The British Medical Journal is unaware of the links between Cancer Research UK and the Pesticides Industry

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2016

An Open Letter from America was sent on 11 November 2014, warning countries in Europe and EU regulators not to authorize GM crops and glyphosate because of the devastating effects on human health and the environment. David Cameron ignored that advice on behalf of England. He and Defra concealed the letter from the British public. The European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority ignored it as well and have continued to approve GM Crops for growing and for food and feed in the EU. Defra dismissed the complaints of Crop-sprayed rural residents in the UK of ill health: cancers, neurological conditions, allergies etc. just as the Argentinian Government dismissed the health complaints of rural communities in Crop-sprayed towns. In their re-assessment, the RMS, EFSA and the European Glyphosate Task Force excluded papers from Latin America where cancers, birth defects, infertility and DNA changes were shown. Exposure of the brains of unborn and young children in the UK to chemicals is reflected in OECD PISA figures for declining educational achievement in 2013. A 2016 study also shows that in England the young have lower basic skills than their counterparts in Europe. Monsanto’s secret studies revealed that glyphosate caused cataract as well as cancers. The incidence of cataract surgery in England increased tenfold between 1968 and 2004. Few can avoid the pollution of water, soil and air by genotoxic and teratogenic herbicides, insecticides and other industrial chemicals. Governments and Regulators only measure a small fraction of them. Human health depends on biodiversity. Food depends on natural pollinators. The devastating effects of these silent killers on us and our environment do not distinguish between farmers or city dwellers, the wealthy or the poor, between media moguls, editors or their reporters, Monsanto or Syngenta Executives, Prime Ministers or Presidents. Humans and the environment are being silently poisoned by thousands of untested and unmonitored chemicals.
The British Medical Journal (BMJ) is unaware of the links between Cancer Research UK and the Pesticides Industry

An article was published in the BMJ by Anne Gulland on 9 April 2016 reporting a survey commissioned by Cancer Research UK ‘People lack awareness of link between alcohol and cancer.’

The Report produced by researchers at the University of Sheffield ‘comes ahead of the consultation closing on how well new drinking guidelines proposed by the UK’s Chief Medical Officers in January 2016, are communicated.’

“Almost 90 per cent of people in England don’t associate drinking alcohol with an increased risk of cancer” Alison Cox, Cancer Research UK’s Director of Cancer Prevention. She said: “The link between alcohol and cancer is now well established, and it’s not just heavy drinkers who are at risk. Drinking alcohol is linked to an increased risk of seven different cancers - liver, breast, bowel, mouth, throat, oesophageal (food pipe), laryngeal (voice box) - but when people were asked “which, if any, health conditions do you think can result from drinking too much alcohol?” just 13 per cent of adults mentioned cancer.” Dr Penny Buykx, a senior research fellow at The University of Sheffield and lead-author of the report, said: “We’ve shown that public awareness of the increased cancer risk from drinking alcohol remains worryingly low. People link drinking and liver cancer, but most still don’t

1 http://www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i1881
realise that cancers including breast cancer, mouth and throat cancers and bowel cancer are also linked with alcohol, and that risks for some cancers go up even by drinking a small amount.”

The founder of Syngenta was appointed Chairman of CRUK in 2010: conflicts of interest
Since November 2010 Michael Pragnell MA MBA has been the Chairman of Cancer Research UK (CRUK). He was the founder of Syngenta and CEO of Syngenta AG based in Switzerland (from its public listing in 2000 to the end of 2007). Michael Pragnell was Chairman of CropLife International from 2002 to 2005. CRUK is donating money (£450 million/year) to the Government’s Strategy for UK Life Sciences and AstraZeneca (Syngenta’s parent company) is providing 22 compounds to academic research to develop medicines. AstraZeneca manufactures six different anti-cancer drugs mainly aimed at breast and prostate cancer. The Corporation has links in Asia, including Hospitals in China, Japan, Korea, and collaborators in Russia. In 2013 AstraZeneca’s Oncology Website had the following portentous prediction: “Cancer claims over 7 million lives every year and the number continues to rise. Deaths are estimated to reach 12 million by 2030.”

Not surprisingly, the CRUK website denies that there is any link between pesticides and cancer
The CRUK website’s comments about pesticides as a cause of cancer: “For now, the evidence is not strong enough to give us any clear answers. But for individual pesticides, the evidence was either too weak to come to a conclusion, or only strong enough to suggest a “possible” effect. The scientific evidence on pesticides and cancer is still uncertain and more research is needed in this area.”

Syngenta is a member of the European Glyphosate Task Force
The GTF is described as “a consortium of companies joining resources and efforts in order to renew the European glyphosate registration with a joint submission.”

World Health Organisation’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has declared glyphosate as a 2A carcinogen (probably carcinogenic in humans)
The IARC reached its decision based on the view of 17 experts from 11 countries, who met in Lyon, France, to assess the carcinogenicity of 5 organophosphate pesticides.

Dispute about European Commission’s intention to renew the licence for glyphosate: why has the British media failed to report this dispute about glyphosate that is so vital to public health?
On March 8th 2016 the European Commission was about to renew the licence for glyphosate for 15 years, despite the International Agency for Research into Cancer (IARC) strongly-worded protest that glyphosate is definitely genotoxic to humans, most probably a human carcinogen, when a number of MEPs from France, Germany, Finland and the Netherlands rebelled. “Despite the UK and the European Commission lining up to protect Monsanto’s interests, governments across Europe have refused to treat their people as lab rats and approve a new licence for glyphosate.”

