



13 March 2006

Subject: Input for the Environment Committee debate on pesticides: Better protection of vulnerable groups, in particular children, is needed against the health effects of pesticides.

Dear XXX:

The Environment Committee of the European Parliament is currently debating a Regulation, a Directive and a Communication on the Thematic Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. We are concerned that the debate and decisions taken will not adequately reflect recent scientific findings in this area.

In this context, the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) and Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN-E) have produced a briefing and a poster entitled "Cut back on pesticides for healthier lives" that you will find enclosed.

The briefing and the poster aim to support our concerns regarding the insufficient protection of vulnerable groups in the current proposals, with the latest scientific evidence on the health impacts of pesticides.

Our key policy proposals to improve this alarming situation can be summarised as follows:

- 1) **Pesticide use reduction and promotion of organic farming** and Integrated Pest Management in the new Directive for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides;
- 2) **Exclusion of unacceptable active ingredients** (cut-off criteria) in Article 4 and Annex II of Pesticides Regulation;
- 3) **Comparative assessment and substitution** by less hazardous substances or non-chemical alternatives in Article 48 and Annex II of Pesticides Regulation;
- 4) **Protection of vulnerable groups** against combination effects of pesticides in Article 4 and Annex II of Pesticides Regulation;
- 5) **Regular evaluation and monitoring of pesticides** in Article 14 of the Pesticides Regulation;
- 6) **Inclusion of newly identified effects and review of scientific literature** in Article 4 and Annex II of Pesticides Regulation.

Most of these demands were echoed by the two European Parliament resolutions regarding the Commission report "Evaluation of PPP of Council Directive 91/414/EEC on the placing of PPP on the market" and the Commission Communication "Towards a thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides".

Progress made with this legislative process will determine the level of health protection afforded by pesticide regulation in Europe for the coming decades. We trust you and your political group will endeavor to put in place a Thematic Strategy that reduces use and risks associated to pesticides, and strives for a better protection of children and future generations against the hazardous effects of pesticides.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you further our suggestions for strengthening the current proposals from the Commission.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sofia Parente', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Sofia Parente
Coordinator, Pesticides Action Network
Europe (PAN-E)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Genon Jensen', consisting of a large, stylized initial 'G' followed by the name.

Genon Jensen
Executive Director, Health &
Environment Alliance (HEAL)