Glyphosate: just the tip of the iceberg

The current EU authorisation practice for pesticides must be reformed!

+++ *More information: foodwatch-report "Locked-in pesticides"* +++

Brussels, November 2022: The European Commission has announced to prolong the approval of glyphosate for another year until December 15, 2023. The extension of glyphosate shows once again the failure and complete inefficiency of the EU-pesticide authorisation system. Glyphosate is just the tip of the iceberg: In the last 10 years, thousands of such extensions were granted, because the authorities systematically delay the risk assessment and the authorisation process. Most of the pesticides currently approved were extended one or several times.

- **Almost 30 % of all currently approved pesticides in the EU are approved by extension – without the EU Food Safety Authority (EFSA) having carried out a new, final risk assessment.** (135 of 455 active ingredients).
- **15 % of all currently approved pesticides in the EU were extended for five or more years.**

Some very toxic pesticides were extended for many years. The hazardous, neurotoxic insecticide **Phosmet** for example was scheduled for expiration already on 30 September 2017. But due to the failure of the EU, its approval was prolonged for a total of five years. Eventually, Phosmet was banned because EFSA identified *"an unacceptable risk to operators, workers, bystanders and residents, even with the use of personal protective equipment or application of available mitigation measures"* and also *"a high acute and chronic risk to consumers and aquatic organisms and a high risk to birds, mammals and non-target arthropods (including bees)."* Phosmet is now finally out of use since November 2022. The five-year extension of Phosmet – a very popular orchard pesticide – means that tens of thousands of users, bystanders and consumers were critically overexposed for many years.

Or take **Flufenacet**: The herbicide which metabolites contaminate the groundwater, has been extended continuously already since 2012. Other examples are the neurotoxic

Fosthiazate and **Deltamethrin**[1]. The latter was labelled by the EU as a so-called "Candidate for Substitution" which should actually have a *shorter* approval period due to its particular hazardous effects.[2] All three pesticides are widely used and are already extended as long as the regular authorisation period of 10 years.

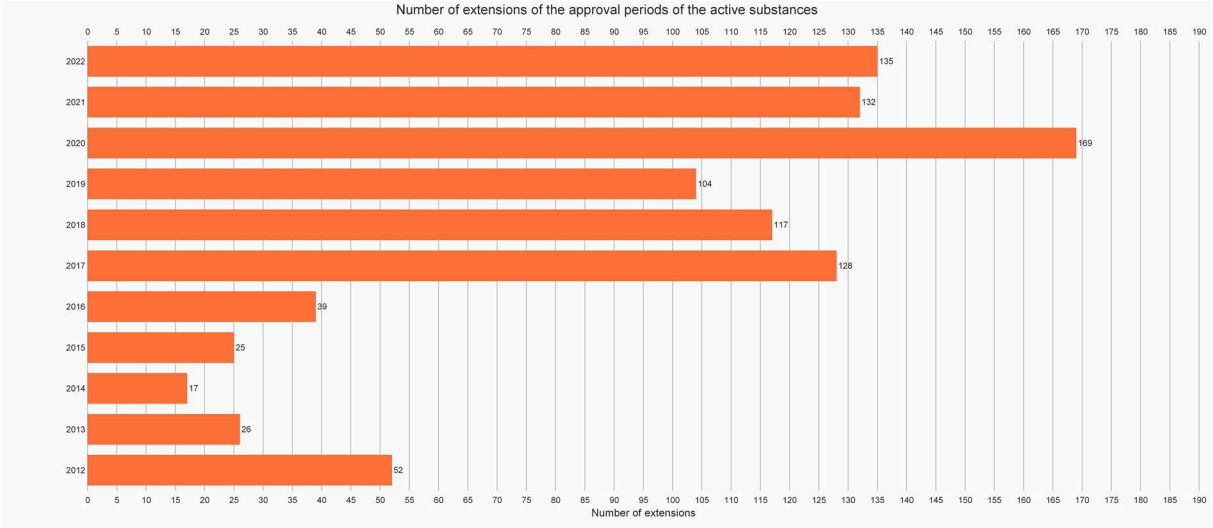
The EU-pesticide authorisation system has so many flaws that a reform is urgently needed.