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3. http://www.astrazeneca.co.uk/medicines/oncology
The UK Science Media Centre is hosted by the Wellcome Trust and is financed by industry

In September 2012 Prof Gilles-Eric Séralini and his team published a 2-year rat feeding study with GMO Roundup®-tolerant maize and Roundup®. This diet provoked chronic hormone and sex dependent pathologies in rats; males developed tumours at 4 months and females at 7 months.

**Highlights:** “A Roundup®-tolerant maize and Roundup® provoked chronic hormone and sex dependent pathologies. Female mortality was 2–3 times increased mostly due to large mammary tumours and disabled pituitary. Males had liver congestion, necrosis, severe kidney nephropathies and large palpable tumours. This may be due to an endocrine disruption linked to Roundup® and a new metabolism due to the transgene. GMOs and formulated pesticides must be evaluated by long term studies to measure toxic effects.”

The study was pronounced as fraudulent by the Industry-financed UK Science Media Centre and therefore was not reported in the British Media. The Media was aware that the UK Science Media Centre was industry-funded but apparently was unperturbed by the fact. ‘The British press — led by the BBC, which treats the Confederation of British Industry with the deference the Vatican gets in Rome — is overwhelmingly conservative and pro-business in its outlook.’

Prof Séralini (France) won an award for his rat feeding studies on GMOs, glyphosate and tumours

On 16 October 2015 Prof Gilles-Eric Séralini was awarded Whistle blower of the Year (a shared award) by German Scientists for his work on GMOs and Glyphosate. Citation: “He was the first to publish animal test results demonstrating the toxic and carcinogenic properties of the most commonly used herbicide worldwide, the glyphosate-based “Roundup” by carrying out a two-year feeding test on rats. After the research was published, Prof Séralini was attacked by a vehement campaign by ’interested circles’ from the chemical industry as well as the industry-financed British Science Media Centre.”

The industry-financed UK Science Media Centre is hosted by the Wellcome Trust: is the British Medical Journal aware of this fact?

The comments of BMJ Clinical Editor Navjoyt Ladher in the article on 09/04/2016: ‘Nutrition science in the media: you are what you read’ suggests that “More public funding or an “arm’s length” grant model similar to the Wellcome Trust could reduce industry influence.” Presumably this means that the BMJ is unaware of the conflicts of interest of the UK SMC and of the Wellcome Trust.

The Glyphosate Task Force, Monsanto, European Food Safety Authority and the EU Commission all deny that glyphosate is carcinogenic: a question in the House of Lords reveals the British Government supports EFSA and also denies that glyphosate causes cancer

21 March 2016: Question asked by The Countess of Mar in the House of Lords about glyphosate. The Countess of Mar: To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of the European Union Ombudsman’s finding of maladministration by the European Commission over pesticides, published on 22 February, and given that several EU countries including France, the Netherlands and Sweden have indicated that they will not support an assessment by the European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) that glyphosate is harmless, whether they support the EFSA view that that chemical should receive a licence for a further 15 years.

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen (Con): (Replying on behalf of Lord Gardiner of Kimble, the Defra spokesperson for the HOL) My Lords, the Government support pesticide use where scientific

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10 http://www.nature.com/news/two-nations-divided-by-a-common-purpose-1.102247WT.ec_id=NATURE-20120315
12 http://www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i1879
evidence shows that this is not expected to harm people or to have unacceptable effects on the environment. UK experts participated in the European Food Safety Authority’s assessment of glyphosate and support its conclusions, particularly that glyphosate does not cause cancer. The Government therefore supports the continuing approval of glyphosate.

**Soil Association’s campaign NOT IN OUR BREAD:** The UK’s position is anomalous

Meeting on 15 July 2015 in London between the Soil Association and a Scientific Panel

The scientific panel included Professor Christopher Portier one of the co-authors of the World Health Organisation’s International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) recent report which determined Glyphosate’s status as a probable carcinogen. Portier reiterated the IARC’s conclusions, and said: “Glyphosate is definitely genotoxic. There is no doubt in my mind.”

Dr Robin Mesnage of the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics at Kings College in London, revealed new data analysis showing Round Up, the most common brand of Glyphosate-based herbicides, is 1,000 times more toxic than Glyphosate alone due to the inclusion of other toxic chemicals in its mix. Claire Robinson, an editor at GMWatch.org gave the international perspective looking at moves by other countries to ban Glyphosate; “Outside the United Kingdom, the reaction to the WHO IARC report has been dramatic. Some retailers in Switzerland and Germany have removed Glyphosate products and France has committed to do so by 2018 and German states are calling for an EU wide ban. The Danish Working Environment Authority has declared it as a carcinogen and El Salvador and Sri Lanka have banned it and the Colombia government has banned aerial spraying on coca crops.”

Peter Melchett, Soil Association policy director said; “If Glyphosate ends up in bread it’s impossible for people to avoid it, unless they are eating organic. On the other hand, farmers could easily choose not to use Glyphosate as a spray on wheat crops – just before they are harvested. This is why the Soil Association is calling for the immediate ending of the use of Glyphosate sprays on wheat destined for use in bread.”

**Public lack of awareness of pesticides in bread**

A Report by Pesticides Action Network- UK has shown that 46% of non-organic food in 2013 contained residues of one or more pesticides and this had increased from 25% in 2003. A further Report by PAN-UK: Pesticides in your daily bread showed that nearly two-thirds of bread contained one or more pesticides and the three most frequently found were glyphosate, chlormequat and malathion.

