

Brussels, 17 July 2023

SAFE strongly opposes the re-approval of glyphosate in EU

After the **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) sent to the European Commission its conclusion on the peer review of the risk assessment of glyphosate** on 6 July 2023, stating that it did not identify “critical areas of concern”, the Commission is planning to fully re-approve the use of the substance in the EU.

The Commission is preparing a **proposal for the substance to be re-approved** without restrictions by member States for its use in the European Union. The Commission presented a draft renewal report to national representatives at the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed (SCOPAFF) last week.

The draft relies on the conclusion presented by EFSA, which nonetheless had identified “**data gaps.**” These data gaps lead to the **impossibility of finalising several issues, including a dietary risk assessment for consumers.** This means that the potential re-approval of glyphosate would be based on an evaluation that failed to include a crucial aspect: evidence demonstrating that consumers’ health is not at risk. The omission appears even more concerning as EFSA itself admits, with respect to ecotoxicology, that the data package identified a **high long-term risk to mammals in 12 out of 23 proposed uses of glyphosate.**

Other outstanding issues that were not fully investigated due to data gaps are the assessment of one of the impurities in glyphosate and the assessment of risks to aquatic plants.

Glyphosate, the primary component in the most extensively employed pesticides worldwide, was granted approval last time for use in the European Union in 2017 for a limited period of five years, with an extension for additional 12 months last December (expiring in December 2023). **A full reapproval would grant the use of the substance in the EU for the next 15 years.**

No to the re-approval of glyphosate

SAFE reminds that glyphosate was classified as a “**probable carcinogen**” for humans by the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** in 2015. Numerous scientific studies have demonstrated the contamination and negative effects of glyphosate on living organisms.

In light of that, re-approval of the substance absolutely cannot take place without proof that it is not harmful to human health and the environment. When faced with a lack of data, it is essential to apply the precautionary principle, prioritising the well-being of consumers and the environment.

Transparency is another significant concern surrounding the assessment. According to reports,



the re-approval of glyphosate's license is now expected in **September**. Yet, **the complete EFSA document will not be disclosed until October**, hindering the possibility of a constructive scientific and public debate on the Authority's conclusions.

SAFE strongly opposes the re-approval of glyphosate, urging the European Commission to reconsider its position, and advocates for a re-evaluation of the risk assessment by EFSA, which should address the data gaps, prioritise consumer safety, and conduct a thorough dietary risk assessment.

In light of the mounting evidence on glyphosate's potential harm to human health and the environment, it is imperative that institutions take a proactive and precautionary approach to protect public well-being.

About SAFE

SAFE – *Safe Food Advocacy Europe* was created with the aim of ensuring that consumer's health and concerns remain at the core of the EU's food legislation. SAFE is currently the only Brussels-based NGO specialised in the protection and representation of EU consumers in the food sector. SAFE strives to ensure safer food standards for consumers monitoring the EU food legislation process and cooperating with EU stakeholders to draft comprehensive food regulations. SAFE notably supports the development of policies and awareness-raising actions which jointly address health, environment, food safety and sustainability, all-the-while being involved in several EU-funded projects aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the food sector, increasing sustainability and promoting healthier food environments for consumers.