

## **The European Ombudsman is colluding with the European Pesticide Regulatory Authorities**

<b>Clement Atlee invited Monsanto to set up a factory in Newport, Wales in 1949</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cancer Research UK protects the Agrochemical Industry: the CRUK website claims <i>'there is little evidence that pesticides cause cancer'</i></b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Journalists who report information from the UK Science Media Centre are being taken for a ride by a lobby organisation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The European Glyphosate Task Force (GTF) drew up European Legislation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Judges of the International Monsanto Tribunal condemned ECHA's classification</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Global insect apocalypse is due to intensive agriculture and pesticides</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Species decline doesn't just happen elsewhere. It's a serious Irish problem</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Maladministration and criminal collusion with the agrochemical industry involved in the renewal of glyphosate registration</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>How Roundup poisoned our Nature reserve</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Children and adults are less intelligent and have mental health disorders, depression, suicides, anxiety and violence as a result of exposure to GBH</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Monsanto's sealed secret studies shows that it knew about cancers and eye damage</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>UN expert on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak: The EU and glyphosate: it's time to put children's health before pesticides</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>British food is being poisoned by weedkiller: breakfast cereals had shockingly high levels of glyphosate</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Americans have grown fatter in the past two decades, but are a curious shape</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Prof Andrés Carrasco was Monsanto's biggest threat so he had to be silenced</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Brazil's National Cancer Institute names GM crops as cause of massive pesticide use</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Robert F Kennedy Jr. one of the US Attorney's fighting Bayer, said: Bayer Needs More Than an Aspirin to Cure Its Monsanto-Sized Headache</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Bayer CropScience collaborated with the Nazis at Auschwitz during the Holocaust to commit genocide against millions of European Jews</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>The European Ombudsman has colluded with the European Pesticide Regulatory Authorities to poison humans and the environment, even in her own home country</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>APVMA allows clothianidin and Roundup to be applied to crops in low lying areas draining into The Great Barrier Reef even though they are labelled Warning: Toxic to aquatic invertebrates. Do not contaminate water.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) marred by political donations to Labor and the Coalition</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Critics say that Brussels is a city full of faceless institutions run by unelected Eurocrats spending taxpayer's money on what they will, while answerable to nobody</b>	<b>25</b>

## The European Ombudsman is colluding with the European Pesticide Regulatory Authorities

### Clement Atlee invited Monsanto to set up a factory in Newport, Wales, in 1949

Monsanto, at the invitation of the British Government led by Clement Richard Attlee, established a factory in Newport, Wales, in 1949.<sup>1</sup> In 2015, 2016 and 2017 the UK government supported the Glyphosate Task Force (GTF), a consortium of companies joining resources and efforts in order to renew the European glyphosate registration with a joint submission (most companies produce their own formulated glyphosate products). They voted in the EU that glyphosate wasn't a carcinogen. Four different patents have been filed for glyphosate in the US by Monsanto (and granted)

- As a chelator of heavy metals (used to clean boilers) and a wetting agent in 1961<sup>2</sup>
- As an herbicide in 1968<sup>3</sup>
- As an antibiotic in 2002<sup>4</sup>
- As an anti-protozoal agent in 2003<sup>5</sup>

*"Antibiotic-resistant diseases pose an 'apocalyptic' threat to humans."* Vets, farmers and GPs were blamed for overuse of antibiotics.<sup>6</sup> In 2013, the Chief Medical Officer told MPs that this issue should be added to the national risk register of civil emergencies. In March 2014 I wrote to inform her that glyphosate had been patented as an antibiotic. I finally had a reply: *"Given the detailed regulatory regime for plant protection products, this is the most appropriate place for these issues to be considered."*

### Cancer Research UK protects the Agrochemical Industry: the CRUK website claims '*there is little evidence that pesticides cause cancer*'

Michael Pragnell former Chairman of Cancer Research UK (2010-2017), founder of Syngenta and former Chairman of CropLife International was awarded a CBE in 2017 for services to cancer research. CropLife International was founded in 2001.<sup>7</sup> As of 2015 CropLife International's member list includes the following 8 companies: [BASF](#), [Bayer CropScience](#), [Dow AgroSciences](#), [DuPont](#), [FMC Corp.](#), [Monsanto](#), [Sumitomo](#) and [Syngenta](#). By 2011 CRUK was donating money (£450 million/ year) to the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences and AstraZeneca (Syngenta's parent company) was providing 22 compounds to academic research to develop medicines in the UK. One Corporation promotes cancer; the other Corporation tries to cure it. CRUK said that there was little evidence that pesticides caused cancer. CRUK, the CMO England and PHE, linked cancer to alcohol, obesity and smoking. They blamed the people for 'lifestyle choices'.

### In the UK there were 13,605 new cases of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2015 (and 4,920 deaths in 2016)<sup>8</sup>

There were 41,804 new cases of bowel cancer in 2015 (and 16,384 deaths in 2016); 12,547 new cases of kidney cancer in 2015 (and 4,619 deaths in 2016); 5,736 new cases of liver cancer in 2015

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.eastman.com/Company/Worldwide/our\\_sites/Pages/Newport\\_SouthWales.aspx](http://www.eastman.com/Company/Worldwide/our_sites/Pages/Newport_SouthWales.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.google.com/patents/US3160632>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.google.com/patents/US3455675>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.google.com/patents/US7771736>

<sup>5</sup> <http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph->

<Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=/netahtml/PTO/srchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=7771736.PN.&OS=PN/7771736&RS=PN/7771736>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/jan/23/antibiotic-resistant-diseases-apocalyptic-threat>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.vinci.com/vinci.nsf/en/management-board-directors/pages/michael\\_pragnell.htm](https://www.vinci.com/vinci.nsf/en/management-board-directors/pages/michael_pragnell.htm)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/non-hodgkin-lymphoma>

(5,417 deaths in 2016); 15,906 new cases of melanoma in 2015 (2,285 deaths in 2016); 3,528 new cases of thyroid cancer in 2015 (382 deaths in 2016); 10,171 new cases of bladder cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 8,984 new cases of uterine cancer in 2015 (2,360 deaths in 2016); 7,270 cases of ovarian cancer in 2015 (4,227 deaths in 2016); 9,900 new cases of leukaemia in 2015 (4,712 deaths in 2016); 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer in 2015 (11,563 deaths in 2016); 46,388 new cases of lung cancer in 2015 (and 35,620 deaths in 2016); 47,151 new cases of prostate cancer in 2015 (11,631 deaths in 2016); 9,211 new cases of oesophageal cancer in 2015 (8,004 deaths in 2016) and 5,540 new cases of myeloma in 2015 (3,079 deaths in 2016); 2,288 new cases of testicular cancer in 2015 (57 deaths in 2016); 9,921 new cases of pancreatic cancer in 2015 (9,263 deaths in 2016); 11,432 new cases of brain cancer in 2015 (5,250 deaths in 2016). In the US in 2014 there were 24,050 new cases of myeloma.

**Each year there are steady increases in the numbers of new cancers, and increases in deaths from the same cancers, with no treatments making any difference to the numbers.**

### **Journalists who report information from the UK Science Media Centre are being taken for a ride by a lobby organisation**

#### **The UK Science Media Centre is sponsored by corporations not by NGOs or Unions**

Colin Macilwain, a science policy writer from Edinburgh who has worked as a reporter and an editor from both sides of the Atlantic wrote about plans to replicate Britain's Science Media Centre (SMC) in the United States, which he said was "*fraught with danger.*"<sup>9</sup>

*Extracts: "The London SMC was set up because UK scientific leaders were upset that environmentalists had successfully fought the introduction of genetically modified food; they felt that the UK media were too susceptible to environmental scare stories about new technologies. Despite the fears of the SMC founders, 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. It is quite unperturbed by the fact that SMC sponsors include AstraZeneca, BP, Coca-Cola, L'Oreal, Monsanto, Syngenta (as well as Nature Publishing Group) but not a single environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) or trade union.*

#### **UK's Science Media Centre lambasted for pushing corporate science<sup>10</sup>**

The meeting of global science writers in Bath in 2014 concluded: "*Journalists who uncritically report on SMC briefings and quotes sent by the centre are being taken for a ride by a lobby organisation instead of a neutral science information provider.*" Connie St Louis, former president of the Association of British Science Writers and a senior lecturer at City University, London said: "*I would close down the UK Science Media Centre.*" She conducted a small study on the centre's impact on UK science reporting in the 12 national newspapers in 2011 and 2012. The SMC's main activities include sending out 'expert reactions' — quotes on issues in the news — and holding media briefings, essentially small press conferences with a few experts. She found that more than half the SMC's expert reactions were covered in the press and, in 23 per cent of the stories that included these, the only quotes were those that came from the centre.

#### **The European Glyphosate Task Force (GTF) drew up European Legislation<sup>11</sup>**

Monsanto Europe replied to Health Commissioner Andriukaitis on 04/04/2016 to say that the 24 GTF members were prepared to grant very limited access to the data.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nature.com/news/two-nations-divided-by-a-common-purpose-1.10224?nc=1376335775294>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.scidev.net/global/journalism/feature/uk-s-science-media-centre-lambasted-for-pushing-corporate-science.html>

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/letter\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/letter_1.pdf)

From this we learn that the current EU legislation is set up to “*protect intellectual property and confidential information from public disclosure. All confidential data ...shall be deleted or redacted (Regulation 1107/2009, Article 63).*” Much of the industry data submitted to the German Rapporteur Member State was redacted.