**UK farmers use more carcinogenic weed killer: The Times August 15 2015**

“Farmers have sharply increased their use of a weed killer that has been classified as ‘probably carcinogenic in humans.’” Ben Webster, The Times Environment Correspondent said. “More than 1,700 tonnes of glyphosate were sprayed on crops last year, up a third on 2012, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The total area sprayed with the weed killer grew by almost 500,000 hectares to 2.1 million hectares, an area the size of Wales.” Guy Gagen, chief arable adviser for the National Farmers’ Union, said that glyphosate usage had probably increased to control black-grass, a weed that is resistant to weaker herbicides. He said: “No farmer would be wanting to put a chemical on a crop when he doesn’t need to.” He added that spraying

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14 http://www.soilassociation.org/notinourbread
18 http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/environment/article4528297.ece
19 HERBICIDE RESISTANT BLACKGRASS, FIRST SEEN IN 1982 IS NOW FOUND ON 16,000 FARMS IN 34 COUNTIES. This is a glyphosate-resistant super weed, the same as in GM in the US and Japanese Knotweed in the UK. Does the NFU understand super weeds and do they really want GMO technology?
wheat could result in traces of glyphosate ending up in bread sold in supermarkets but the amount was well below the maximum residue level set by the EU. A Defra spokesman said: “There are extensive regulations in place so that people and the environment are protected from pesticides. The approval of glyphosate for use across Europe is being reviewed by the EU Commission.”

Healthy Harvest-safeguarding the Crop Protection tool box: June 2014
The National Farmers’ Union (NFU), the Crop Protection Association (CPA) and Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) launched Healthy Harvest – safeguarding the crop protection toolbox in June 2014. The NFU and pesticide companies continually defend the use of pesticides for economic reasons and complain at any attempt to restrict the 320 at their disposal. One farmer defended aerial spraying of bracken with a herbicide. CPA, AIC and the NFU commissioned Andersons to write a Report: The effect of the loss of plant protection products (i.e. pesticides) on UK Agriculture and Horticulture that predicted dire economic effects on UK farming if pesticides were restricted.

UK Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) survey of pesticides 1988 to 2014
This review of pesticides active substances and number of times treated from 1988 to 2014 confirms that Pesticide Residues on British food are increasing annually. A survey of pesticide (active substances) usage on Oil Seed Rape (OSR) 1988-2014 showed that the number of active substances applied had increased from 5 in 1988 to 15 in 2014 (Fig 1) and the number of treatments had increased from 5 in 1988 to 12 in 2014. (Fig 2) In 2014, herbicides were used on 98.4% OSR and seed treatments on 95.8%.

In 2014 glyphosate was used on Wheat (601,330 kg) Winter barley, Spring barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Oilseed rape (577,969 kg), Linseed, All potatoes, Peas, Beans, Sugar beet, with a total of 1,765,465 kg glyphosate on all crops. The total weight of pesticides (herbicides and desiccants, fungicides, growth regulators, molluscicides and repellants, insecticides and seed treatments) applied to farmland in 2014 was in excess of 16,000 tonnes.

![Figure: Pesticides - active substances](https://www.nfuonline.com/healthyharvest_final_digital/)

Fig. 1 PESTICIDES: Number of active substances used on Oil Seed Rape in the UK between 1988 and 2014: By kind permission of John Hoar, Hampshire Beekeeper’s Spray Liaison Officer. Figures supplied by FERA

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20 [https://www.nfuonline.com/healthyharvest_final_digital/] The impact of losing plant protection products on UK Food Production
21 [http://www.cropprotection.org.uk/media/89364/andersons_final_report.pdf]
Fig. 2 PESTICIDES TIMES TREATED: used on Oil Seed Rape in the UK between 1988 and 2014: By kind permission of John Hoar, Hampshire Beekeepers Spray Liaison Officer. Figures supplied by FERA

Why has eating red and processed meats been linked to cancer by IARC? Because most farm animals are being fed GM soya and maize which have glyphosate residues in them

A study from Norway found that GM soya is not ‘substantially equivalent’ to non-GM: GM soya and maize is being fed to animals in Europe

US FDA is responsible for regulating the safety of GM crops that are eaten by humans or animals. According to a policy established in 1992, FDA considers most GM crops as “substantially equivalent” to non-GM crops. In such cases, GM crops are designated as “Generally Recognized as Safe” under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) and do not require pre-market approval. This study from Norway rejects that GM soy is “substantially equivalent” to non-GM soybeans. It describes the nutrient and elemental composition, including residues of herbicides and pesticides, of 31 soybean batches from Iowa, USA.

T. Bøhn et al. found:

- Glyphosate tolerant GM soybeans contain high residues of glyphosate and AMPA (mean 3.3 and 5.7 mg/kg, respectively).
- Soybeans from different agricultural practices differ in nutritional quality.
- Organic soybeans showed a more healthy nutritional profile than other soybeans; more sugars, protein, and zinc. Organic soybeans also contained less total saturated fat and total omega-6 fatty acids than both conventional and GM-soy.

Using 35 different nutritional and elemental variables to characterise each soy sample, we were able to discriminate GM, conventional and organic soybeans without exception, demonstrating substantial non-equivalence in compositional characteristics for’ ready-to-market’ soybeans”

Extreme Levels” of Roundup® in Food Became the Industry Norm

In a commentary on the paper Bøhn wrote: Extreme Levels” of Roundup® in Food Became the Industry Norm. “Roundup® Ready GM-soy accumulates residues of glyphosate and

aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA) and GM soy also differs markedly in nutritional composition compared with soybeans from other agricultural practices. Organic soybean samples also showed a more healthy nutritional profile (e.g. higher in protein and lower in saturated fatty acids) than both industrial conventional and GM soybeans. Lack of data on pesticide residues in major crop plants is a serious gap of knowledge with potential consequences for human and animal health. How is the public to trust a risk assessment system that has overlooked the most obvious risk factor for herbicide tolerant GM crops, i.e. high residue levels of herbicides, for nearly 20 years? If it has been due to lack of understanding, it would be bad. **If it is the result of the producer’s power to influence the risk assessment system, it would be worse.**

