

JOINT DECLARATION of MEPs and Mayors Meeting on Pesticide Free Towns

Brussels, 27th September 2018

We, the Members of the European Parliament and Mayors participating at the event “**Pesticide Free Towns: European policies, local strategies and future perspectives**”, underline that EC Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUDP), which aims to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and to *reduce dependency on the use of pesticides*, requires Member States to ensure that the use of pesticides is minimised or prohibited in public areas or areas used by vulnerable groups.

A number of Member States have decades of experience in making public areas pesticide free. Thanks to the SUDP, more Member States have decided to ban pesticides in public areas.

Governments in **France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands** have national regulations for zero use of pesticides in public areas, while **Italy** has a ban on glyphosate use in public areas. A few Member states goes further, with **France** having introduced a ban on non-professional use for private gardens while Belgium has introduced a ban on non-professional use of glyphosate.

PAN Europe’s Pesticide Free Towns campaign illustrates inspiring examples of local practices across Europe and proposes viable alternatives to the use of synthetic pesticides in urban public areas.

We recall the European Citizens’ Initiative (**ECI**), with signatures of over 1 million EU citizens, called on the Commission to “Stop Glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides”, to “propose to Member States a ban on glyphosate, to reform the pesticide approval procedure, and to set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use”.

We recall the **Swiss** citizens’ petitionⁱ calling for a full ban on pesticide use in Switzerland (valid for both domestic produced and imported products), with a referendum expected to come up in 2020.

We recall the **Malles** referendumⁱⁱ, where 75% of the citizens voted for a ban on pesticides back in 2013 and should be pesticide free as from April 2018 as foreseen.

We recall all the towns, many of them gather here today, who have signed up to the [European Network of Pesticide Free Towns](#) and committed to make their towns pesticide free within a three years period and already taken the concrete steps.

Now it is time for Member States to accompany this change, and to ensure proper [implementation](#) as there is still much to do (www.pesticide-free-towns.info/statistics-questionnaire).

Therefore, we call on all EU institutions to start seriously discussing the EU resolution adopted by the French Senate in May 2017 calling for a full ban on the non-agricultural use of pesticides including private use. We also call on the European Commission to enable financial instruments in order start assist towns in their move towards becoming pesticide free.

NOTES

ⁱIn Italy, the municipality of Malles Venosta in the province of Alto Adige/ South Tirol, which is dominated by intensive apple orchards, has voted in a referendum in 2013 to ban pesticide use in the municipality, and 75% of the voters were in favor of the ban. The ban has been implemented through a regulation that mandates a 50m buffer zone for all pesticide use to neighbouring land. Due to the very small parcel structure (average 2.5 to 3 ha) this amounts to a de facto ban. The regulation has been promoted in order to protect citizens’ and visitors’ health from pesticides

ⁱⁱIn Switzerland, a popular vote, or referendum, can be launched when 100,000 signatures are collected within 18 months. The initiative “Save Switzerland from synthetic pesticides” succeeded with more than 100,000 signatures and formal petition was presented to the Federal Chancellery in Bern on 25 May. The referendum is expected to take place in 2020. Should the initiative be passed by the popular majority, Switzerland would be the first country to impose a total ban on the use of synthetic pesticides. The total ban would apply to farmers, industries, and all imported goods.

European Politicians

Nicola Caputo

Eric Andrieu

Pavel Poc

Judy Guteland

Marco Affronte

Michèle Rivasi

Joel Labbé

Mayors

Ivan Stomeo - Municipality of Melpignano

Daniele Chiaroni - Municipality of Occhiobello

Jacopo Massaro - Municipality of Belluno

Milena De Zanet - Municipality of Limana

Domenico Parisi - Municipality of Limatola

Moreno Botti - Municipality of Loro Ciuffenna

Ottavio Anastasi - Municipality of Valfabbrica

Antonella Di Nino - Municipality of Pratola Peligna

Roberto Sella - Municipality of Lozzolo

Giovanni Prato - Municipality of Capriati al Volturno

Renzo Caramaschi - Municipality of Bolzano

Olivier Deleuze - Municipality of Watermael Boisfort

Luis Newton - Estrela Borough