**The GTF even ruled that: Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have no role in the legislative procedure**<sup>12</sup>

The European Glyphosate Task Force ruled that: “*The renewal process is legislated for by means of a Commission Regulation. The European Parliament has no official role in this particular type of legislative procedure. However, MEPs typically engage in the debate surrounding the renewal process in other ways, such as tabling Parliamentary Questions on the issue.*”

**However, four MEPs wrote to Judge Vince Chhabria in the US Re: Declassified Documents Related to Monsanto and Roundup** This was the reply.

Dear Members of the European Parliament:

Thank you for your interest in the ongoing federal litigation regarding the carcinogenic properties of the widely-used herbicide, glyphosate. We avidly share your commitment to the principles of transparent and rigorous scientific assessment in efforts to protect public and environmental health. Your July 4, 2017 letter to Judge Vince Chhabria raises a number of concerns which transcend the immediate exigencies of the litigation and **implicate serious international regulatory, public health, and scientific issues.** We hope to aid your European institutions in reaching a consensus on the safety profile of glyphosate based on an impartial and comprehensive review of the available data...<sup>13</sup>

**European Chemical Agency Report on the reassessment of glyphosate. This formed the basis of the European Commission’s renewal of glyphosate’s licence for 5 years**

“*ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) agrees to maintain the current harmonised classification of glyphosate as a substance causing serious eye damage and being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects. RAC concluded that the available scientific evidence did not meet the criteria to classify glyphosate as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction.*”<sup>14</sup>

**Why did the final version of the proposal on glyphosate omit the full classification?**

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, signed the Final version of the commission proposal. It says: “*In its opinion, the Committee for Risk Assessment of the Agency (European Chemicals Agency) concluded by consensus that on the basis of the information currently available, no hazard classification for carcinogenicity is justified for glyphosate.*” The omission of the full classification would appear to be intentionally fraudulent.<sup>15</sup>

**On 17 May 2017, I wrote an Open Letter to the European Chemicals Agency about glyphosate’s toxicity to aquatic invertebrates and to human reproduction**

12 June 2017

Dear Ms Mason

Thank you for your email dated 1 May and the open letter dated 17 May. Please note that we can only respond concerning ECHA’s role in assessing the hazardous properties of glyphosate. Anything

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.glyphosate.eu/system/files/sidebar-files/renewal\\_process\\_for\\_glyphosate\\_faqs.pdf](http://www.glyphosate.eu/system/files/sidebar-files/renewal_process_for_glyphosate_faqs.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://baumhedlundlaw.com/pdf/monsanto-documents/Roundup-Letter-to-EU-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-not-classified-as-a-carcinogen-by-echa>

<sup>15</sup>

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/pesticides\\_glyphosate\\_commission\\_proposal\\_final\\_version.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/pesticides_glyphosate_commission_proposal_final_version.pdf)

that does not have a direct effect on the assessment of RAC is outside of the scope of ECHA's mandate.

We here respond to the issues raised which are of relevance to the CLH process:

Regarding the paper written with Monsanto/GTF support and the influence of these in the CLH process: You might like to consult our response to this issue, which has been published on the ECHA website.<sup>16</sup>

It is important to distinguish between original study reports and reviews/position papers. The former may be sponsored by Industry, but if conducted in a GLP certified laboratory in accordance with GLP and OECD Guidelines, there is reason to expect them to be reliable. As pointed out in my previous response, a GLP accredited laboratory is not likely to manipulate results to please a sponsor. They are audited and the consequences of being caught cheating would be severe.

Therefore, such studies are given greatest weight in assessing the classification of a substance. Review articles are interpretation of the data from other studies and are therefore given less weight. A body such as RAC is tasked with an assessment of data submitted in the CLH dossier and during the public consultation. Publications from other sources such as IARC as well as other regulatory bodies are not ignored (but the conclusions of RAC will not necessarily be the same). Regarding the papers in *Crit. Rev. Toxic.* which were referred to in your letter, these were disclosed as having been sponsored by industry, which of course is (sic) taken into account by any cautious reader.

It is correct that ECHA does not assess risks, only hazards, in the CLH process. This is in accordance with the provisions of the CLP Regulation. ECHA's mandate does not extend, for example, to GM crops.

We note your concerns for the environment. Please note that any conclusion on classification for environmental toxicity is based on the results from standard tests which have been assessed against criteria in the CLP Regulation. In relation to your statement that "*the German Federal Institute of Risk Assessment (BfR) claimed in its reassessment that glyphosate wasn't toxic to the environment*", it is not clear what reassessment is referred to. In the CLH proposal Germany in fact proposed that the existing classification of glyphosate as Aquatic chronic 2 (*Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects*) be retained, and this was agreed to by RAC."

Best regards,  
Jack de Bruijn

### **I challenged ECHA about authorising a chemical that has such dangerous effects**

I wrote repeatedly to Geert Dancet: "*Are you trying to divert attention from the fact that ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) classifies glyphosate as a chemical **that wipes out salmon and trout from rivers and causes blindness in humans from cataracts and macular degeneration?***"

**Finally, Geert Dancet warned me. If I persisted on the same subject, ECHA would not reply**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**RE: US Lawsuit against Monsanto causing cancers

**Date:**Wed, 20 Sep 2017 06:34:28 +0000

**From:**DANCET Geert <Geert.DANCET@echa.europa.eu>

**To:**R MASON <rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com>

Dear Ms Mason,

Thank you for your email to ECHA dated 6 September.

As noted in our previous response, ECHA can only respond to glyphosate-related comments which concern the harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) process. We again stress that in the CLH process ECHA does not assess the risks of substances, only their hazards, in accordance with the

<sup>16</sup> <https://echa.europa.eu/chemicals-in-our-life/hot-topics/glyphosate> .

provisions of the CLP Regulation. Hence ECHA is not in a position to respond to issues relating to the assessment of the risks associated with the use of glyphosate. ECHA is also not involved in the approval of the active substances used in plant protection products – the relevant decision-making process is ongoing in the European Commission.

ECHA's responses can only be restricted to issues which are within the remit of our Agency. The issues which you have raised in your email are either not within ECHA's remit or have been addressed in previous correspondence. To avoid repeating the same message, **I wish to inform you that we will not be responding any correspondence received from you in future unless it raises any issues on which ECHA considers it has responsibility.**

Yours sincerely,

**Geert Dancet**  
Executive Director  
European Chemicals Agency

Annankatu 18, P.O. Box 400, FI-00120 Helsinki, Finland  
Tel. +358 9 6861 8200  
[geert.dancet@echa.europa.eu](mailto:geert.dancet@echa.europa.eu)

### **Judges of the International Monsanto Tribunal condemned ECHA's classification** <sup>17</sup>

In brief, the five judges of the Monsanto Tribunal agreed that:

- **Monsanto has violated human rights to food, health, a healthy environment and the freedom indispensable for independent scientific research.**
- **'ecocide' should be recognized as a crime in international law.**
- **human rights and environmental laws are undermined by corporate-friendly trade and investment regulation.**

Extracts: The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, an independent expert, calls for the need to follow the precautionary principle at the global level. The Tribunal concludes that Monsanto has engaged in practices that negatively impacted the right to health."

**Question 3 concerned the alleged infringement on the right to the highest attainable standard of health of everyone can reach, as recognized in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, or the right of child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as recognized by Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

Paragraph 2 Secondly, glyphosate (ingredient in Roundup) is considered in some studies as a carcinogenic product while other reports, such as the one from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), conclude the opposite. In an opinion issued on the 15th of March 2017 and related to the classification of glyphosate, the **European Chemicals Agency** (ECHA) indeed estimated that this product could not be classified as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction. The Tribunal however stresses that this classification does not take into account the risks of exposure, with residues found in food, drinking water and even in human urine.

### **Koffi Dogbevi, Lawyer for the International Monsanto Tribunal, also commented adversely on the ECHA's classification**

"It is interesting to see that ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) agreed to maintain the classification of glyphosate as a substance causing serious and irreversible effect on the eye (Eye

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/upload/asset\\_cache/1016160509.pdf](http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/upload/asset_cache/1016160509.pdf)

Dam. 1, H318) and being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects (Aquatic Chronic 2, H411), and at the same time reaching the conclusion that glyphosate is safe and non-hazardous. While this imbroglgio seems to relate to the distinction between hazard (the intrinsic potential to cause harm) and risk (the probability of harm occurring at a given exposure), **it is clear that any reasonable person would assert that a product causing an irreversible harm on the eye, and having a long-lasting toxicity impact on aquatic life, is likely a dangerous product.**

Hazardous materials/substances were covered, in the European Union under the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD) and the Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD), regulations that are currently replaced by the EC Regulation No 1272/2008 of 16 December 2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. It is very interesting to notice that glyphosate is listed under the EC Regulation No 1272/2008 as substance causing eye irritation (Eye Dam. 1, H318), toxic to the aquatic environment (Aquatic Chronic 2, H411), and having an acute toxicity (H302) which is a Hazard Category 4. However, it is very troubling to see that the ECHA not only voluntarily omitted the acute toxicity characteristic (H302/ hazard category 4) of glyphosate, but also exonerate itself of any risk assessment task that may lead to unexpected or non-provisionary outcome, and classified glyphosate as safe and non-hazardous substance."

