



Commissioner Stella Kyriakides
European Commission
Health and Food Safety

Subject – update on the timeline for the glyphosate ongoing re-assessment

Dear Commissioner,

We refer to the letter sent to you on 14 December 2021, in which the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) outlined the outcome of the parallel consultations on glyphosate and the developments related to the timeline of the ongoing assessments. Given that all the comments and the new information submitted through the consultations have been assessed and commented on by the parties involved in the assessments, we are in the position to update you on the next steps.

ECHA can confirm that the classification of glyphosate will be discussed during the 61st Plenary meeting of ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) where it is scheduled for discussion on 30th and 31st May 2022 and where the RAC aims to adopt the opinion. The opinion will be made available to EFSA and published on the ECHA website in the period end-July 2022 to mid-August 2022 so that EFSA can consider it in carrying out its peer review.

With respect to the EFSA process, you may know that the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG) formally notified EFSA on 28th February 2022 about the need for more time to revise and submit an updated Renewal Assessment Report (RAR) to EFSA. This is due to the volume of new information received through the public consultation (PC) process and the number of action points identified for AGG following the comments' evaluation.

A total of 368 entries were received by EFSA via the PC, some of them incorporating several comments. In addition to the public consultation, EFSA also received approx. 2400 comments from Member States experts and the applicant (GRG) through a targeted commenting round. These comments resulted in a file of approx. 3000 pages, which must be scrutinised by the applicant and the AGG to prepare a revised assessment report. Following a thorough evaluation of the above-mentioned comments, EFSA identified a total of 388 points on which the GRG was asked to provide additional information, as foreseen by the applicable legislation.

Based on the above and taking account of present planning, EFSA will receive an updated RAR from the AGG at the end of September 2022 and will be in the position to hold the peer review meetings with EU Member States' experts in November and December 2022, during which discussions will focus on 86 different points. This number is unprecedented and three times higher than in the previous glyphosate peer review.

Following the experts' meeting, the AGG will review the RAR to address the action points identified in the meetings and, once completed, EFSA will start drafting the peer review conclusions. To allow sufficient scrutiny, the consolidated draft EFSA Conclusion will also be subject to consultation with the AGG and the Member States' competent authorities. Considering the required steps and the amount of work currently estimated, EFSA foresees delivering the peer review conclusions in July 2023.

We trust that this information is useful to you and we look forward to the continued excellent cooperation with the European Commission services on this dossier.

Yours sincerely,




Bernhard Url
Executive Director
European Food Safety Authority



Acting Executive Director
European Chemicals Agency

cc:

Sandra Gallina, Claire Bury,  (DG SANTE)

 (EFSA)

 (ECHA)