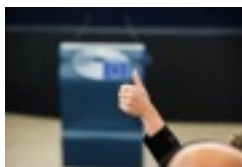




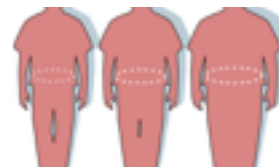
EP VOTE ON
GLYPHOSATE'S LICENSE



EP VOTE ON ANIMAL
CLONING



PLASTIC CONTAINERS IN THE
FOOD INDUSTRY



CONFERENCE ON OBESITY

SAFE Safe Food
Advocacy Europe
Striving for Safer Food for European Consumers

NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

A very warm welcome back to all our members after the summer holidays. In our September newsletter we are pleased to bring you the latest on the European Parliament's vote to **ban cloned animal meat within the EU and from third countries**, ENVI's vote against an **objection to extend glyphosate's license**, EFSA's launch of a **public consultation on food contact materials**, and SAFE's report on the **Obesity and Overweight conference** which took place on 3rd September 2015 in Brussels.

Information on **EU projects and forthcoming Events** can be found at the end of the newsletter.

We look forward to hearing back from you as always.

Enjoy reading.

Yours,

Floriana Cimmarusti
Secretary General of SAFE

Vote in the European Parliament for Glyphosate's License

On 15 September 2015, a small majority of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) of the Environment and Public Health committee (ENVI) voted against an objection



to a 6 month extension of glyphosate's license. Glyphosate's authorisation is due to be renewed before 31st December 2015 and

an extension has been suggested by the European Commission(EC) until the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) completes its peer review of glyphosate's initial risk assessment.

Based on rule 106, ENVI rapporteur **Kateřina Konečn** (Greens) attempted to block the above proposal and suggested instead to withdraw glyphosate from European markets if not re-authorised by the end of the year. The motion was rejected by 25 votes in favour, 32 votes against and 10 abstentions.

Background

Glyphosate is a world renowned chemical herbicide. In 1974, US agribusiness company Monsanto led the way in making glyphosate the active substance of its weedkiller Roundup. Today the latter is the most produced glyphosate based herbicide and is sold alongside Monsanto's glyphosate resistant Roundup Ready crops. Roundup is marketed as a cheap non toxic alternative and commonly used in farming, public spaces and gardens worldwide

Glyphosate was last approved for use in the European Union in 2002. As part of the re-authorization process, Germany, the rapporteur member state for glyphosate produced an initial risk assessment, written by its Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Bfr) in 2014.

There is a deepening controversy over the serious health impacts of glyphosate, especially in formulated chemicals like Roundup. Exposure to the herbicide has been looked at in a number of test labs on animals and peer reviewed epidemiological studies on farmers. These identified glyphosate as an agent that may cause cancer, DNA mutations and disruptions to the hormonal system and balance of intestinal flora.

To cite a few examples, low doses of glyphosate (10⁻¹² to 10⁻⁶ M, which were levels found in Swansea tap water in 2013) have been shown to increase proliferation of hormone dependent human breast cancer

cells. A systematic review spanning 25 years comprising data from high income countries, points to occupational exposure to glyphosate and other agricultural pesticides as potential pathways to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Other conditions associated with glyphosate include prostate, lung, thyroid liver and brain cancers in farmer and test animals.

There are some indications of links to neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Autism due to the herbicide interacting with aluminium to disrupt the gut barrier. Correlations have also been found with chronic diseases such as diabetes, respiratory illnesses, end stage renal failure, kidney failure, hypertension and stroke.

South American research on humans and animals presents evidence that glyphosate can cause malfunctioning of the reproductive system leading to birth malformations like neural tube defect, infertility etc.

Finally, a multiple country study in the European Union found glyphosate urine residues in 44% of its study sample. Acceptable daily intake (ADI) for glyphosate in the region is 0.3 mg glyphosate per kilo of bodyweight per day. 1% of absorbed glyphosate allegedly remains in the body a week after a single exposure. Yet glyphosate's use is so intense nowadays that its presence in the air, water feeds and food may put ordinary EU citizens at risk of accumulation through low doses. This is particularly worrying considering that tests for glyphosate residues in foods and humans are rare. Furthermore, the current ADI was itself inferred from industry toxicity test on lab animals a decade ago which only tested high doses of pure glyphosate. In other words safety levels do not account for long term exposure to low doses nor the toxicity of complex formulations.

Adverse environmental effects of glyphosate on top of its health consequences have also been recorded over the years. There is