**Open Letter: Head of Unit Pesticides and Biocides and Senior Scientist Chemical Regulations  
Division 04 June 2018 (Extracts)**

Klaus Berend

Head of Unit

European Commission, Directorate-General for Health and Food and Feed safety, Innovation,  
Pesticides and Biocides

Cc Dave Bench UK CRD

Dear Klaus Berend

I am fully aware that you are not an expert in Pesticides and Biocides, but an expert in the REACH specifications of plastics in aviation. Nor was the previous holder of the post, Michael Flüh, who was a non-scientist. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that your letter to me displayed a lack of knowledge of the subject. Does the Commissioner for Health Vytenis Andriukaitis have a shortage of qualified candidates to choose from to fill the post of Head of Unit, as specified by Jean-Claude Juncker?

**European Commission decision on middle management staff<sup>18</sup>**

Page 2 (2) Middle managers should not only have a *very good knowledge of their subject areas*, they should also be outstanding in managing work and people.

Page 5 Article 4 The role of heads of unit is regarded as particularly important. They shall possess specific management (i.e. work organisation, people management and, where relevant, financial resources management) competencies and *an appropriate degree of specialist knowledge and technical expertise*.

You said: "*In your correspondence, among others, you allege that the Commission is colluding with chemical corporations and I would like to strongly refute this allegation.*" **I repeat this statement.**

---

<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-commission-decision-on-middle-management-staff\\_3288\\_c\\_2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-commission-decision-on-middle-management-staff_3288_c_2016_en.pdf)



## Global insect apocalypse due to intensive agriculture and pesticides<sup>19</sup>

The analysis, [published in the journal Biological Conservation](#), says intensive agriculture is the main driver of the declines, particularly the [heavy use of pesticides](#). Urbanisation and climate change are also significant factors.

*“If insect species losses cannot be halted, this will have catastrophic consequences for both the planet’s ecosystems and for the survival of mankind,”* said Francisco Sánchez-Bayo, at the University of Sydney, Australia, who wrote the review with Kris Wyckhuys at the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing.

The 2.5% rate of annual loss over the last 25-30 years is “shocking”, Sánchez-Bayo told the Guardian: *“It is very rapid. In 10 years you will have a quarter less, in 50 years only half left and in 100 years you will have none.”*

One of the biggest impacts of insect loss is on the many birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish that eat insects. *“If this food source is taken away, all these animals starve to death,”* he said. Such cascading effects have already been seen in Puerto Rico, where a recent study revealed a [98% fall in ground insects over 35 years](#).

The new analysis selected the 73 best studies done to date to assess the insect decline. Butterflies and moths are among the worst hit. For example, the number of widespread [butterfly species fell by 58% on farmed land](#) in England between 2000 and 2009. **The UK has suffered the biggest recorded insect falls overall**, though that is probably a result of being more intensely studied than most places. He thinks new classes of insecticides introduced in the last 20 years, including neonicotinoids and fipronil, have been particularly damaging as they are used routinely and persist in the environment: *“They sterilise the soil, killing all the grubs.”* This has effects even in nature reserves nearby; the [75% insect losses recorded in Germany](#) were in protected areas.

Bees have also been seriously affected, with only [half of the bumblebee species found in Oklahoma](#) in the US in 1949 being present in 2013. The number of honeybee colonies in the US was 6 million in 1947, but [3.5 million have been lost](#) since.

There are more than 350,000 species of beetle and many are thought to have declined, especially dung beetles. But there are also big gaps in knowledge, with very little known about many flies, ants, aphids, shield bugs and crickets. Experts say there is no reason to think they are faring any better than the studied species.

A small number of adaptable species are increasing in number, but not nearly enough to outweigh the big losses. *“There are always some species that take advantage of vacuum left by the extinction of other species,”* said Sanchez-Bayo. In the US, the common eastern bumblebee is increasing due to its tolerance of pesticides.

Most of the studies analysed were done in western Europe and the US, with a few ranging from Australia to China and Brazil to South Africa, but very few exist elsewhere.

*“The main cause of the decline is agricultural intensification,”* Sánchez-Bayo said. *“That means the elimination of all trees and shrubs that normally surround the fields, so there are plain, bare fields that are treated with synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.”* He said the demise of insects appears to have started at the dawn of the 20th century, accelerated during the 1950s and 1960s and reached *“alarming proportions”* over the last two decades.

---

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>



## Species decline doesn't just happen elsewhere. It's a serious Irish problem

*When was the last time you had to clean your windscreen during the summer months?*<sup>20</sup>

This week a global study showed the decline of insects is accelerating at 2.5 per cent a year, suggesting they could vanish within a century. It is rare that a scientific paper is so blunt: *"Unless we change our ways of producing food insects as a whole will go down the path of extinction in a few decades."*

In this instance the analysis concludes that intensive agriculture is the main driver of declines, notably heavy use of pesticides, while urbanisation and climate change are big contributing factors. Insect loss means birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish starve as they miss out on vital food sources, while soil is not fertilised and aerated naturally, a process that is critical to all plant life.

Insects fulfil multiple roles in highly complex ecosystems. Their function as animal pollinators and herbivores regulating plant populations are especially important, explains pollinator ecologist Prof Jane Stout of Trinity College.

Bees have a particular task in that regard, says Prof Stout, as they spend their entire lives feeding on nectar and pollen while helping to fertilise plants. In Ireland there are 100 species of bee; 50 per cent are in decline, a third are threatened with extinction.

And yet Irish people display an ominous disconnect between perception of risk and what could soon be existential threats in the form of extinction and climate breakdown. The gap is widest on biodiversity, according to Irish wildlife scientists increasingly confronted by its deterioration.

Ireland's first National Biodiversity Conference is being held in Dublin Castle next week in an attempt to counter belief that species decline is a phenomenon elsewhere; within the Amazon's depleting rainforests, on the giant factory farms of the US mid-west or among dying coral reefs off Australia.

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) scientist Dr Deirdre Lynn is Ireland's representative under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. In the same way Irish biodiversity is not gone into, she says the convention *"does not get talked about until there is some catastrophe? We need to talk about it more because we rely on nature for everything,"* she insists.

So, the conference is an attempt to begin a big conversation, to get all players together to talk about nature, to reach all sectors and wider society and, especially, to consider solutions and commitments, adds Lynn, who is also chief architect of the National Biodiversity Plan.

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (her employer) does not own biodiversity nor is it a landowner, she points out, so opening dialogue is essential, especially with the agriculture sector, *"to ensure we consider nature in talking about 'progress'."*

That should include where we are going as a society in the context of climate change; changing farming practices and demographic trends.

Critically, degradation of Irish grasslands and peatlands, once home to many unique species, needs to be addressed, Lynn says, and the *"economic value of nature"* factored into accounting, and combined with a long-term view on impact especially when a sector is expanding.

*"I had expected the NPWS to be challenged on why so many of the promises in the National Peatlands Strategy were not being fulfilled. If our peatlands are so critical [as the chairman of the committee has proclaimed] why didn't he bother to turn up?"*

*"Why is the Fine Gael Government so quick to de-designate previously protected areas or furtively remove the need for planning permission for industrial peat extraction but stubbornly reluctant to implement conservation promises? As we struggle to address climate change and other environmental challenges where is the vision for restoring peatlands to all their glory? Who exactly is holding Minister [Josepha] Madigan to account?"*

---

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/species-decline-doesn-t-just-happen-elsewhere-it-s-a-serious-irish-problem-1.3793998>

## **Maladministration and criminal collusion with the agrochemical industry involved in the renewal of glyphosate registration**

This was a complaint I made to the Ombudsman on 06/03/2016: but my complaint was rejected.

### **Why did the European Commission set up the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to make decisions that affect human health?**

It is 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 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<sup>21</sup>**

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.

### **Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity<sup>22</sup>**

Dr Eric Chivian founded the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School in 1996: *"To help people understand that our health, and that of our children, depends on the health of the environment and that we must do everything we can to protect it"*

Eric Chivian and Aaron Bernstein co-edited the above book, which includes contributions from more than 100 leading biodiversity and health scientists. It was published in June 2008 by Oxford University Press and was co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Conservation Union.

## **How Roundup poisoned our Nature reserve <sup>23</sup>**

### **We published two photo-journals in 2010: Speckled Bush Crickets and The Year of the Bumblebee**

In 2006, we established a small nature reserve in South Wales. In 2013, the biodiversity started to decline. We measured glyphosate in August 2013 and August 2014. The Council said they would not stop spraying Roundup unless the HSE instructed them to.

### **We asked the HSE to request the Council to stop spraying Roundup in Swansea**

On several occasions between February 2014 and October 2017, I wrote to the HSE about Roundup<sup>®</sup> poisoning our nature reserve and glyphosate being present in River water and tap water. We had sent samples of water to the Biocheck Veterinary Laboratories in Leipzig.<sup>24</sup> I told HSE, that in August 2013, the level of glyphosate in the Clyne River draining from areas of Japanese Knotweed spraying was 190 parts per trillion (ppt) and in local tap water it was 30 ppt. Analysis of local tap water in August 2014 revealed a 10-fold increase since August 2013: from 30 ppt to 300 ppt. I told them that these were of the order of concentrations found in a laboratory study in 2013 that showed that breast cancer cell proliferation is accelerated by glyphosate in extremely low concentrations.<sup>25</sup> CRUK statistics: In 2015 there were 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer and in 2016 11,563 deaths. The deaths from cancers keep on increasing and no treatments make any difference.