Studies in Danish dairy cattle found glyphosate residues and changes in blood parameters

Studies in Danish Dairy cattle found:

- Glyphosate in the urine
- Blood parameter indicative of cytotoxicity (Increased alkaline phosphatase (AP), glutamate dehydrogenase (GLDH), glutamate oxaloacetate transaminase (GOT), creatinine kinase CK)
- Signs of nephrotoxicity (raised urea and creatine)
- Increased serum cholesterol
- Trace elements: very low levels of manganese and cobalt

Birth defects in piglets in Denmark correlated with glyphosate residues in organs

Detection of Glyphosate in 38 malformed Piglets

Glyphosate residues were found in different organs and tissues (lungs, liver, kidney, brain, gut wall and heart) of malformed euthanized one-day-old Danish piglets (N= 38). They were tested using an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

- The highest concentrations were seen in the lungs (Range 0.4-80 µg/ml) and hearts (Range 0.15-80 µg/ml)
- The lowest concentrations were detected in muscles (4.4- 6.4 µg/g).

The authors gave an overview of reports of malformations in children of families living a few meters from where this herbicide was sprayed. The risk of malformation in human embryos is very high when their mothers are contaminated at 2 to 8 weeks of pregnancy.

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25 Glyphosate in urine of cows in Denmark; metabolic changes in blood parameters including increased lipid profile marker cholesterol [http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2161-0525.1000186](http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2161-0525.1000186) This is the first study showing the extent of the exposure to glyphosate of Danish dairy cattle and its impact on different blood parameters.

Syngenta contributed to the Foresight Future of Food and Farming Report

Syngenta contributed to the Foresight Future of Food and Farming Report from the Government Office for Science. Lead Scientist Prof Charles Godfray (NERC) and Hope Professor of Entomology at Oxford.  

Page 88: “Wheat is the most internationally-traded food crop and the single largest food import in low-income countries. A public-private partnership between Syngenta and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) will focus on the development and advancement of technology in wheat through joint research and development in the areas of native and GM traits, hybrid wheat and the combination of seeds and crop protection to accelerate plant yield performance. The partnership will leverage both Syngenta’s genetic marker technology, advanced genetic traits platform and wheat-breeding for the high-income countries, as well as CIMMYT’s access to wheat genetic diversity, global partnership network, and wheat-breeding programme targeted to the low-income countries.”

Syngenta’s glyphosate-tolerant maize was adopted in Europe on 16/12/2011

EFSA’s website: “The UK Competent Authority and Syngenta had applied for placing on the market of a GM, herbicide tolerant (glyphosate) maize GA21 for food and feed uses, import, processing and cultivation.” It was adopted by EFSA on 16/12/2011. Although EFSA GMO Panel had said that there were no effects of human or animal health or the environment in the summary, in the body of the document they admitted to the problems of reduction in farmland biodiversity, selection of weed communities and selection of glyphosate resistant weeds and destruction of food webs and the ecological functions they provide. Nevertheless, EFSA approved it, but covered itself by saying: "The magnitude of these potential adverse environmental effects will depend on a series of factors including the specific herbicide and cultivation management applied at farm level, the crop rotation...etc. and recommends "case-specific monitoring".

However Syngenta’s first GMO Bt maize was found to poison cows in the long term

Gottfried Glöckner and Gilles-Éric Séràlini published new scientific data on Bt toxins and a thorough study of the records show that this GMO Bt maize is most probably toxic over the long term.  

Pathology reports on the first cows fed with Bt176 maize (1997–2002) "Over the years, and coinciding with regular increases in GMO content of the diet (0–40%), the proportion of healthy cows with high milk yield diminished from 70% (normal rate) to only 40%. At the peak of mortalities in 2002, 10% of the cows died, preceded by a long-lasting paresis syndrome without hypocalcemia or fever, but with kidney biochemical failure and mucosa or epithelial problems.” The only toxicological test, before being commercialized, was conducted by Novartis (subsequently Syngenta) in the United States, and consisted of feeding 4 cows for 15 days; one cow died after a week. This was the GM maize Bt176, that produced an insecticidal Bt toxin and contained an antibiotic resistance marker gene. Prof Séràlini had full access to the veterinary records as well as the farmer’s archives.

Syngenta (Germany) was subsequently charged with lying

Syngenta had never informed Glöckner about the outcome of their US study nor of numerous other dangers from feeding with Bt176 corn that were already known to them. They were legally obliged to do so and because they did not do so, the company is liable for the destruction of Glöckner’s 65 cows.

29 http://www.gmwatch.org/latest-listing/1-news-items/13926-syngenta-charged-with-lying-over-cattle-deaths
An Open Letter from America was from 60 million American citizens to David Cameron (and the rest of the EU) warning them not to authorize GM crops because of the devastating effects on human health and the environment. It was delivered to 10 Downing Street on 11 November 2014.

Extracts: “In our country, GM crops account for about half of harvested cropland. Around 94% of the soy, 93% of corn (maize) and 96% of cotton grown is GM. The UK and the rest of the EU have yet to adopt GM crops in the way that we have, but you are currently under tremendous pressure from governments, biotech lobbyists, and large corporations to adopt what we now regard as a failing agricultural technology...Studies of animals fed GM foods and/or glyphosate, however, show worrying trends including damage to vital organs like the liver and kidneys, damage to gut tissues and gut flora, immune system disruption, reproductive abnormalities, and even tumors...These scientific studies point to potentially serious human health problems that could not have been anticipated when our country first embraced GMOs, and yet they continue to be ignored by those who should be protecting us. Instead our regulators rely on outdated studies and other information funded and supplied by biotech companies that, not surprisingly, dismiss all health concerns. Through our experience we have come to understand that the genetic engineering of food has never really been about public good, or feeding the hungry, or supporting our farmers. Nor is it about consumer choice. Instead it is about private, corporate control of the food system. Americans are reaping the detrimental impacts of this risky and unproven agricultural technology. EU countries should take note: there are no benefits from GM crops great enough to offset these impacts. Officials who continue to ignore this fact are guilty of a gross dereliction of duty.” Most of the countries in the EU took that advice and opted out of GM (including Scotland, Wales and Ireland).

