by high profile activist campaigns focusing on glyphosate, we consider that they are based on misinformation and engage in the deliberate and blatant misrepresentation of certain scientific studies and data, especially concerning dietary risk and human exposure to glyphosate.

We trust that you will find our input constructive, especially in light of the involvement of the College of Commissioners in discussions on the status of glyphosate in the EU in the near future.

Yours Sincerely,

████████████████████

██