



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

for the people | for the planet | for the future

Bernhard Url
EFSA
Via Carlo Magno 1/A
I-43100 Parma,
Italy

Brussels, 12th November 2015

Subject: Letter of resignation from the EFSA stakeholder consultative platform

Dear Mr Url,

Friends of the Earth Europe is today resigning from the stakeholder consultative platform of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) due to the lack of access to important information.

In August this year, Friends of the Earth Europe, together with the European Environment Bureau (EEB) and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), filed an access to information request with EFSA for a key safety report on the controversial herbicide glyphosate.¹

On 7th October, EFSA rejected this request, claiming that the German government report was a “working document” and that claims for confidential treatment were submitted by the pesticide industry. In contrast, industry scientists have been quoting from the report in publications.²

EFSA is this week (Thursday) due to publish its risk assessment for the renewal of glyphosate, the world’s biggest selling weed-killer. This includes EFSA’s response to the World Health Organisation’s recent opinion that classified glyphosate as probably carcinogenic.³

Friends of the Earth Europe, alongside many civil society groups and politicians, have continually questioned the way EFSA delivers safety checks for potentially risky products – including genetically modified organisms and their accompanying pesticides and herbicides. In 2013 Friends of the Earth Europe found traces of glyphosate in the urine of 44% of people it sampled in 18 countries across Europe.⁴

Due to the above restrictions, Friends of the Earth Europe have concluded that we cannot fulfil our role in the stakeholder platform, and are unable to make a full contribution to the current technical debate on the safety of glyphosate. We therefore resign from the platform.

Yours sincerely,

Magda Stoczkiewicz
Director of Friends of the Earth Europe

¹ http://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/draft_version_bfr_glyphosate_rep?post_redirect=1#describe_state_form_1

² Evaluation of carcinogenic potential of the herbicide glyphosate, drawing on tumor incidence data from fourteen chronic/carcinogenicity rodent studies <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3109/10408444.2014.1003423>

³ <http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanonc/PIIS1470-2045%2815%2970134-8.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.foeeurope.org/glyphosate-reasons-for-concern-briefing-130613>