

PRESS RELEASE

French NGO deplures unacceptable management of dozens of pesticides approvals...with supporting evidence

Paris, 23 April 2013 – French non-governmental organisation, Générations Futures has condemned serious irregularities in pesticide authorizations in France. As a result of this negligence, more than forty dangerous pesticides have been allowed to remain on the market when they should have been forbidden or restricted.

Supported by their review based on concrete data, Générations Futures plans to file a complaint against the French government for “endangering the life of others”. A demand will be made to the Ministry of Agriculture that problematic approvals are withdrawn and an appeal will be lodged for “wrongful failure to act” by the State.

The facts: Générations Futures recently received a copy of a letter from Marc Mortureux, Director of ANSES (French National Safety Agency for food, the environment and the workplace) which was addressed to Patrick Dehaumont, Director of DGAL (Directorate General for Food) at the French Ministry of Agriculture. In the letter, dated 27 August 2012, the ANSES Director reiterated remarks already made in a previous letter sent in 2009. In particular, he drew the attention of DGAL to "anomalies" in a large number of pesticides approvals.

Serious irregularities: Having carefully reviewed the letter and especially the tables contained in annexes, Generations Futures was able to show that DGAL was only rarely taking into account advice made by ANSES. This results in many pesticides, or pesticide uses, being allowed against the recommendations of ANSES on the basis of legislation currently in force.

Questions: In view of these findings, Generations Futures is seeking a parliamentary inquiry and meanwhile awaits early clarification from the Ministry of Agriculture on the following questions:

- Why does DGAL uphold pesticide approvals for products that have obtained an unfavorable opinion from ANSES?
- Similarly, why does DGAL maintain approvals even when a new review has been published by ANSES?
- Why does DGAL take so long to answer the important questions raised by ANSES – or indeed not respond at all?

"Given this scandalous situation, we urge the Minister of Agriculture to take the necessary measures: to suspend or immediately withdraw all pesticides approvals for which there are irregularities or non-compliance, to publish in full cases of non-compliance with legal requirements, and to urgently establish a parliamentary commission of inquiry on pesticides approvals. We also request that future decisions on pesticide approvals should be made not only by the agriculture minister but also by the ministry of environment and the ministry of health," says Francois Veillerette, spokesperson for Générations Futures. "It is now high time to improve transparency in the management of pesticide approvals. This is necessary for the protection of citizens, consumers, farmers and the environment. In the mean time, my association has decided to file a complaint on the basis of 'endangering the lives of others'. Other actions will be filed against the State for 'wrongful failure to act' as well as requests for the withdrawal of irregular pesticide approvals," he concludes.

Link to the press release(in French) and press coverage:<http://www.generations-futures.fr/pesticides/pesticides-une-gestion-inacceptable-des-amm/>

Link to the full report: http://www.generations-futures.fr/2011generations/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Pesticides_anomalies_des_AMM_230413_final.pdf (in French)

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