<sup>21</sup> [http://isde.org/Appeal\\_glyphosate\\_IARC.pdf](http://isde.org/Appeal_glyphosate_IARC.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/sustaining-life-9780195175097?cc=gb&lang=en&>

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.i-sis.org.uk/How\\_Roundup\\_Poisoned\\_My\\_Nature\\_Reserve.php](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/How_Roundup_Poisoned_My_Nature_Reserve.php)

<sup>24</sup> <https://biocheck-leipzig.de/index.php/en/impressum>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23756170>

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**Roundup sprayed in Swansea - CETO/358/16

**Date:**Tue, 20 Dec 2016 11:26:06 +0000

**From:**Dan.Manghai@hse.gov.uk

**To:**rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com

Dear Dr Mason,

Thank you for your emails and attachments of 9 and 19 December to HSE's Chair, Martin Temple, and the one of 14 December to me. Further to my acknowledgement of 9 December I am now writing with a substantive response. The various points you raise have been addressed in previous correspondence between you and HSE or Defra so there is nothing further to add on these. With regard to your key point on the use of glyphosate by Swansea Council, glyphosate is approved as a pesticide active substance in the EU and glyphosate products are authorised for use in the UK. The Council's duty in this case is to use pesticide products which are authorised in the UK and to comply with the rules on use of pesticides. In doing this, it is for the Council to decide how it chooses to control weeds in its area not HSE.

Yours sincerely,

**Dan Manghai**

**Chief Executive, Parliamentary and Secretariat Office  
Health and Safety Executive**

HSE consistently refused to write to the Council and ask them to stop spraying Roundup® because "it was still legal." The response to my letter of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 was:

*"Dear Dr Mason,*

*Thank you for your latest email of 28 July to Martin Temple. HSE's response to your question is the same as expressed in previous correspondence on this. I would advise you that, unless your correspondence raises any issues on which HSE considers it should respond, **we will not be responding to you in future.***

*Yours sincerely,*

***/Health & Safety Executive***

*CE, Parliamentary and Secretariat Office | Legal and Governance Division  
Desk 39, 5N.3, Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, L20 7HS"*

**According to Defra, 13 March 2018, European Regulatory assessments found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval of glyphosate**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**Request for information - Ref: TO2018/05500

**Date:**Tue, 13 Mar 2018 13:45:53 +0000

**From:**[correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk) on behalf of Ministerial Contact Unit  
<[correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Reply-To:**Ministerial Contact Unit <[correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>

**To:**[rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com)

Dear Ms Mason,

Thank you for your recent emails to Clare Moriarty. I have been asked to reply on behalf of Defra. Pesticide active substances such as glyphosate are assessed at EU level and the European Commission takes the decision on whether each active substance should be approved. Products

containing approved active substances are assessed and decisions on authorisation are taken at national level. Applicants for authorisation must show that their products are effective and **have no harmful effects to people or unacceptable effects on the environment**. If their products were to pose such risks, they would not be authorised; or if such effects were discovered later, they would be withdrawn.

As you point out, the European Commission has renewed the approval of glyphosate until December 2022. This followed reviews of the scientific data by the European Food Safety Authority and the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment. **Those reviews found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval.**

Following the Commission decision, the UK and all other Member States will review the authorisations of **every product containing glyphosate to ensure that they meet the current legal requirements and safety standards**. The rules for this review are set out in EU legislation and guidance documents. The review will be carried out by the Health and Safety Executive as the UK competent authority.

Yours sincerely,

Defra

Ministerial Contact Unit

**By July 2018, our reserve was a biological desert, just as Craig Childs found on Iowa farmland** <sup>26</sup>

Chapter 6 Species Vanish: Page 185. Grundy County, Iowa was where Craig Childs spent a long weekend in a monoculture of GM-Roundup® Ready Corn looking for wildlife.

Page 187: "In this cornfield, I had come to a different kind of planetary evolution. I listened and heard nothing, no bird, no click of an insect ... Page 188: Mr Owen was the farmer who had given us permission to backpack across his cornfields. He grew a combination of DuPont and Monsanto stock. We were in DuPont now. It didn't look any different to me." Page 192: Childs said: "I chose Iowa for a mass-extinction analogue because it is the most thorough picture of genetic exhaustion, the many organs of what was once tallgrass prairie removed and replaced with this."

Krulwich's blog commented on Craig Child's description: <sup>27</sup> "Corn farmers champion corn. Anything that might eat corn, hurt corn, bother corn, is killed. Their corn is bred to fight pests. The ground is sprayed. The stalks are sprayed again. So, Craig wondered, "What will I find?" The answer amazed me. He found almost nothing. There were no bees. The air, the ground, seemed vacant. He found one ant "so small you couldn't pin it to a specimen board." A little later, crawling to a different row, he found one mushroom, "the size of an apple seed." Then, later, a cobweb spider eating a crane fly (only one). A single red mite "the size of a dust mote hurrying across the barren earth," some grasshoppers, and that's it. Though he crawled and crawled, he found nothing else. "It felt like another planet entirely," he said, a world denuded.

*Yet, 100 years ago, these same fields, these prairies, were home to 300 species of plants, 60 mammals, 300 birds, hundreds and hundreds of insects. This soil was the richest, the loamiest in the state. And now, in these patches, there is almost literally nothing but one kind of living thing. We've erased everything else. There's something strange about a farm that intentionally creates a biological desert to produce food for one species: us. It's efficient, yes. But it's so efficient that the ants are missing, the bees are missing, and even the birds stay away. Something's not right here. Our cornfields are too quiet."*

Iowa was just one state in which the US Geological Survey said: "Glyphosate and AMPA were detected frequently in soils and sediment, ditches and drains, precipitation, rivers, and streams; and less frequently in lakes, ponds, and wetlands; soil water; and groundwater." <sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Childs, C. *Apocalyptic Planet. Field Guide to the Future of the Earth*, New York: Vintage Books (2013).

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.npr.org/sections/krulwich/2012/11/29/166156242/cornstalks-everywhere-but-nothing-else-not-even-a-bee>

<sup>28</sup> <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jawr.12159/abstract>

## **Children and adults are less intelligent and have mental health disorders, depression, suicides, anxiety and violence as a result of exposure to GBH**

### **Neurotransmitter changes in the brain from exposure to Glyphosate-based herbicides**

Many papers come from Latin American countries where they grow almost exclusively GM Roundup Ready Crops that Monsanto forced on them in 1996. Here are three papers. The European Glyphosate Task Force excluded scientific papers from South America in their re-assessment of glyphosate.

Behavioral impairments following repeated intranasal glyphosate-based herbicide administration in mice.<sup>29</sup>

*Taken together, our findings demonstrate that intranasal (IN) exposure to commercial Gly-BH produces alterations in locomotor activity, anxiety and memory in adult mice. These observations could be a consequence of alterations in neurotransmission systems comprising the GABAergic, dopaminergic, serotonergic and/or cholinergic systems.*” In this research paper there are references to many papers from around the world that confirm the glyphosate-based herbicides are damaging to the development of the foetal brain and that repeated exposure is toxic to the adult human brain and may result in alterations in locomotor activity, feelings of anxiety and memory impairment.

Martínez, M. A., Ares, I., Rodríguez, J. L., Martínez, M., Martínez-Larrañaga, M. R., & Anadón, A. (2018). Neurotransmitter changes in rat brain regions following glyphosate exposure. *Environmental Research*, 161, 212-219.<sup>30</sup>

Highlights:

- Glyphosate oral exposure caused neurotoxicity in rats.
- Brain regions were susceptible to changes in CNS monoamine levels.
- Glyphosate reduced 5-HT, DA, NE levels in a brain regional- and dose-related manner.
- Glyphosate altered the serotonergic, dopaminergic and noradrenergic systems.

Mechanisms underlying the neurotoxicity induced by glyphosate-based herbicide in immature rat hippocampus: Involvement of glutamate excitotoxicity.<sup>31</sup>

### **Roundup (shown to be carcinogenic and to affect human brains) is sprayed to kill weeds on pavements, open spaces, City Parks, playgrounds and playing fields in all Boroughs but one.**

Only the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has agreed to ban Roundup and try other non-chemical methods.<sup>32</sup> All the Councils in Wales use Glyphosate-based herbicides.<sup>33</sup>

### **Glyphosate, pathways to modern diseases IV: cancer and related pathologies**<sup>34</sup>

Abstract: *Glyphosate is the active ingredient in the pervasive herbicide, Roundup, and its usage, particularly in the United States, has increased dramatically in the last two decades, in step with the widespread adoption of Roundup®-Ready core crops. The World Health Organization recently labelled glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic.” In this paper, we review the research literature, with the goal of evaluating the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate. 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*

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0892036217301526>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935117316730>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0300483X14000493>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.hortweek.com/london-council-bans-contractor-use-glyphosate-parks/parks-and-gardens/article/1398373>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/welsh-councils-use-carcinogenic-weedkiller-15086510>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.amsi.ge/jbpc/31515/11SA15R.pdf>

*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. Here, we support these correlations through an examination of Monsanto's early studies on glyphosate, and explain how the biological effects of glyphosate could induce each of these cancers. We believe that the available evidence warrants a reconsideration of the risk/benefit trade-off with respect to glyphosate usage to control weeds, and we advocate much stricter regulation of glyphosate.*

### **Monsanto's sealed secret studies shows that it knew about cancers and eye damage**

#### **Monsanto's sealed secret studies obtained under FOI from the US EPA**

Senior Monsanto scientist, Dan Goldstein maintained that if ingested, glyphosate is excreted rapidly, does not accumulate in body fat or tissues, and does not undergo metabolism in humans. Rather, it is excreted unchanged in the urine.<sup>35</sup> He referred back to the glyphosate re-assessment in Europe in 2002.<sup>36</sup> In their paper IV on cancers, Samsel and Seneff found the secret studies showed otherwise. Ridley and Mirly (1988) (for Monsanto) found bioaccumulation of <sup>14</sup>C labelled glyphosate in Sprague Dawley rat tissues. Residues were present in bone, marrow, blood and glands including the thyroid, testes and ovaries, as well as major organs, including the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, spleen and stomach (Table 11 Page 127). The eye is included in this list. Table 8 Page 126): Incidence and occurrence of ophthalmic degenerative lens changes by glyphosate.

