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European Commission

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Brussels, 11 May 2022

Dear Minister, *dear Julien*

I write with regards to the ongoing procedure for the assessment of whether the approval of glyphosate can be renewed in the light of the recent announcement by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) indicating that more time is needed to deliver the EFSA Conclusion on the risk assessment.

I would first like to recall that the current approval of glyphosate expires on 15 December 2022 and that a decision on whether the approval can be renewed or not will depend on the outcome of the scientific assessments being carried out by EFSA and ECHA in collaboration with the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG of which France is a member) and the other Member States. The final Conclusion that will be delivered by EFSA will thus be the key element for the Commission's decision.

While I am concerned about the delay for completion of the scientific reviews and the consequences this will have on the overall renewal process, I take note of the very high number of comments received during the public consultation on the draft Renewal Assessment Report and on the AGG's proposal for harmonised classification and labelling under the CLP Regulation. Although it is regrettable that the overall process will take longer, we can be encouraged by the high level of interest in this assessment and the active participation in the public consultation.

The additional time will be required for processing and following up on the evaluation of additional information that was requested from the applicant by EFSA. The AGG has in particular indicated that it requires significantly more time and resources to submit an updated assessment to EFSA to enable the continuation of the peer review process. As a consequence, EFSA has informed as that there will be a delay in the delivery of its Conclusion on glyphosate.

You will agree with me that ensuring an objective and robust peer review process in which all information, comments and views are thoroughly considered and documented in a

Mr Julien DENORMANDIE
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transparent way is essential to ensuring that the outcome of the assessment is accepted by stakeholders and the Commission's final decision is based on high quality scientific advice.

The delay announced by the Agencies means that a decision on renewal cannot be finalised before the existing approval period expires and therefore an extension to the current approval period will be necessary to allow for the completion of the review. In fact, such an extension is required by Article 17 of the plant protection products Regulation as the reasons for the delay are beyond the control of the applicant for renewal of approval.

I encourage France in its role as a member of the AGG to continue its constructive and highly valuable work with the Agencies to ensure that the EFSA Conclusion on the risk assessment for glyphosate are delivered to the Commission and Member States as quickly as possible.

I would also like to inform you that I have asked the Agencies to notify the Commission without delay, at any stage during the ongoing procedures, if they consider that there is evidence to confirm that the approval criteria laid down in the plant protection products Regulation are no longer fulfilled. In such a case, the Commission will not hesitate to take immediate remedial action.

I again would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the French authorities for the high- quality scientific work on glyphosate and for continued commitment to ensuring a smooth renewal process.

Yours sincerely,