

Pesticides and Health E-News

A monthly news summary brought to you by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) as part of the Sick of Pesticides Campaign. FEBRUARY 2010



HEAL's action on Pesticides

Sick of Pesticides campaign expands to 3 more countries

The health impacts of pesticides and biocides, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children, continue to be of high concern on the agenda of the European Union. As countries develop their pesticide reduction plans, **HEAL will expand our *Sick of Pesticides* campaign from France and the UK to Belgium, the Netherlands and Hungary.** Working with national health and environment organisations, the new campaigns will highlight the adverse health effects of pesticides and provide educational, advocacy and legal tools for local health groups, schools and farmers to get involved in policy change.

We'll keep you posted on our progress, but for the most up-to-date information please visit the campaign website. www.pesticidescancer.eu. Please let us know if you're interested in working together with us.

Pesticide 'victims' fight for justice

On 19th January, as part of the French [Victimes des pesticides](#) campaign, **HEAL and member organisation MDRGF launched a support network for victims of pesticide poisoning.** The launch, held in Poitiers, France, brought together farmers from throughout the country whose health has been affected by pesticides - some gave powerful testimonials about their illnesses. The UK Ecologist published an article about the "victimes de pesticides" network – [Pesticides and cancer: victims fight for justice, 4 Feb 2010](#).

HEAL and PAN UK survey of cancer-linked pesticides in schools was featured in the UK media. The HEAL and Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK survey on pesticide levels in UK schools (features in last month's e-news) has been picked up well in the UK media - [see more here](#).

- If you missed the survey last month, the snapshot of English, Welsh and Scottish school authorities also revealed that 7 of the pesticides used in schools may have other serious negative health impacts. You can find the survey and the press release on the [Sick of Pesticides website](#). The full report will soon be available in French.

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Campaign website:
www.Pesticidescancer.eu

Email:
info@env-health.org

Belgian group wins campaign to increase access to information on pesticides

In early February, Inter Wallonie, a Belgian environment and health NGO and HEAL member won their case with the Belgian authorities to make information about which quantities of active substances are used in which pesticide products available to the public. Read more [here](#).

In defense of citizens' voices

French courts rule in favour of environment group's legal suit on pesticides in wine

HEAL member, Mouvement pour le Droit et la Respect des Generations Futures [MDRGF](#) emerged vindicated on Wednesday (10th) from their battle with French wine growers over pesticide residues found in supermarket wines.

In a study released in early 2008, [MDRGF](#) uncovered evidence that wines on sale in French supermarkets may contain residues of a large number of pesticides.

The full report was made available on the MDRGF website and reported widely in the French media. The challenge from the Federation nationale des producteurs de raisins de table (FNPRT) came in February 2009 when it accused the NGO of "dénigrement" (defamation). They sued MDRGF for 500,000 Euros in damages due to loss of sales. This amount represents five times MDRGF's annual budget.

After months in court, last Wednesday's ruling concluded that the MDRGF report on pesticide residues in super-market wines was justifiable in the interests of freedom of speech and public information.

- Read [French MEP Corinne Lepage's article](#) published in the Parliament Magazine.

EU pesticide policy update

On 23 February, the European Parliament's Environment Committee (ENVI) will discuss rapporteur's Christa Klass draft report on the Revision of the EU Biocides Law. In their Council meeting in December, European Union's Environment Ministers stressed the criteria for excluding certain hazardous biocides for environmental reasons should be strengthened. The ENVI Committee is scheduled to vote on its report on 26 April.

On the 10th February the UK government launched a public consultation on the implementation of the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. HEAL welcomes this consultation as it could help to create a new approach to pesticide management in the UK, especially when it comes to establishing pesticide-free areas. Many UK campaign partners will be responding to the consultation.

Nick Mole, Policy Officer from the Pesticide Action Network UK says, "This is a huge opportunity to change the way pesticide use is regulated in the UK. The Government have laid out a number of options and it is now up to the public to make their voices heard on the issue." Read [PAN UK's response to the consultation](#)

Sick of Pesticides Campaign

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More information and articles on pesticides and health:


Articles

- [Campaigners call on pesticides manufacturer to withdraw the most hazardous chemicals](#)
- [Pesticides are a leading cause of death in Bangladesh Bt Brinjal Cleared Without Proper Tests](#)
- What's up with organic cotton? [Greenpeace weblog](#)

Reports

- [Food crisis 'hidden' from public say campaigners](#). Government is talking about issues like food security, climate change and oil dependency but failing to take the 'inconvenient' but necessary action says the Soil Association
- [Examining DDT's health effects](#)
- Pesticide Action Network: [New reports on pesticide use & food residues](#)

P.S.

- **Don't forget the Week Without Pesticides is coming up - 20th - 30th March!**
Read more [here](#)
-  For the latest updates of the Sick of Pesticides campaign, follow us on [Twitter](#)



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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