foodwatch therefore demands:

1. The authorisation fees paid by the pesticide manufacturers must be high enough so that *all* authorities can conduct the risk assessment on time.
2. Current extension periods must be subtracted from the approval period, if a pesticide is re-approved.
3. The approval of all extended pesticides not assessed by EFSA according to the risk assessment rules laid down in Reg. 1107/2009/EC must be immediately withdrawn – for example: Deltamethrin, Flufenacet, Fosthiazate, Chlorotoluron, Daminozide, MCPA, MCPB, Mecoprop-P, Mepanipyrim, Milbemectin, Phenmedipham, Pyraclostrobin, S-Metolachlor, Ziram.
4. The EU must establish a coherent and effective pesticide exit strategy, which ensure that by 2030 80% of the European Union's agricultural land (arable land and permanent crops) is managed without pesticides.

[1] All three pesticides were first extended via Regulation (EU) No 823/2012. So far last extension was through Regulation (EU) 2022/1480.

Number of extensions per year:



Number of extensions per year (only currently, 14.11.2022, approved substances). In total, about 455 active ingredients are approved – this means currently (2022) 135 of the 455 are approved by extension.

The following table shows pesticides with a very long extension period. **None of these 14 pesticides was ever fully assessed by EFSA according to the rules laid down by Regulation 1107/2009/EC.**

Substance	Number of Extensions since 2012	Original expiration date (based on approval date)*	Potential expiry date
Deltamethrin	8	31.10.2013	31.10.2023
Flufenacet; fluthiamide	8	31.12.2013	31.10.2023
Fosthiazate	8	31.12.2013	31.10.2023
Chlorotoluron	7	28.02.2016	31.10.2023
Daminozide	7	28.02.2016	31.10.2023
MCPA	7	30.04.2016	31.10.2023
MCPB	7	30.04.2016	31.10.2023
Mecoprop-P	7	30.05.2014	31.01.2023

Mepanipyrim	7	30.09.2014	30.04.2023
Milbemectin	7	30.11.2015	31.07.2023
Phenmedipham	7	28.02.2014	31.07.2023
Pyraclostrobin	7	31.05.2004	31.01.2023
S-Metolachlor	7	31.03.2015	31.07.2023
Ziram	7	31.07.2014	30.04.2023
*original approval date plus 10 years			

Sales data of pesticides with very long extension and without final risk assessment by EFSA in six Member States

Pesticide with very long extension and without final risk assessment by EFSA	France (kg; 2020)	Germany (kg, 2021)	The Netherlands (kg, 2020)	Belgium (kg, 2019)	Spain (kg, 2021)	Denmark (kg; 2020)
chlortoluron	1.176.679	760.087	n.r.	35.855	375.315	n.r.
daminozide	1.723	7.232	37.203	confidential	1.878	2.241
deltamethrin	10.116	3.033	1.278	1.138	25.762	111
flufenacet	674.013	834.608	4.756	74.863	31.468	n.r.
fosthiazate	1.063	5.096	87.950	confidential	confidential	n.r.
MCPA	351.179	360.510	205.434	91.471	1.334.906	62.814
mecoprop-p (mcpp-p)	10.213	14.353	4.954	7.150	confidential	n.r.
mepanipyrim	1.526	n.r.	5.944	confidential	confidential	53
milbemectin	2	46	n.r.	confidential	confidential	2
phenmedipham	177.149	270.811	48.342	46.451	confidential	16.157
phosmet	394.745	n.r.	n.r.	confidential	130.078	n.r.
pyraclostrobin	97.631	112.967	37.621	10.847	confidential	48.099
s-metolachlor	1.919.187	621.012	47.430	61.888	454.562	n.r.
ziram	48.971	441	n.r.	confidential	confidential	n.r.
n.r. = not reported						