

Dear Policymaker,

The European Union will soon vote on the approval of the herbicide Glyphosate.

The decision on whether or not to approve is of the utmost importance. For farmers around the EU, for whom Glyphosate is an essential and established part of sustainable and productive agriculture.

For the 26,000 people working in Europe's crop protection industry, who get out of bed every day to make a positive difference to people's lives.

For everyone involved in the rigorous scientific process that Member States and MEPs endorsed, back in 2009, to ensure that the pesticides that are placed on the market in the EU are safe.

This system is the only means by which the approval of pesticide products should be judged. The rules laid down for approval quite rightly do not take in to account the image of an industry, but instead set-out a rigorous and robust set of scientific rules.

Given the magnitude of the decision, we ask you to put aside the heat, noise and column inches the topic garners, and instead put your trust in Europe's world-leading scientific regulatory system. By focusing on the facts:

- Glyphosate is one of the most established herbicides on the market, having been widely used since 1974. It is manufactured by a number of pesticide companies.
- Over this time, 90,000 pages of evidence, 3,300 peer reviewed studies have been undertaken into the safety of Glyphosate.
- The European regulatory authorities (EFSA, ECHA) as well as many other scientific bodies around the world consider glyphosate to be safe.
- All studies considered by the European regulatory authorities are reviewed according to OECD guidelines.

We can claim to be living longer, healthier lives than anywhere else in the world or at any point in history. Yet you might think from following the debate on glyphosate that the opposite is the case.

Calling into question the approval process only serves to undermine consumer confidence in the EU food safety system, to the benefit of no one.

Please don't allow emotion to let us slowly undermine our regulatory process and sleep-walk into a food production crisis in Europe.

