

Key study that led to EU glyphosate authorization withdrawn by top scientific journal

Brussels, 4 December

The study used as the basis for the risk assessment leading to the first authorization of herbicide glyphosate in the EU in 2002 has been retracted by the scientific journal that published it initially. The journal *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* has decided to withdraw the study published 25 years ago, after evidence has emerged that it may have been drafted by the staff of Monsanto, the main producer of glyphosate-based herbicide *RoundUp*.

Glyphosate is a neurotoxic chemical, causing liver and kidney toxicity, and a “probable carcinogen”, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). SAFE has always advocated for a ban on glyphosate in the EU. In 2023, SAFE stood against its authorization for another 10 years.

SAFE has always said that the authorization process of glyphosate in the EU had been seriously compromised by the pesticide industry. The very scientific journal that published the initial study has now confirmed our worst fears: that the scientists who signed the initial study used for risk assessment were not independent and even received financial compensation from Monsanto. Monsanto wrote the risk assessment about their own product with their own data.

In SAFE's view, this is simply a scandal.

Earlier this month SAFE had joined an [open letter with over 130 other organisations](#), requesting the European Commission to improve the implementation of EU pesticide legislation, originally designed to ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment.

The letter denounced that “*the pesticide industry puts pressure on the European Commission and influences guidance documents, to the extent companies are even permitted to submit their own toxicity studies to support the safety of their products.*”

SAFE believes that European citizens must be protected from the dangers of

glyphosate-based pesticides in our food and in the environment, especially the most vulnerable, like children. The bans on certain glyphosate-based products by different courts in countries across Europe are good news, but they don't solve the problem in the EU. Glyphosate should be banned entirely and all temporary derogations on all dangerous pesticides must be removed, too.

About SAFE

SAFE – Safe Food Advocacy Europe was created with the aim of ensuring that consumers' 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.