

Pesticides and Health E-News

A news summary brought to you by the Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL) as part of the Sick of Pesticides Campaign



SUMMER 2010

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International pesticides developments

Revision of the EU biocides law. On 22nd June, the European Parliament's Environment (ENVI) Committee [voted](#) on the European Commission's proposal to revise the current EU Biocides law, with some gains for better public health protection. The whole European Parliament now need to vote on these changes in autumn.

HEAL, along with other NGOs, issued a [press release](#) after the ENVI vote. We welcomed the improvements – such as recognising the need to better protect vulnerable groups, and better assessment of the cumulative effects of biocides. However, we remain concerned about remaining loopholes. Read more about [NGO activities](#).

EU and US action on cancer. On 6th May, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU Partnership for Action against Cancer. Parliamentarians highlighted the need to acknowledge the growing body of science pointing to the links between chemical pollution in our environment and work settings, and Europe's high rates of cancer. [Read more...](#)

Meanwhile in the US, environmental factors on cancer risk were also debated with the release of a report by the **US President's cancer panel**. The panel was particularly concerned to find that the true burden of environmentally induced cancer has been grossly underestimated. [Read more...](#)

UK Consultation on the implementation of European pesticides legislation. HEAL, alongside other groups ([ChemTrust](#), [CPES](#), [PAN UK](#), [Soil Association](#) and [Georgina Downs](#)) contributed to the consultation on the UK's National Pesticide Action Plan - we advocated its support for pesticide-free areas - such as schools and nurseries. The Government will now publish the results in the coming months (we'll keep you posted).

Latest reports and science

“Review of the role pesticides play in some cancers: children, farmers and pesticide users at risk?” A new [report](#) from [ChemTrust](#) provides an overview of data linking exposure to pesticides with certain cancers, and research showing the association between pesticide exposure and childhood cancer. The report also gives information on cancer causes, the legal context and conclusions.

The authors' recommendations include that unnecessary use of pesticides should be avoided, and that significant pesticide use reduction should be achieved through integrated pest management.

A guide for the sustainable use of pesticides. The Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) has published “[NAP Best practice: Sustainable use of pesticides: implementing a National Action Plan](#)”. The guide provides examples on how some EU member states have already taken action on certain aspects of the National Action Plans and demonstrates that it is possible to make ambitious changes. It also demonstrates how to target health in the national action plans, and provides examples of countries that have already implemented pesticide free public spaces.

New guide on cancer and the environment. A new pocket book from the Belgian organisation, [Foundation against Cancer](#), takes an in-depth look at environmental influences on cancers - from pesticides to plastics. The guide is part of a series of guides about cancer and is available in [French](#) and [Dutch](#).

Sick of Pesticides campaign

- *Where are we now?*

HEAL's Sick of Pesticides campaign is a Europe-wide initiative working to raise awareness of the links between pesticides and cancer. We aim to put pressure on governments to encourage them to set up an ambitious National Action Plan for Pesticide Reduction and to help citizens and public bodies rapidly reduce their dependence on pesticides.

Workshops on Pesticides and Health this autumn! We are organising workshops on pesticides and health in our new campaign countries - the Netherlands, Belgium and Hungary. We aim to bring together health professionals, health affected groups and NGOs to discuss the National Action Plans and establish how best to make concerns heard. We'll keep you posted on all of the above – but for the latest news, visit the website www.pesticidescancer.eu. New websites for the countries will be launched in August!

What's happening in your country with national pesticide action plans? As our Sick of Pesticides campaign gathers momentum, we're keen to hear about the preparations in your country on national pesticide action plans. *Please keep us posted and find out how HEAL's Sick of Pesticides campaign can support your activities – you can email anne@env-health.org.*

More info & articles on pesticides and health

Science

- [Household Insecticides Appear In Umbilical Cord Blood](#)
- [Association of French doctors launches an investigation into the pesticide levels in French tap-water.](#) (article in French).
- [Organophosphate Pesticides Linked to ADHD](#)
- [Outlawed Insecticide Linked to Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Farm pesticides linked to skin cancer](#) (The Ecologist)
- [New research links pesticides to higher melanoma risk](#) (H&E online)

International news on pesticides

- EU: HEAL's [Latest Pesticides policy update from the EU](#)
- Armenia: [Emergency situation on burial of obsolete pesticides](#) (WECF)
- [New York Passes Ban on School Pesticides](#) (Organic Consumers)
- [U.S. to phase out endosulfan](#) (PAN North America)
- [California set to approve methyl iodide](#) (PAN North America)

N.B. You can now follow the Sick of Pesticides campaign on Facebook & Twitter!

Sick of Pesticides Campaign

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P.S. This month our Facebook page expanded to 360 followers! With lots of discussions every week, it's a great way to follow the pesticides and health debate, and to find out how you can contribute to the reduction of pesticide use in the UK and abroad. Join the [Facebook debate!](#)

Sick of Pesticides Campaign is run by the Health and Environment Alliance, an NGO working at EU level to raise awareness of how environmental protection improves health. We achieve this by creating opportunities for better representation of citizens' and health experts' perspectives in the environment and health-related European policy-making. www.pesticidescancer.eu