



European Economic and Social Committee
Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment

A thematic debate in the framework of the NAT Section meeting
European Citizens' Initiative "Ban glyphosate"

5 April 2017 – 11:30-13:00
EESC – JDE 62 conference room

Watch the debate live: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.nat-section-spotlight.41946>

A European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) has been recently launched to call on European Commission to propose a ban on glyphosate-based herbicides, "exposure to which has been linked to cancer in humans, and has led to ecosystems degradation" according to the ECI organisers. The Initiative also calls for "a reform of the pesticide approval procedure, and for EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use." So far, nearly 580,000 people have signed the petition according to the ECI organisers.¹

The WHO has classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic". On the other hand, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) have dismissed scientific statements that possibly would be demonstrating that the weed killer glyphosate could cause cancer.^{2, 3}

If the ECI⁴ receives the support of a million people from at least seven member states, the Commission will be obliged to consider a legislative response and provide justification for its decision.

The EESC debate will be moderated by Mr Brendan BURNS, NAT Section president, with the participation of:

- Ms Franziska ACHTERBERG
EU Food Policy Director – Greenpeace: promoter of the ECI (10 min)
- Mr Michael FLUEH
Head of Unit of the "Pesticides and biocides" unit - DG Health and Food Safety (7 min)
- Mr Graeme TAYLOR⁵
Director of Public Affairs - ECPA - the European Crop Protection Association (7 min)
- Mr Oliver MOORE
Communications Director - ARC2020 (7 min)
- Mr Pekka PESONEN
Secretary General - Copa Cogeca (7 min)

¹ <https://stopglyphosate.org/>

² <https://stopglyphosate.org/>

³ <http://www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/en/News/2017/European-citizens-initiative-ECI-stop-glyphosate/>

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/initiatives/open/details/2017/000002>

⁵ <http://www.monsanto.com/glyphosate/pages/default.aspx>,
<http://www.ecpa.eu/>