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European Commission

STELLA KYRIAKIDES
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels –
[redacted]@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 10 May 2022

Dear [redacted],

I write as a follow up to my previous letter sent to you in November 2021 with regards to the ongoing renewal assessment of glyphosate, and in the light of your letter sent today, indicating that more time is needed to finalise and deliver the EFSA Conclusion on the risk assessment.

I would first like to recall again 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 your Agencies in collaboration with the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG) and the other Member States. The final Conclusion that will be delivered by EFSA will thus be the most important input into 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 note that the AGG has indicated it needs more time to revise and submit an updated assessment to EFSA, due to the volume of new information received through the public consultation and the amount of action points identified for AGG following the evaluation of those comments, in addition to the need to evaluate additional information that was requested from the applicant by EFSA.

I acknowledge that the additional time needed by the AGG to update the assessment will impact the further steps in the peer review including the organisation of expert meetings and therefore that the delivery of the final EFSA Conclusion will also be delayed.

[redacted]
European Food Safety Authority
E-mail [redacted]@efsa.europa.eu

[redacted]
European Chemicals Agency
E-mail: [redacted]@echa.europa.eu

Ensuring an objective and robust peer review process in which all information, comments and views are thoroughly considered and documented in a transparent way is essential to ensuring that the outcome of your assessment is accepted by stakeholders and the Commission's decision is based on high quality scientific advice.

The high level of engagement in the public consultation shows how important your work is and I call on you to review all new evidence, comments and remarks thoroughly. It is essential that all issues are addressed and that your work builds on a robust and comprehensive evidence base. As I said previously, I encourage both EFSA and ECHA to maintain their close cooperation, and where feasible to take any additional measures to ensure that the EFSA Conclusion on the risk assessment for glyphosate is delivered to the Commission and Member States as quickly as possible. Please ensure that all efforts are made to avoid any further delays.

If, however, at any stage during the ongoing peer review process strong evidence should emerge showing that the approval criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 are no longer fulfilled, I ask that this is notified to the Commission without delay, to allow immediate regulatory follow-up.

I have also written to the Chair of the ENVI Committee in the European Parliament, as well as to the Presidency of the Council of the EU, to inform them about the state of play with regards to the ongoing renewal assessment of glyphosate.

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank you and all colleagues in the Agencies for your commitment to produce consistently high quality scientific advice in a transparent manner.

Yours sincerely,