Table 9 Page 126: Data on unilateral and bilateral cataracts (all types) and Y-suture opacities, excluding "prominent Y suture", following glyphosate exposure to rats: this Stout & Rueker (1990) study was commissioned by Monsanto.

#### **Glyphosate pathways to modern diseases V: Amino acid analogue of glycine in diverse proteins<sup>37</sup>**

*Abstract: Glyphosate, a synthetic amino acid and analogue of glycine, is the most widely used biocide on the planet. Its presence in food for human consumption and animal feed is ubiquitous.*

*Epidemiological studies have revealed a strong correlation between the increasing incidence in the United States of a large number of chronic diseases and the increased use of glyphosate herbicide on corn, soy and wheat crops. Glyphosate, acting as a glycine analogue, may be mistakenly incorporated into peptides during protein synthesis. A deep search of the research literature has revealed a number of protein classes that depend on conserved glycine residues for proper function. Glycine, the smallest amino acid, has unique properties that support flexibility and the ability to anchor to the plasma membrane or the cytoskeleton. Glyphosate substitution for conserved glycines can easily explain a link with diabetes, obesity, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary edema, adrenal insufficiency, hypothyroidism, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, prion diseases, lupus, mitochondrial disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, neural tube defects, infertility, hypertension, glaucoma, osteoporosis, fatty liver disease and kidney failure. The correlation data together with the direct biological evidence make a compelling case for glyphosate action as a glycine analogue to account for much of glyphosate's toxicity. Glufosinate, an analogue of glutamate, likely exhibits an analogous toxicity mechanism. There is an urgent need to find an effective and economical way to grow crops without the use of glyphosate and glufosinate as herbicides.*

<sup>35</sup> <https://gmoanswers.com/ask/hi-does-senior-monsanto-scientist-dan-goldstein-still-maintain-if-ingested-glyphosate-excreted>

<sup>36</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides_en)

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.amsi.ge/jbpc/11616/03SA16A.pdf>



## UN expert on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak: The EU and glyphosate: it's time to put children's health before pesticides

The UN expert on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak wrote in the *Guardian* on 06/11/2017 <sup>38</sup>

"A pending decision on Monsanto's ubiquitous weedkiller is a crucial opportunity to protect our children from the toxic cocktail of pesticides polluting their food, water and play areas."

*"Our children are growing up exposed to a toxic cocktail of weedkillers, insecticides, and fungicides. It's on their food and in their water, **and it's even doused over their parks and playgrounds.** Many governments insist that our standards of protection from these pesticides are strong enough. But as a scientist and a lawyer who specialises in chemicals and their potential impact on people's fundamental rights, I beg to differ. Last month it was revealed that in recommending that glyphosate – the world's most widely-used pesticide – was safe, the [EU's food safety watchdog copied and pasted pages of a report directly from Monsanto](#), the pesticide's manufacturer. Revelations like these are simply shocking.*

*The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most ratified international human rights treaty in the world (only the US is not a party), makes it clear that states have an explicit obligation to protect children from exposure to toxic chemicals, from contaminated food and polluted water, and to ensure that every child can realise their right to the highest attainable standard of health. These and many other rights of the child are abused by the current pesticide regime. These chemicals are everywhere and they are invisible. The only way to protect citizens, especially those disproportionately at risk from exposure, is for governments to regulate them effectively, in large part by adhering to the highest standards of scientific integrity.*

*Paediatricians have referred to childhood exposure to pesticides as creating a "silent pandemic" of disease and disability. Exposure in pregnancy and childhood is linked to birth defects, diabetes, and cancer. Because a child's developing body is more sensitive to exposure than adults and takes in more of everything – relative to their size, children eat, breathe, and drink much more than adults – they are particularly vulnerable to these toxic chemicals. Increasing evidence shows that even at "low" doses of childhood exposure, irreversible health impacts can result. But, most victims cannot prove the cause of their disability or disease, limiting our ability to hold those responsible to account. In light of revelations such as the copy-and-paste scandal, a careful re-examination of the performance of states is required. The overwhelming reliance of regulators on industry-funded studies, the exclusion of independent science from assessments, and the confidentiality of studies relied upon by authorities must change."*

### British food is being poisoned by weedkiller: breakfast cereals had shockingly high levels

#### Weedkiller found in 43 out of 45 popular breakfast cereals marketed for US children

We read an article in the *Guardian* on 16 August 2018 about weedkiller found in breakfast cereals marketed for children in the US.

"Significant levels of the weedkilling chemical glyphosate have been found in an array of popular breakfast cereals, oats and snack bars marketed to US children, a new study has found.<sup>39</sup> Tests revealed glyphosate, the active ingredient in the popular weedkiller brand Roundup, present in all but two of the 45 oat-derived products [that were sampled by the Environmental Working Group](#), a public health organization. Nearly three in four of the products exceeded what the EWG classifies safe for children to consume. Products with some of the highest levels of glyphosate include granola, oats and snack bars made by leading industry names Quaker, Kellogg's and General Mills, which makes Cheerios."

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/06/the-eu-and-glyphosate-its-time-to-put-childrens-health-before-pesticides>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/16/weedkiller-cereal-monsanto-roundup-childrens-food>

In April 2018, internal emails obtained from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) **showed** that scientists have found glyphosate on a wide range of commonly consumed food, to the point that they were finding it difficult to identify a food without the chemical on it. The FDA has yet to release any official results from this process. **The UK Guardian reported:** “There was no indication that the claims related to products sold outside the US.”

#### **Weedkiller found in samples of oat-based marketed for children in the UK<sup>40</sup>**

In order to check this fact, we sent four samples of oat-based cereals marketed for children in the UK (bought from our local supermarket in Wales) to a Health Research Institute in Iowa. The Director said the levels of glyphosate were shockingly high. **Dr Fagan said in his report:** “These results are consistently concerning. The levels consumed in a single daily helping of any one of these cereals, even the one with the lowest level of contamination, is sufficient to put the person’s glyphosate levels above the levels that cause fatty liver disease in rats (and likely in people).”

Type of breakfast cereal marketed for children Product description	Glyphosate level ng/g	AMPA ng/g	Effective glyphosate level ng/g
Kelloggs No added sugar granola with Apricot & pumpkin seeds	499.90	ND	499.90
Quaker/Oat So simple/Original Microwaveable Oats	464.23	24.04	500.28
Weetibix Oatibix 100% wholegrain oats	318.85	16.96	344.28
Nestle Multigrain Cheerios Whole Grain Oat Flour 29.6% Whole Grain Wheat 29.6% Whole Grain Barley Flour 17.9% Whole Grain Corn Flour 2.1% Whole Grain Rice Flour 2.1%.	137.29	ND	137.29

#### **Americans have grown fatter in the past two decades, but are a curious shape**

Americans have added girth to their bellies and in some cases, even growing shorter, according to federal health data released 20/12/2018.<sup>41</sup> The report gave no specific reasons for the trends, which come as no surprise as the nation battles with an ongoing obesity epidemic. Average weight, waist circumference, and body mass index (BMI) in adults have increased over the past 18 years, said the report by the National Center for Health Statistics.

#### **Proof that obesity is a problem related to glyphosate: a study showed that, by 2025, the UK will have the highest obesity rates among both men and women in Europe, at 38%: in contrast to France where women have had virtually no increase in BMI over 40 years**

A study on obesity published in the *Lancet* in March 2016 says: “About a fifth of all adults around the world and a third of those in the UK will be obese by 2025, with potentially disastrous consequences for their health”.<sup>42</sup> The *Lancet* Study says there is zero chance that the world can meet the target set by the UN for halting the climbing obesity rate by 2025.

