



BRUSSELS, 30 October 2019

To: Ministers of Environment, Ministers of Health and Ministers of Agriculture of the European Union

Subject: Voice your support to non-renewal of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you today to ask you to protect health, especially those of developing babies and young children, **by voting for a non-renewal of the approval of the active substances chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl on 6 December** during the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCOPE) meeting [1]. The evidence supporting this health protection case is substantial.

Secondly, prior to this vote, we encourage you to **express publicly your support of the non-renewal** of both substances and any measures you intend to take to **expedite their complete withdrawal from your national markets**, such as [Denmark](#) and [Malta](#) have already done.

On behalf of our 80 member associations across Europe, including cancer leagues, doctors associations, public health and research institutes, patient groups and environmental groups, **the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) welcomes these draft regulations as an urgent public health interventions that will finally protect children's health from these neurotoxic and endocrine disrupting pesticides** which are still widely used in the EU. HEAL has developed some educational visuals and infographics on why such a ban is necessary (in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)) and a joint [EU petition](#) with SumOfUs in 4 languages has already been signed by over 213,000 citizens.

The European Food and Safety Agency (EFSA) recognises the compelling body of scientific evidence on the toxicity of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl. In two statements published earlier in August [2], it concluded that **"the approval criteria which are applicable to human health as laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 are not met"**. This triggered the proposal for non-renewal of approval for both substances from the European Commission.

Exposure to chlorpyrifos has been linked to **decreased IQ, with a high toll for European children** that was estimated at **2,5 IQ points loss** in a scientific publication [3]. Other serious health concerns linked to this pesticide include **working memory loss, development of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders among children, even at low levels of environmental exposures**. Many studies point at chlorpyrifos as a **thyroid hormone disruptor**, while it has also been associated with **metabolic disturbances, breast and lung cancers, and male infertility** [4]. Although chlorpyrifos-methyl is less documented than chlorpyrifos, epidemiological studies based on their common metabolites bring the same level of evidence of harm.

According to EU official monitoring data, chlorpyrifos is widely present in fruits sold on the EU market, irrespective of the status of national authorisations [5]. Therefore, **banning both chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl provides an opportunity to show citizens that Europe can play an important role to protect the health of children today and that of future generations**. The EU would join the state of California and Thailand who are also considering bans for early 2020.

Should you have any questions, we would be happy to assist you. We look forward to hearing back from you on your position before the upcoming vote on 6 December.

Yours sincerely,

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The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL's over 70 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.

HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96

References:

[1] The two draft Commission Implementing Regulations concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substances [chlorpyrifos](#) and [chlorpyrifos-methyl](#) were presented as [agenda items C.04 and C.05 in ScoPAFF meeting](#) of 21-22 October, 2019.

[2] Statement on the available outcomes of the human health assessment in the context of the pesticides peer review of the active substance chlorpyrifos <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/efsajournal/pub/5809> and Statement on the available outcomes of the human health assessment in the context of the pesticides peer review of the active substance chlorpyrifos-methyl <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/fr/efsajournal/pub/5810>

[3] *Neurobehavioral Deficits, Diseases, and Associated Costs of Exposure to Endocrine -Disrupting Chemicals in the European Union*. Martine Bellanger, Barbara Demeneix, Philippe Grandjean, R. Thomas Zoeller and Leonardo Trasande. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*, April 2015, 100(4):1256–1266. [doi: 10.1210/jc.2014-4323](#).

[4] Clearing our plates from toxic pesticides – A webinar trilogy making the health case for a ban on chlorpyrifos <https://www.env-health.org/available-for-download-recordings-and-presentations-from-our-series-of-webinars-on-chlorpyrifos/>

[5] *Chlorpyrifos residues in fruits, the case for a EU-wide ban to protect consumers*, published June 2019 by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Pesticide Action Network Europe. https://www.env-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/June-2019-PAN-HEAL-Briefing-chlorpyrifos_web.pdf