David Cameron ignored that advice on behalf of England. He and Defra concealed the letter from the British public. The European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority also ignored it and continued to approve GM Crops for growing and for food and feed in the EU. This was despite these grave warnings from American citizens of their experiences (Living with GMOs) and from independent organisations in Europe, such as Testbiotech (Germany), CRIIGEN (France), Corporate Europe Observatory, Earth Open Source and Pesticides Action Network.

On December 3rd 2015 it was announced that Monsanto, the US-based transnational corporation, will be put on trial in the International Criminal Court in The Hague for ecocide.

PARIS – “The Organic Consumers Association (OCA), IFOAM International Organics, Navdanya, Regeneration International (RI), and Millions Against Monsanto, joined by dozens of global food, farming and environmental justice groups announced today that they will put Monsanto, a US-based transnational corporation, on trial for crimes against nature and humanity, and ecocide, in The Hague, Netherlands, next year on World Food Day, October 16, 2016. This International Criminal Court, established in 2002 in The Hague, has determined that prosecuting ecocide as a criminal offense is the only way to guarantee the rights of humans to a healthy environment and the right of nature to be protected.”

The tribunal’s website says, “According to its critics, Monsanto is able to ignore the human and environmental damage caused by its products and maintain its devastating activities through a strategy of systemic concealment: by lobbying regulatory agencies and governments, by resorting to lying and corruption, by financing fraudulent scientific studies, by pressuring independent scientists, by manipulating the press and media, etc. The history of Monsanto would thereby constitute a textbook case of impunity, benefiting transnational corporations and their executives, whose activities contribute to climate and biosphere crises and threaten the safety of the planet.”

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30 www.theletterfromamerica.org
31 https://twitter.com/beyond_gm/status/532224079605288960
32 http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/
In addition to Monsanto, the tribunal intends to mount a "best case" to denounce "all multinational companies which are driven by the profit motive and thereby threaten human health and the safety of the planet". The initiative is “unique and unprecedented”, says Marie-Monique Robin.  

Four MEPs Aim to Force EU Food Safety Authority to Release Secret Glyphosate Files

Is glyphosate safe? We have the right to know. 

Extracts: It is therefore vital to investigate why there are contradictory results in the EFSA and IARC assessments. To date EFSA has explained that its "evaluation considered a large body of evidence, including a number of studies not assessed by the IARC which is one of the reasons for reaching different conclusions“ (EFSA news story, 12 November 2015). This means that the EFSA peer review is based on unpublished studies whose findings cannot yet be verified and subjected to independent scrutiny. Therefore we, members of the European Parliament, on the basis of regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents and regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Århus Convention, request access to all documents that have been used during the EFSA peer review. Our request covers complete documents and not only their summaries, and extends also to the names of the authors and their declarations of conflicts of interests.

EU urges Glyphosate Task Force to publish data; the EU Commissioner’s letter is apologetic

EU Health and Consumer Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis wrote to Dr Richard P Garnett, Chair of the Board of the industry-based Glyphosate Task Force on 04/04/2016 requesting that it publish “the full studies including the underlying raw data” related to its application for renewed approval of the herbicide in order to resolve scientific disagreements on the active ingredient’s carcinogenicity classification. The Commissioner’s letter is apologetic and sycophantic, as if asking the GTF for a compromise, which is precisely what the GTF offers him. Remember that the EU Commission, EFSA and the British Government had rejected the advice from 60 million American Citizens not to authorize GM crops because of the devastating effects on human health and the environment. “Through our experience we have come to understand that the genetic engineering of food has never really been about public good, or feeding the hungry, or supporting our farmers. Nor is it about consumer choice. Instead it is about private, corporate control of the food system. Americans are reaping the detrimental impacts of this risky and unproven agricultural technology.” The US position couldn’t have been put clearer than that!

On 07/04/2016 The GTF offers limited access to glyphosate data

Report by Jackie Bird Agrow, 07 April 2016 10:24 am: “The industry-based glyphosate task force (GTF) says that it is willing to offer “controlled access” through a “physical reading room” to its carcinogenicity studies on the herbicide, glyphosate. However, the GTF stresses that its offer is made on an “exceptional” basis and expresses concern over the release of confidential data. The GTF, which comprises 23 companies, would allow access to all 14 carcinogenicity studies submitted to support the application for renewal of glyphosate’s EU approval. Controversy arose over the potential renewal because the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that glyphosate was unlikely to be carcinogenic, and disagreed with an earlier finding by the UN WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) that it was “probably” carcinogenic. As the issue became more divisive, the European Commission was forced to postpone a

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34 http://www.asktheeu.org/request/is_glyphosate_safe_we_have_the_r
37 www.theletterfromamerica.org
vote in March on the proposed renewal. One reason put forward by the EFSA for the discrepancy was that it had evaluated industry studies that had not been available to the IARC. It released background documents on its assessment but was bound by EU law to exclude confidential information. The GTF expresses concern that the confidentiality of basic raw data submitted according to regulatory requirements “can be used by some to question the whole basis” for the EU evaluation of agrochemicals. While acknowledging that the data release would help address public concerns over glyphosate safety, the GTF stresses that it is offered “without, in any way, setting a precedent for other studies and substances”.

