

French glyphosate-based pesticide ban positive but insufficient

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Following the decision of a French Administrative Court of Appeal to cancel the renewal of two glyphosate-based products, SAFE states its support for the content of the ruling but regrets that it will not make a tangible difference for consumers, due to gaps in EU regulation.

Deputy director Luigi Tozzi said: *“Although we support this ruling, the current EU regulation on pesticides, sadly, leaves no room for optimism. Food production using glyphosate-based pesticides can be sold everywhere in the internal market, because member states have discretion over pesticide use in their countries. This creates a vulnerability in the food chain, even in the countries that have decided to ban glyphosate.”*

SAFE has always advocated for a ban of glyphosate in the EU — a “probable carcinogen”, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) — and stood against its re-approval in 2023, a decision based on old rules of risk assessment, and lacking a dietary risk assessment for consumers.

Luigi Tozzi said: *“Member states can still invoke derogations even for banned pesticides, claiming ‘exceptional circumstances’. This is a loophole and it needs to be corrected.”*

SAFE believes these legal gaps are in contradiction with the aims of the Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR), a part of the European Green New Deal, aiming to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% in 2030.

The appeal in front of the French court was carried by Générations Futures, a member of Pesticide Action Network Europe.

About SAFE: SAFE is the only Brussels-based European Consumer Organization 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, while at the same time 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.