“Over the past 40 years, we have changed from a world in which underweight prevalence was more than double that of obesity, to one in which more people are obese than underweight,” said senior author Prof Majid Ezzati from the School of Public Health at Imperial College London. “The English-

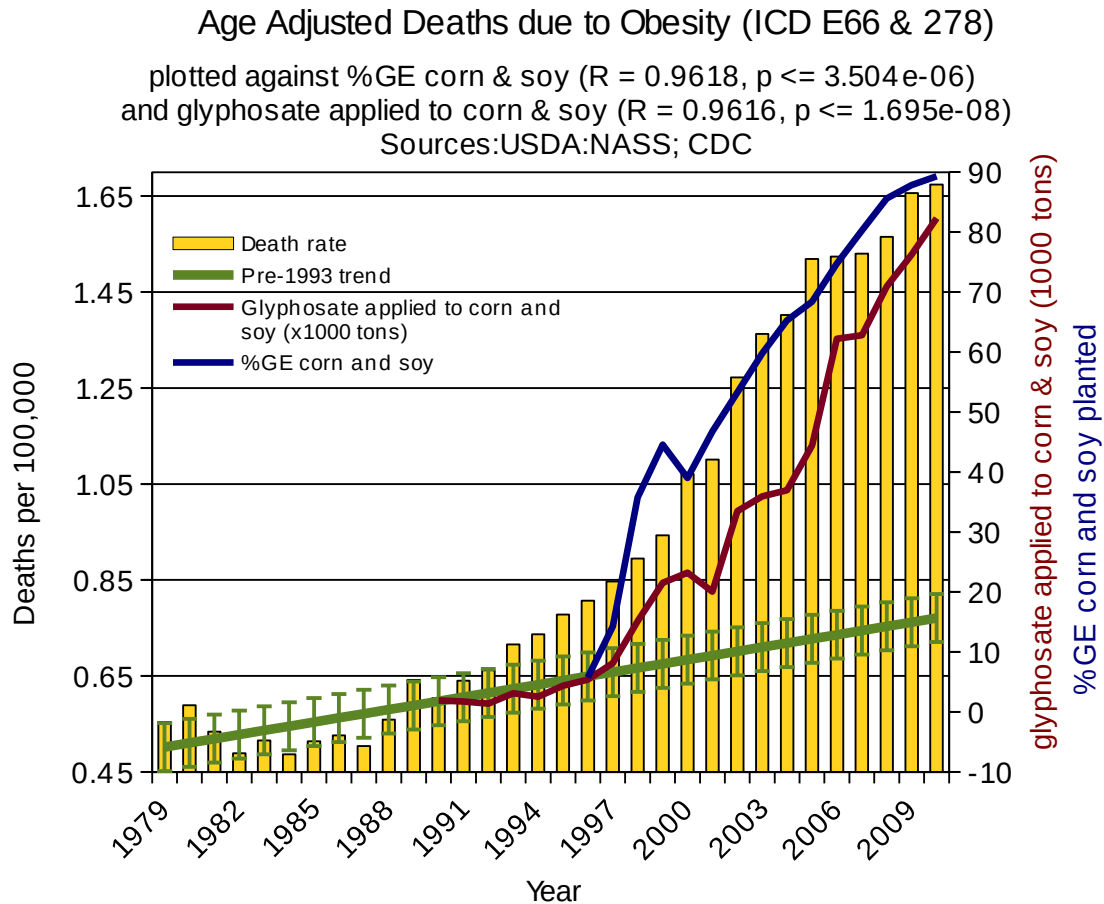
<sup>40</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6315209/Revealed-UK-cereals-contain-potentially-harmful-amounts-WEEDKILLER.html>

<sup>41</sup> <https://guardian.ng/features/americans-have-grown-fatter-shorter-since-1999-us-data/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/mar/31/one-fifth-of-worlds-adults-will-be-obese-by-2025-study-predicts>

speaking world is particularly badly affected. **The UK will have the highest obesity among both men and women in Europe, at 38%.**

In contrast: "Against the trend of steadily rising weight, women in some countries had virtually no increase in BMI over the 40 years – in Singapore, Japan, and a few European countries including Czech Republic, Belgium, **France**, and Switzerland."



This graph is reproduced by kind permission of Dr Nancy Swanson from the paper [Genetically-engineered crops, glyphosate and the deterioration of health in the United States of America. Swanson et al.](#)<sup>43</sup>

#### **Argentina: 30,000 doctors and health professionals demand ban on glyphosate<sup>44</sup>**

*Union demands debate on the restructuring of agriculture around safe production methods*

Following on from the conclusion of the International Agency for Research on Cancer that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen, Argentina's union of doctors and health professionals, FESPROSA, has issued a statement throwing the support of its 30,000 members behind the decision: "The organisation [IARC] has just released the results of a study that overturns the agribusiness model. Thus, the complaints that affected residents and scientists outside the orbit of corporations have been making for years have gained renewed momentum," FESPROSA said in the statement: "In our country glyphosate is applied on more than 28 million hectares. Each year, the soil is sprayed with more than 320 million litres, which means that 13 million people are at risk of being affected, according to the Physicians Network of Sprayed Peoples (RMPP). Soy is not the only crop addicted to glyphosate: the herbicide is also used for transgenic maize and other crops. Where glyphosate falls,

<sup>43</sup> [http://www.organic-systems.org/journal/92/JOS\\_Volume-9\\_Number-2\\_Nov\\_2014-Swanson-et-al.pdf](http://www.organic-systems.org/journal/92/JOS_Volume-9_Number-2_Nov_2014-Swanson-et-al.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/16087-argentina-30-000-doctors-and-health-professionals-demand-ban-on-glyphosate>

*only GMOs can grow. Everything else dies. Our trade union, the Federation of Health Professionals of Argentina (FESPROSA), which represents more than 30,000 doctors and health professionals in our country, includes the Social Health Collective of Andrés Carrasco. Andrés Carrasco was a researcher at [Argentine government research institute] CONICET, who died a year ago, and showed the damage caused by glyphosate to embryos. For disseminating his research, he was attacked by the industry and the authorities at CONICET. Today, WHO vindicates him. Glyphosate does not only cause cancer. It is also associated with increased spontaneous abortions, birth defects, skin diseases, and respiratory and neurological disease."*

### **Prof Andrés Carrasco was Monsanto's biggest threat so he had to be silenced**

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010 Professor Andrés Carrasco, lead embryologist at the University, Buenos Aires Medical School and the Argentinean National Research Council, came to give a talk about his research to community activists and residents gathered in La Leonesa. His research showed that glyphosate, an agrochemical used on genetically modified soy and rice in Argentina, causes birth defects in animal embryos at levels far below those frequently used in agricultural spraying. A delegation of public officials and residents from the nearby community of Resistencia also came to La Leonesa to hear the talk.<sup>45</sup> But it never took place. As the delegation walked towards the school where the talk was to be held, it was attacked by a violent mob of approximately 100 people. Three people were seriously injured. Carrasco and a colleague shut themselves in a car and were surrounded by people beating the vehicle for two hours. Witnesses believe that a local rice producer and officials had organised the attack to protect agribusiness interests. As the police seemed reluctant to intervene, Amnesty International<sup>46</sup> subsequently called for an investigation. Just a month after the court ruling, another bombshell dropped in Argentina's GM soy republic. The provincial government of Chaco province issued a report on health statistics from La Leonesa, the town where Carrasco was due to give his talk. The report said that from 2000 to 2009 the childhood cancer rate tripled in La Leonesa and the rate of birth defects increased nearly fourfold over the entire province. The report said that these staggering increases in disease coincided with the expansion of GM soy and rice crops in the region and the corresponding rise in agrochemical use.

The Amnesty International investigation established that: *"One person has since suffered from lower body paralysis after being hit on his spine, and another is undergoing neurological examinations after receiving blows to the head. The former provincial Sub-Secretary of Human Rights, Marcelo Salgado, was struck in the face and left unconscious. Dr Carrasco and his colleague shut themselves in a car, and were surrounded by people making violent threats and beating the car for two hours. Members of the community were injured and a journalist's camera equipment was damaged. Members of the community who witnessed the incident have implicated local officials in the attack, as well as a local rice-producer and his workers and security guards. They strongly believe that the violence was promoted by them, and motivated by the powerful economic interests behind local agro-industry. Despite calls to local authorities asking for help, the police were slow to respond and failed to send sufficient reinforcements to stop the violence."*

### **Brazil's National Cancer Institute names GM crops as cause of massive pesticide use**

Claire Robinson reports: *The release of GM crops in Brazil has helped make it the largest consumer of agrochemicals in the world, according to a hard-hitting new report from Brazil's National Cancer*

<sup>45</sup>

[http://www.theecologist.org/blogs\\_and\\_comments/commentators/other\\_comments/686959/revealed\\_the\\_glyphosate\\_research\\_the\\_gm\\_soy\\_lobby\\_doesnt\\_want\\_you\\_to\\_read.html](http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/other_comments/686959/revealed_the_glyphosate_research_the_gm_soy_lobby_doesnt_want_you_to_read.html)

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR13/005/2010/en/303e9ee6-9138-405f-97fc-ed58965b76d0/amr130052010en.html>

Institute José Alencar Gomes da Silva (INCA), part of the country's Ministry of Health.<sup>47</sup>

*“Already chronic poisoning may affect the whole population, as this is due to multiple exposures to pesticides, that is, the presence of pesticide residues in food and the environment, usually at low doses. Adverse effects of chronic exposure to pesticides may appear long after the exposure, and so are difficult to correlate with the agent. Among the effects that can be associated with chronic exposure to pesticide active ingredients are infertility, impotence, abortions, malformations, neurotoxicity, hormonal disruption, effects on the immune system, and cancer.”*

According to the report, the most recent results of the Analytical Program on Pesticide Residues of Brazil's health agency ANVISA revealed samples with pesticide residues above the maximum permissible limit, as well as the presence of chemical substances not authorized for the food in question. It also noted the presence of pesticides that were in the process of being banned by ANVISA or that had never been registered in Brazil. Regarding sources of exposure, the report says, *“It is noteworthy that pesticide residues not only occur in fresh food, but also in many processed food products, such as cookies, chips, breads, breakfast cereals, lasagna, pizza and other ingredients that contain wheat, corn and soybeans, for example. Pesticide traces may still may be present in meat and milk of animals fed with these crops, due to the process of bioaccumulation. Therefore, the concern over pesticides must not mean a reduction in the consumption of fruits and vegetables, which are key foods in healthy eating and of great importance in preventing cancer. The main focus must be on combating the use of pesticides, which contaminate all vital resources, including food, soil, water, breastmilk and air. In addition, methods of cultivation free from pesticide use can produce fruits, vegetables and legumes such as beans, with the greatest anticancer potential.”*

