

Press release - 1 december 2020

Unprecedented legal action to demand the immediate withdrawal of pesticides containing toxic substances hidden from users.

What if the danger of pesticides did not come only from the declared active substances (glyphosate, chlorpyrifos¹, etc.) ? A scientific study² unveiled at the end of October shows the presence of toxic substances hidden by manufacturers in 14 pesticides, which are presented as alternatives to glyphosate. On December 1, 9 associations launch an unprecedented legal action, and a citizen campaign named *'Toxic Secrets'*³, to demand the withdrawal of these 14 pesticides from the European market and to challenge the evaluation system of these products in France and in Europe.



Revelation: a scientific study proves the presence of toxic products not declared on the label of 14 pesticides

In October 2020, the latest study by Gilles-Eric Séralini and Gérald Jungers⁴ revealed that 14 herbicides contain arsenic, heavy metals and other toxic carcinogenic substances from the PAH family not declared on the labels.

Only the “declared active substance” gives rise to an evaluation of its long-term toxicity.

Researchers once again denounce the evaluation methods of pesticides. The study shows dangerous flaws in the evaluation systems of pesticides used in France and in Europe.

¹ https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2019/06/17/chlorpyrifos-les-dangers-ignores-d-un-pesticide-toxique_5477084_3244.htm

² Toxic compounds in herbicides without glyphosate Gilles-Eric Seralini ; Gérald Jungers Food and Chemical Toxicology Volume 146, December 2020, 111770 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2020.111770>

³ <https://www.secretstoxiques.fr/english>

⁴ See note 2. The all raw data : <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2020.106564>

A complaint against X filed on December 1 for labeling fraud, endangering the life of others and damaging the environment.

This time it is by relying on justice that the associations wish to defend the health of citizens, consumers and farmers. 9 associations lodged their complaints on December 1 at the health center of the Paris judicial court:

- complaint against X for labeling fraud, endangering the life of others and damage to the environment;
- complaint against the French State for faulty deficiencies.

The associations, supported by thousands of citizens, want the outright withdrawal of these products as soon as possible, and the condemnation of those responsible.

Finally, they also demand that the systems for evaluating pesticides at French and European level be called into question.

To properly assess the risks associated with the use of pesticides, European regulations have recognized since 2009⁵ the need for an assessment of the full composition. This work has apparently not been done for these 14 pesticides since only the "active ingredient" and a few other harmless substances are declared on the labels. Scientists were only able to analyze the complete composition of 14 products⁶ : how many more, used every day, contain hidden chemicals, yet already recognized as dangerous to human health and biodiversity ?

PRESS CONTACT

- François Veillerette - Spokesperson Générations futures +33 (0) 6 81 64 65 58
- Dominique Masset - Co-chair Campagne Glyphosate France +33 (0) 6 10 94 66 82
- Philippe Piard - Spokesperson Nature & Progrès - +33 (0) 6 74 15 76 25
- Manon Cretinon - Press secretary +33 (0) 6 32 81 44 52

An action supported by Marie-Monique Robin, Philippe Desbrosses and Jean-Paul Jaud.

Initiated by Campagne Glyphosate France, Générations Futures and Nature & Progrès

A complaint filed by Campagne Glyphosate France, Générations Futures, Nature & Progrès, Intelligence Verte, PIG BZH, ZEA, Bio Cohérence, Combat Monsanto, Agir pour l'environnement.

A campaign supported by ZEA, Combat Monsanto, PIG BZH, Confédération paysanne, Pollinis, Le Jeune Engagé, Intelligence Verte, Bio Cohérence, Consommateurs pas Cobayes, Agir pour l'environnement.



⁵ See : Judgement of the CJEU [1 october 2019](#)

⁶ The 9 distributors of the 14 pesticides are : MONSANTO TECHNOLOGY LCC, SCOTTS France SAS, JADE, COMPO France SAS, W. NEUDORFF GmbH Kg, BELCHIM CROP PROTECTION, TARGET SA, COMPO POLAND, SBM LIFE SCIENCE SAS & BROSS SP Zo.o.sp.k