Meanwhile, the European farmers and co-operatives group, Copa-Cogeca, has written to the Commission and the European Parliament urging them to keep glyphosate on the market. Without the herbicide, European production of cereals, grapevines, fruit and olives would be “seriously threatened”, it says. The Parliament is due to vote in April on a draft resolution urging the Commission to stop glyphosate’s renewal until a review is carried out.”

**Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will allow tampons, cotton, gauze, swabs and wipes contaminated with glyphosate to be sold in the EU: the British Government supports signing up to TTIP**

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) apparently is to remove the regulatory differences between the US and European nations

The purpose of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership apparently is to remove the regulatory differences between the US and European nations. In the Guardian on 05/11/2013 George Monbiot wrote: *This US trade deal is a full frontal assault on democracy.* To quote from his article:39 “the remarkable ability it would grant big business to sue the living daylights out of governments which try to defend their citizens. It would allow a secretive panel of corporate lawyers to overrule the will of parliament and destroy our legal protections.” In a second article:40 *Chickens in chlorine? That’s what free trade’s about.* “Last month, while trying to defend the treaty, the British Minister Kenneth Clarke said something revealing: Investor protection is a standard part of free-trade agreements - it was designed to support businesses investing in countries where the rule of law is unpredictable, to say the least. George Monbiot asks: “So what is it doing in an EU-US deal? Why are we using measures designed to protect corporate interests in failed states in countries with a functioning judicial system? There is widespread opposition in France to TTIP (TAFTA)41 which is perceived as being advantageous to Corporations, but against the interest of the public. The German Magistrates Association rejects the proposal from the European Commission and sees neither a legal basis nor a need for such a court. 42 So why is the British Government supporting it?

Researchers at the University La Plata (UNLP) found glyphosate in cotton, gauze, swabs, wipes and pads 43 Tuesday October 20, 2015

The results of the study were first announced to the public at [the 3rd National Congress of Doctors for Fumigated Communities](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/04/us-trade-deal-full-frontal-assault-on-democracy) in Buenos Aires. “The result of this research is very serious, when you use cotton or gauze to heal wounds or for personal hygiene uses, thinking they are sterilized products, and the results show that they are contaminated with a probably carcinogenic substance,” said Dr. Medardo Avila Vazquez, President of the Congress. “Most of the cotton production in the country is GM [genetically modified] cotton that

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39 [http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/04/us-trade-deal-full-frontal-assault-on-democracy](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/04/us-trade-deal-full-frontal-assault-on-democracy)
is resistant to glyphosate. It is sprayed when the bud is open and the glyphosate is condensed and goes straight into the product,” Avila continued.

Public Health England and Office for National Statistics combine to explain why the death rate in the UK has gone up: dementia and flu are to blame

Public Health England and the Office of National statistics come together to explain the increase in death rate in England in 2015\(^44\)

“It is due to an increase in dementia and Alzheimer’s related deaths and flu outbreaks among older people”.

Since 2013 the Department of Health, Public Health England and Defra have been informed that independent scientists have shown that glyphosate is associated with most of the diseases and conditions associated with those on a Western diet, including: Gastrointestinal Disorders, Obesity, Depression, Autism, Infertility, Cancer and Alzheimer’s disease,\(^45\) Celiac sprue and gluten intolerance. Celiac disease is a multifactorial disease associated with numerous nutritional deficiencies as well as reproductive issues and increased risk to thyroid disease, kidney failure and cancer.\(^46\) In addition problems with low manganese levels (shown in cows fed GM soya and maize) are associated with gut dysbiosis as well as neuropathologies such as autism, Alzheimer’s disease (AD), depression, anxiety syndrome, Parkinson’s disease (PD), and prion diseases.\(^47\)

![Age Adjusted Deaths from Senile Dementia](chart.png)

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Monsanto knew that glyphosate caused cancer and cataracts in animals but concealed and manipulated the data

Monsanto knew that glyphosate caused cancer in animals but manipulated the data

\(^44\) [http://www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i2022](http://www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i2022)


\(^46\) [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945755/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3945755/)

Monsanto has known since the 1970s that glyphosate causes cancer, according to this paper by researchers Anthony Samsel and Stephanie Seneff. Samsel is the first independent researcher to examine Monsanto’s secret toxicology studies on glyphosate. He obtained the studies through a request to his Senator. With Dr Stephanie Seneff of MIT, he reviewed Monsanto’s data. Samsel and Seneff wrote paper IV on Glyphosate: Glyphosate, pathways to modern diseases IV: cancer and related pathologies and concluded that: “significant evidence of tumours was found during these investigations”.

Extract from IV: Glyphosate has a large number of tumorigenic effects on biological systems, including direct damage to DNA in sensitive cells, disruption of glycine homeostasis, succinate dehydrogenase inhibition, chelation of manganese, modification to more carcinogenic molecules such as N-nitrosoglyphosate and glyoxylate, disruption of fructose metabolism, etc. Epidemiological evidence supports strong temporal correlations between glyphosate usage on crops and a multitude of cancers that are reaching epidemic proportions, including breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer, thyroid cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer and myeloid leukaemia.


A 2016 study by the WHO also confirmed that the incidence of cataracts had greatly increased: ‘A global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks’ says that cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide. Globally, cataracts are responsible for 51% of blindness – an estimated 20 million individuals suffer from this degenerative eye disease. The rat study on cataracts was one of many that Anthony Samsel obtained under FOI from US EPA. He said “Forty years of glyphosate exposure have provided a living laboratory where humans are the guinea pigs.”

