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European Commission

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Brussels, 11 May 2022

Dear Chair, *dear Pascal*,

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 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) 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.

The peer review process and the classification and labelling process led by EFSA and ECHA respectively, are ongoing. The widest possible evidence gathering is the most important part of this exercise. The agencies confirm that a very high number of comments were 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.

The careful examination, processing and follow up on these comments and the evaluation of additional information that was requested from the applicant by EFSA, requires significant time and resources, in particular from the AGG, which has indicated that more time is needed to submit an updated assessment to EFSA to enable the continuation of the

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peer review process. As a consequence, EFSA has informed us that there will be a delay in the delivery its Conclusion on glyphosate.

While I am concerned about the delay, 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 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. Although it will make the overall process longer, I am pleased to see the high level of interest in this assessment and consider very positively that there has been such an active participation in the public consultation.

As you know, 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.

From our side, I want to stress that decision-making will proceed as quickly as possible once the EFSA Conclusion becomes available. The Conclusion and the AGG's renewal assessment report will be analysed by the Commission which will then put forward a report and a draft Regulation to the Member States, on whether the approval of glyphosate can be renewed (and if so, under what conditions and restrictions), or not. Discussions will then take place in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed prior to a vote by the Member States on the Commission's proposal.

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.

Yours sincerely,