#### **Monsanto to go on trial again in the US for concealing that Roundup caused cancer<sup>48</sup>**

On 30/01/2019 Katherine Paul of Organic Consumers Association reported: *“In a few weeks, [Monsanto](#) will go on trial again. And when it does, the pesticide-maker won't be able to suppress [evidence](#) that the company [ghostwrote](#) scientific studies and otherwise tried to influence scientists and regulators in an attempt to hide the potential health risks of its flagship product, [Roundup](#) weedkiller.*

*This week, U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria, the federal judge in San Francisco overseeing [620 cases](#) involving [Monsanto's](#) Roundup weedkiller and cancer victims, ruled that the evidence could be introduced in the upcoming trial. According to a Reuters [report](#), Chhabria said the documents were “super relevant.”*

*Chhabria's ruling almost guarantees that the documents in question will play a role when, on February 25, a jury in San Francisco Federal Court, begins hearing the case of Edwin Hardeman vs. Monsanto. Hardeman alleges that Roundup caused his non-Hodgkin lymphoma cancer. Hardeman's case follows the August 10, 2018, [\\$289-million](#) judgment (later [reduced](#) to [\\$78 million](#)) awarded to DeWayne “Lee” Johnson, a former school groundskeeper who also sued Monsanto for causing his non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Monsanto's [appeal](#) of the \$78-million judgment is still pending.*

*There are more than 9,000 claims pending against Monsanto in state courts, about 620 awaiting trial in federal court. Reuters [reported](#) in November that Hardeman's case was selected as “a so-called bellwether, or test trial, frequently used in U.S. product liability mass litigation to help both sides gauge the range of damages and define settlement options.”*

*Bayer CEO Werner Baumann called the lawsuits “[nuisances](#).” But the company's stock took a [big hit](#) after the jury sided with Johnson, so shareholders probably aren't thrilled with Chhabria's ruling this week.”*

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/archive/2015-articles/16067>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/and-hits-just-keep-coming-more-bad-news-monsanto>



## Robert F Kennedy Jr. one of the US Attorney's fighting Bayer, said: Bayer Needs More Than an Aspirin to Cure Its Monsanto-Sized Headache

28/08/2018 Robert F Kennedy said: "In a special telephone meeting on Thursday, August 23, Bayer AG's CEO Werner Bauman tried to reassure the German conglomerate's principal shareholders who were concerned about the recent [drop](#) in the company's stock. Bayer's stock fell dramatically after an unfavorable [verdict](#) against Bayer's St. Louis subsidiary, Monsanto." <sup>49</sup>

Bauman expressed his confidence in [Monsanto](#) and predicted a sunny future for its flagship herbicide, Roundup. He told his top-tier investors that Bayer had performed an adequate due-diligence on Monsanto before [purchasing](#) the troubled company for \$66 billion this past June. At the time of its purchase, Monsanto told its German suitors that a \$270-million set-aside would cover all its outstanding liabilities arising from Monsanto's 5,000 Roundup cancer lawsuits.

Bauman did concede to anxious shareholders that Monsanto had withheld [internal papers](#) relevant to the case. Bayer never saw those internal Monsanto documents prior to the purchase.

It's no surprise that Monsanto kept secrets from Bayer. Johnson's jury [heard evidence](#) that for four decades Monsanto maneuvered to conceal Roundup's carcinogenicity by capturing regulatory agencies, corrupting public officials, bribing scientists and engaging in scientific fraud to delay its day of reckoning. The jury found that these activities constituted "malice, fraud and oppression" warranting \$250 million in punitive damages.

I am one of several attorneys representing, collectively, now some 8,000 clients with similar cases. I attended the two-month trial and worked with the trial team led by two young and exceptionally gifted lawyers, Brent Wisner of Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman and Dave Dickens of The Miller Firm. For Bayer the worst is yet to come.

Despite Monsanto's efforts, the science [linking glyphosate](#)—Roundup's active ingredient—to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma has passed the critical inflection point. European nations are [moving](#) to ban or restrict the chemical, and California regulators and courts have [ordered](#) Monsanto to warn consumers of Roundup's carcinogenicity at all points of sale. Both federal and state courts across the country have agreed that the question can be sent to juries. Hundreds of new inquiries have flooded our offices since the Johnson verdict.

Perhaps more ominously for Bayer, Monsanto also faces cascading scientific evidence [linking glyphosate](#) to a constellation of other injuries that have become prevalent since its introduction, including obesity, depression, Alzheimer's, ADHD, autism, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, kidney disease, and inflammatory bowel disease, brain, breast and prostate cancer, miscarriage, birth defects and declining sperm counts. Strong science suggests glyphosate is the culprit in the exploding epidemics of celiac disease, colitis, gluten sensitivities, diabetes and non-alcoholic liver cancer which, for the first time, is attacking children as young as 10.

Researchers peg glyphosate as a potent endocrine disruptor, which interferes with sexual development in children. The chemical compound is certainly a chelator that removes important minerals from the body, including iron, magnesium, zinc, selenium and molybdenum.

Roundup [disrupts the microbiome](#) destroying beneficial bacteria in the human gut and triggering brain inflammation and other ill effects.

The public's growing concerns with Roundup are, in part, due to Monsanto's overreaching.

For two decades following its licensing in 1974, farmers and gardeners used Roundup as a conventional weedkiller. After Monsanto's introduction of Roundup Ready seeds in the 1990s, farmers began aerial spraying of the herbicide on entire fields, including newly planted corn, canola and soy genetically altered to thrive in the toxic mist that killed all neighboring weeds.

---

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/kennedy-monsanto-roundup-verdict-bayer-stock>



Then, around 2006, Monsanto started marketing Roundup as a [desiccant](#) to dry up oats and wheat immediately before harvest. For the first time, farmers were spraying the chemical directly on food. Roundup sales rose dramatically to 300 million pounds annually in the U.S., with farmers spraying enough to cover every tillable acre in America with a gallon of Roundup.

Glyphosate now accounts for about [50% of all herbicide use](#) in the U.S. About [75% of glyphosate use](#) has occurred since 2006, with [the global glyphosate market](#) projected to reach \$11.74 billion by 2023. Never in history has a chemical been [used](#) so pervasively. Glyphosate is in our air, water, plants, animals, grains, vegetables and meats. It's in beer and wine, children's [breakfast cereal and snack bars](#) and mother's breast milk. It's even in our vaccines.

As grim as its financials now look, Monsanto's reputational liability may be even more of an anchor for Bayer than all the lawsuits. Environmentalists complain that Roundup is exterminating at least 13 species in the U.S. alone, including North America's iconic [Monarch butterfly](#). Human rights advocates blame the [suicides](#) of more than 200,000 Indian farmers on the suffocating economics caused by Monsanto's monopolistic control of international seed stocks. Government regulators are already under pressure to restrict these sorts of chemical mayhems with laws limiting glyphosate and GMOs. Monsanto has carved out a market niche monetizing deadly chemicals that more squeamish companies shun, a strategy that has made the company the Snidely Whiplash of corporate scoundrels and the planet's worst villain, according to many environmentalists and human rights advocates. As a boy, I watched Monsanto's vicious campaign to pillory the dying heroine Rachel Carson over her book, "Silent Spring," in its efforts to exonerate its pesticide DDT which was wiping out songbirds and the American bald eagle."

### **Bayer CropScience collaborated with the Nazis at Auschwitz during the Holocaust to commit genocide against millions of European Jews**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**Open Letter to Bayer CropScience

**Date:**Mon, 7 Jan 2019 10:24:53 +0000

**From:**Rosemary Anne Mason <[rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com)>

**To:**[werner.baumann@bayer.com](mailto:werner.baumann@bayer.com), [david.fischer@bayer.com](mailto:david.fischer@bayer.com), [liam.condon@bayer.com](mailto:liam.condon@bayer.com)

Werner Baumann  
Chief Executive  
Bayer CropScience

Dear Werner Baumann

#### **An advertisement that Bayer placed in Politico and the Farmers' Guardian on 19/12/2018 <sup>50</sup>**

"Transparency creates trust. At Bayer, we embrace our responsibility to communicate how we assess our products' safety — and we recognize that people around the world want more information around glyphosate. This month, we published more than 300 study summaries on the safety of glyphosate on our dedicated [transparency website](#). "

#### **Bayer CropScience has never been transparent in its life**

Formerly IG Farben, the private German chemicals company allied with the Nazis, that manufactured the [Zyklon B](#) gas used to commit genocide against millions of European Jews in the [Holocaust](#). It built a factory next to Auschwitz, Poland, so it could exploit Jewish slave labour in its oil and rubber production plant. In total, some 300,000 detainees from Auschwitz were employed in IG Farben's workforce, supplying the company with free labour. The company housed the workers in its own

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.cropscience-transparency.bayer.com/en/News/News-Bucket/2018/11/20181121-Glyphosate>

concentration camp, with the horrendous conditions there and in the factory leading to an estimated 30,000 deaths. On top of this, an unknown number of workers deemed unfit to continue working at the factory were sent to the death camp at Auschwitz. Alongside the brutal conditions of the labour camp, IG Farben also sanctioned drug experiments on live, healthy inmates. IG Farben was probably the most well-known corporate participant in the Holocaust, and the company's history sheds a chilling light on how genocide became tied in with economics and business.<sup>51</sup>

At the end of the war, after the Nuremberg Trials, the company itself was dissolved into three separate divisions, Hoescht, Bayer, and BASF. Monsanto was a firm created by the Rockefeller Foundation.<sup>52</sup> Monsanto partners with [I.G. Farben](#), makers of Bayer aspirin and the Third Reich's go-to chemical manufacturer producing deadly Zyklon-B gas during World War II.