In 1985 the US EPA classified glyphosate as a Group C carcinogen but changed to Group E in 1991. An archival document from the US EPA revealed that some US EPA staff colluded with Monsanto to downgrade the classification of the carcinogenicity of glyphosate. The original Panel comprised of members of the Toxicology Branch of the Hazard Evaluation Division which examined the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate. In a consensus review on March 4 1985 the Committee classified glyphosate as a Group C carcinogen. It was based on the incidence in rats/mice of renal tumours, thyroid C-cell adenomas and carcinomas, pancreatic islet cell adenomas, hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas in males. However, in 1991 The Health Effects Division Carcinogenicity Peer Review Committee met on June 26 1991 to discuss and evaluate the weight of evidence on glyphosate with particular emphasis to its carcinogenic potential. In a review of the data the Committee concluded that glyphosate should be classified as Group E (evidence of non-

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48 https://www.academia.edu/17751562/Glyphosate_pathways_to_modern_diseases_IV_cancer_and_related_pathologies
50 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1955650/
53 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204385/1/9789241565196_eng.pdf
carcinogenicity for humans). In order to cover themselves they declared: “It should be emphasized, however, that the designation of an agent in Group E is based on the available evidence at the time of evaluation and should not be interpreted as a definitive conclusion that the agent will not be a carcinogen under any circumstances”

There were signatures of the 11 members present, six members signed in absentia but three members refused to sign because they “did not concur.” Presumably they knew that the change of classification of glyphosate from Group C to Group E was fraudulent.

**Glyphosate and GM crops associated with declines in health in the US**

Genetically-engineered crops, glyphosate and the deterioration of health in the United States of America. Swanson et al. 55

Abstract: A huge increase in the incidence and prevalence of chronic diseases has been reported in the United States (US) over the last 20 years. Similar increases have been seen globally. The herbicide glyphosate was introduced in 1974 and its use is accelerating with the advent of herbicide-tolerant genetically engineered (GE) crops. Evidence is mounting that glyphosate interferes with many metabolic processes in plants and animals and glyphosate residues have been detected in both. Glyphosate disrupts the endocrine system and the balance of gut bacteria, it damages DNA and is a driver of mutations that lead to cancer.

In the present study, US government databases were searched for GE crop data, glyphosate application data and disease epidemiological data. Correlation analyses were then performed on a total of 22 diseases in these time-series data sets. The Pearson correlation coefficients are highly significant (< 10-5) between glyphosate applications and hypertension (R = 0.923), stroke (R = 0.925), diabetes prevalence (R = 0.971), diabetes incidence (R = 0.935), obesity (R = 0.962), lipoprotein metabolism disorder (R = 0.973), Alzheimer’s (R = 0.917), senile dementia (R = 0.994), Parkinson’s (R = 0.875), multiple sclerosis (R = 0.828), autism (R = 0.989), inflammatory bowel disease (R = 0.938), intestinal infections (R = 0.974), end stage renal disease (R = 0.975), acute kidney failure (R = 0.978), cancers of the thyroid (R = 0.988), liver (R = 0.960), bladder (R = 0.981), pancreas (R = 0.918), kidney (R = 0.973) and myeloid leukaemia (R = 0.878).

The Pearson correlation coefficients are highly significant (< 10-4) between the percentage of GE corn and soy planted in the US and hypertension (R = 0.961), stroke (R = 0.983), diabetes prevalence (R = 0.983), diabetes incidence (R = 0.955), obesity (R = 0.962), lipoprotein metabolism disorder (R = 0.955), Alzheimer’s (R = 0.937), Parkinson’s (R = 0.952), multiple sclerosis (R = 0.876), hepatitis C (R = 0.946), end stage renal disease (R = 0.958), acute kidney failure (R = 0.967), cancers of the thyroid (R = 0.938), liver (R = 0.911), bladder (R = 0.945), pancreas (R = 0.841), kidney (R = 0.940) and myeloid leukaemia (R = 0.889). The significance and strength of the correlations show that the effects of glyphosate and GE crops on human health should be further investigated.

In the US glyphosate and GM crops have high correlations with human diseases, including cancers. Public Health England shares my concern about the prevalence of chronic diseases in the UK such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. 56

**Birth defects in animals in the US State of Montana correlates with glyphosate usage on crops and with birth defects in humans**

A recent study by Hoy et al. found alarming increases in congenital malformations in wildlife in Montana that Hoy has been documenting for the past 19 years. Similar birth defects have occurred in humans in the USA. Their graphs illustrating human disease patterns over the twelve-year period correlate remarkably well with the rate of glyphosate usage on corn, soy and wheat crops, which has increased due to “Roundup® Ready” crops. While the animals’ exposure to the herbicide is through food, water and air, the authors believe that human exposure is predominantly through food, as the majority of the population does not reside near agricultural fields and forests. They conclude: “Our

56 Personal communication: email January 2015.
over-reliance on chemicals in agriculture is causing irreparable harm to all beings on this planet, including the planet herself. Most of these chemicals are known to cause illness, and they have likely been causing illnesses for many years. But until recently, the herbicides have never been sprayed directly on food crops, and never in this massive quantity. We must find another way.”

‘CBS and other media giants control everything we see, hear and read – through television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, films, and large portions of the Internet’

Bilderberg Group allows close relationships between the global élite: Politicians, Corporations, Media, Trade and Fiscal Organisations: to plan an all-powerful corporate-controlled, global government with no democracy

For over 14 years, Daniel Estulin has investigated and researched the far-reaching influence of the Bilderberg Group on business and finance, global politics, war and peace, and control of the world’s resources and its money. In a review of the book (May 25 2014), Stephen Lendman wrote: “CBS and other media giants control everything we see, hear and read – through television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, films, and large portions of the Internet. Their top officials and some journalists attend Bilderberg meetings – on condition they report nothing.” The list of participants for the last 15 years or so shows that the CEO of Syngenta attended regularly (as part of the UK delegation) and must be a core member. He occupies a powerful position amongst the global élite and presumably shares Bilderberg’s objectives of creating a New World Order with an all-powerful corporate-controlled, global government with no democracy, manufactured crises and perpetual wars. Syngenta is ruthless in its pursuit of individual scientists who challenge its products, but has lost court cases against it in the US for contaminating water supplies with atrazine and in Germany it was criminally charged for denying knowledge that its GM Bt 176 corn killed livestock. The participants at Bilderberg 2015 included George Osborne Chancellor of the Exchequer, Ed Balls, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and representatives from the Economist, the Financial Times and the Chairman of the BBC Trust, Rona Fairhead. The BBC promotes the agrochemical industry at every opportunity, although industry bias is consistently denied. The Bilderberg Group was started in 1954 by David Rockefeller.