### **The European Commission denied our claim that the registration of clothianidin was illegal**

One of our complaints to the European Ombudsman (1089/2012/BEH) was that clothianidin had been registered illegally, since its half-life in a range of soils was an average of 545 days with a maximum of 1386 days (Source: Footprint Database). According to the Directive on Plant Protection Products (EC) 1107/2009;<sup>53</sup> Annex II, page 43, persistence in the soil, approval should not be given if the half-life in soil is greater than 120 days ('based on half-life data collected under appropriate conditions, which shall be described by the applicant').

Michael Flüh, Head of Division, Pesticides and Biocides for the European Commission (a non-scientist and definitely **not** an expert on toxicology) replied on behalf of Commissioner John Dalli: "*The allegation as regards the illegality of the registration of clothianidin is strongly rejected. The assessment of clothianidin, carried out by a Rapporteur Member State (RMS) and peer reviewed by experts from all Member States concluded that safe uses of this substance exist.*"

### **In 2019, a large-scale survey from Switzerland of house sparrows feathers reveals ubiquitous presence of neonicotinoids in farmlands<sup>54</sup>**

*"We quantified neonicotinoids in 146 feather samples of house sparrows living on organic, integrated-production and conventional farms using UHPLC-MS/MS.*

*All samples were positive for neonicotinoids.*

*Thiacloprid was the most prevalent (99% of samples) and clothianidin attained the highest levels (up to 131.4 ppb). Feathers of birds living on conventional farms showed higher concentrations than in the other farms. Our results highlight the extent to which farmland birds are exposed to neonicotinoids, and hence the extent of contamination of our agroecosystems."*

[Clothianidin and Thiacloprid are manufactured by Bayer CropScience which bought Monsanto.](#)

### **The European Ombudsman has colluded with the European Pesticide Regulatory Authorities to poison humans and the environment, even in her own home country**

**Emily O'Reilly** was first elected as the European Ombudsman in July 2013. Following the European Parliament elections, she was re-elected for a five-year mandate in December 2014. As the European Ombudsman she investigates maladministration in the institutions and bodies of the European Union. For her work she was awarded the Schwarzkopf Europe Award in 2017.<sup>55</sup> She was a former journalist and broadcaster who had been appointed Irish Ombudsman and Information Commissioner in June 2003. When she went to Brussels she took her Irish Team with

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.newhistorian.com/ig-farben-opens-factory-at-auschwitz/3822/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-complete-history-of-monsanto-the-worlds-most-evil-corporation/5387964>

<sup>53</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:309:0001:0050:EN:PDF>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969719300749>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.nece-conference.eu/speaker/emily-oreilly/>

her. Her rejection of all my complaints of maladministration seem curious when it appears to be protecting the European Pesticides Regulatory Authorities.

### **Fine Gael Government supports the agriculture sector which uses many pesticides and biocides**

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) scientist Dr Deirdre Lynn is Ireland's representative under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. In the same way Irish biodiversity is not gone into, she says the convention *"does not get talked about until there is some catastrophe? We need to talk about it more because we rely on nature for everything,"* she insists.

So, the conference is an attempt to begin a big conversation, to get all players together to talk about nature, to reach all sectors and wider society and, especially, to consider solutions and commitments, adds Lynn, who is also chief architect of the National Biodiversity Plan.

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (her employer) does not own biodiversity nor is it a landowner, she points out, so opening dialogue is essential, especially with the agriculture sector, *"to ensure we consider nature in talking about 'progress'."*

That should include where we are going as a society in the context of climate change; changing farming practices and demographic trends.

Critically, degradation of Irish grasslands and peatlands, once home to many unique species, needs to be addressed, Lynn says, and the *"economic value of nature"* factored into accounting, and combined with a long-term view on impact especially when a sector is expanding.

*"I had expected the NPWS to be challenged on why so many of the promises in the National Peatlands Strategy were not being fulfilled. If our peatlands are so critical [as the chairman of the committee has proclaimed] why didn't he bother to turn up?"*

*"Why is the Fine Gael Government so quick to de-designate previously protected areas or furtively remove the need for planning permission for industrial peat extraction but stubbornly reluctant to implement conservation promises? As we struggle to address climate change and other environmental challenges where is the vision for restoring peatlands to all their glory? Who exactly is holding Minister [Josepha] Madigan to account?"*

### **Irish farmers don't have to face these issues alone**

Agriculture has provided Eire with food and income for thousands of years and it's a vital part of who we are. Before Ireland became a member of the European Union the country was almost totally economically dependent on farming but we now also have plenty of hi-tech industries and global exports to help support us.<sup>56</sup> Thankfully, being a Member State of the European Union means Irish farmers don't have to face these issues alone and can co-ordinate with the other EU nations through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to find solutions to global, as well as local, issues.

### **Women are in greater danger than men from exposure to agricultural pesticides.**

Sarah Marriott reports on the health risks<sup>57</sup>

Jane, in England, experienced nausea, breathlessness and chronic fatigue. Carmen, in Mexico, suffered from chills, weakness and disorientation. Another woman, in Pakistan, vomited as soon as she swallowed food. In California, Nora gave birth to a son without his left hand.

What do these women have in common? They were all exposed to agricultural pesticides. Many of us try to reduce the amount of chemicals we absorb and increasingly buy organic produce, but agricultural workers, particularly in developing countries, rarely have that luxury.

<sup>56</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/news/key-eu-policy-areas/agriculture\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/news/key-eu-policy-areas/agriculture_en)

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/caught-in-the-pesticide-trap-how-pesticides-are-used-in-ireland-1.349226>

Millions of tonnes of pesticides are used on crops around the world; on Costa Rica's banana plantations, it is estimated that 64 kg a worker was used in 1999. Many pesticides banned or restricted in industrialised countries are used in the developing world, and stores of obsolete chemicals continue to leak into the environment - affecting the soil, water, people and wildlife - and enter the food chain.

**APVMA allows clothianidin and Roundup to be applied to crops in low lying areas draining into the Great Barrier Reef even though both pesticides have Warning Labels: Toxic to aquatic invertebrates; do not contaminate water**

**The Great Barrier Reef has been poisoned largely by herbicides and long-acting insecticides**

Instructions for using Roundup Advance AG Herbicide by Monsanto include: "*Protection of Wildlife, Fish, Crustacea and Environment. Do not contaminate dam, river or stream with the product.*"<sup>58</sup>

Clothianidin (Sumitomo Shield a long-acting systemic neonicotinoid insecticide) has been granted registration by APVMA for use on very low-lying sugar cane plantations.

Instructions: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE, FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND ENVIRONMENT<sup>59</sup>

*DO NOT apply under weather conditions, or from spraying equipment, that may cause spray drift onto nearby or adjacent areas, particularly wetlands, water-bodies or watercourses. **This product is highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.** DO NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the chemical or used containers. DO NOT apply when there are aquatic and wetland areas including aquacultural ponds or surface streams and rivers downwind from the application area and within the mandatory no-spray zone shown in table 1.*

**The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) marred by political donations to Labor and the Coalition**<sup>60</sup>

The Greens dissenting report: "*The Greens are calling on the Coalition government to immediately order an independent, transparent and science-based inquiry into glyphosate to give Australians certainty about its safety, and call on Bayer to release all internal science. We are also calling on the government to immediately introduce legislation to reinstate the APVMA re-approval and re-registration scheme that was repealed in 2014.*"

In the 2017-18 financial year, Bayer donated \$40,600 to Labor and \$42,540 to the Coalition, with Croplife donating \$34,271 to Labor and \$22,300 to the Coalition. Information can be found [here](#).<sup>61</sup>

**Professor EO Wilson**

The eminent field entomologist from Harvard, who in his book *The Naturalist*, has documented massive global declines of ant colonies at the hand of man:

*"If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos."*

<sup>58</sup> <http://websvr.infopest.com.au/LabelRouter?LabelType=L&ProductCode=70096>

<sup>59</sup> [http://www.sumitomo-chem.com.au/sites/default/files/pdf/labels/shield\\_label.pdf](http://www.sumitomo-chem.com.au/sites/default/files/pdf/labels/shield_label.pdf)

<sup>60</sup>

[https://www.apvma.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural\\_and\\_Regional\\_Affairs\\_and\\_Transport/APVMA/Report](https://www.apvma.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/APVMA/Report)

<sup>61</sup> <https://periodicdisclosures.aec.gov.au>

**Critics say that Brussels is a city full of faceless institutions run by unelected Eurocrats spending taxpayer's money on what they will, while answerable to nobody**

The EU Ombudsman claims to run “An independent and *impartial* body, that holds the EU administration to account. It takes no orders from any government or other organisation.

*The cabinet team (90 staff) is responsible personally to the Ombudsman, working under her direct instruction. It advises and assists the Ombudsman to help ensure implementation of her vision, strategy and objectives. All cabinet members may accompany the Ombudsman on duty trips as requested, and may help draft speeches, presentations or reports as assigned.”*<sup>62</sup>

Rosemary Mason MB, ChB, FRCA

20 February 2019

---

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/office/staff>