Bilderberg Objectives

The Group’s grand design is for “a One World Government (World Company) with a single, global marketplace, policed by one world army, and financially regulated by one ‘World (Central) Bank’ using one global currency.” Their “wish list” includes:

- one international identity (observing) one set of universal values;
- centralized control of world populations by “mind control;” in other words, controlling world public opinion;
- a New World Order with no middle class, only rulers and servants (serfs), and, of course, no democracy;

58 Daniel Estulin: The True Story of the Bilderberg Group 2009
61 http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/02/10/a-valuable-reputation
62 http://www.atrazinesettlement.com/utility/GetFile/c3e918bf-742a-41fa-8af6-0637bcf0b253
63 http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Syngenta_Charged_for_Covering_Up_Livestock_Deaths_from_GM_Corn.php
64 http://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/participants2015.html
65 https://www.academia.edu/15195199/Effects_of_pesticides_on_humans_and_the_environment_Why_are_the_British_Government_and_the_BBC_protecting_industry
• a zero-growth society without prosperity or progress, only greater wealth and power for the rulers;
• manufactured crises and perpetual wars;
• absolute control of education to program the public mind and train those chosen for various roles;
• centralized control of all foreign and domestic policies; one size fits all globally;
• using the UN as a *de facto* world government imposing a UN tax on “world citizens;”
• expanding NAFTA and WTO globally;
• making NATO a world military;
• imposing a universal legal system; and
• a global welfare state where obedient slaves will be rewarded and non-conformists targeted for extermination.

The Bilderberger-Rockefeller scheme is to make their views “so appealing (by camouflaging them) that they become public policy (and can) pressure world leaders into submitting to the ‘needs of the Masters of the Universe.’ ” The “free world press” is their instrument to disseminate “agreed-upon propaganda.”

**We are drowning our world in unsafe and untested chemicals**

The **International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics** (FIGO), a group representing OB-GYNs from 125 countries, released a report detailing the detrimental health effects caused by even small exposure to common chemicals like the ones found in pesticides, plastics, and air pollution. Documented links between prenatal exposure to environmental chemicals and adverse health outcomes span the life course and include impacts on fertility and pregnancy, neurodevelopment, and cancer. The global health and economic burden related to toxic environmental chemicals is in excess of millions of deaths and billions of dollars every year. On the basis of accumulating robust evidence of exposures and adverse health impacts related to toxic environmental chemicals, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) joins other leading reproductive health professional societies in calling for timely action to prevent harm. FIGO recommends that reproductive and other health professionals advocate for policies to prevent exposure. The health problems are even greater for babies exposed in the womb, who face increased risks of cancer, reduced cognitive function, and even miscarriage or stillbirth. The organization cited concerns about the sharp increase over the past four decades in chemical manufacturing, which continues to grow by more than 3 per cent every year. Some 30,000 pounds of chemicals were manufactured or imported for every person in the United States in 2012 alone—a whopping 9.5 trillion pounds in total. Annually, the FIGO authors write, chemical manufacturing leads to 7 million deaths and billions in health care costs.

In an article in the UK about why we should eat organic food, the journalist said that in 31,000 tonnes of chemical are used in farming in the UK each year.

**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed approved glyphosate in December 2015: It is likely to do this again at its next meeting in May 2016**

I wrote to the European Ombudsman on the 6th March 2016 to ask her why the European Commission set up the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to make decisions that affect human health. She is still considering the matter.

I said it was totally unacceptable, possibly negligent or even criminal, for the European Union to allow a group of plant scientists on the **Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**, whose knowledge of human physiology is so out of date that they do not recognise that glyphosate

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has effects on humans, **to make decisions that affect human health**. The membership of this Committee representing Member States is not very transparent. Do they have conflicts of interest?

**International Society of Doctors for the Environment**

An Appeal to immediately and permanently ban, with no exceptions, the production, trade and use in all the EU territory of glyphosate-based herbicides and the four insecticides assessed by the WHO International Agency for Research into Cancer.

**MEPs are voting on Wednesday 13th April 2016**

Two-thirds of Europeans support ban on glyphosate, says Yougov poll.

Up to 150 MEPs in Strasbourg are expected to give urine samples today and tomorrow to see if they contain residues of the ingredient, ahead of a symbolic vote on prohibition this Wednesday.

The British Medical Association must endorse the ISDE appeal before it is too late.

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Rosemary Mason

12 April 2016

**Open Letter to the Chief Medical Officer, the Wellcome Trust and Public Health England** sent 30 November 2015: no reply up to now.

Can be downloaded at [http://tinyurl.com/h86wej5](http://tinyurl.com/h86wej5)

**Open letter to the Director-General of the BBC and the former Defra Minister Lord de Mauley about Monsanto** sent 5 April 2016

[http://tinyurl.com/huluwtu](http://tinyurl.com/huluwtu)

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68 [http://isde.org/Appeal Glyphosate IARC.pdf](http://isde.org/AppealGlyphosateIARC.pdf)