European Commission

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ARES(2015)

Dear Members,

Thank you for your letter dated 20th October 2015, sent on behalf of members of the German and European Parliaments, concerning the EFSA peer review of the renewal assessment of glyphosate.

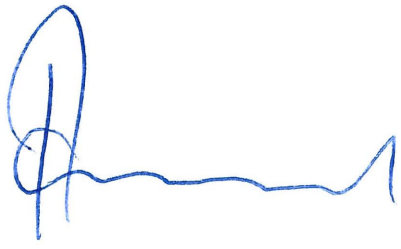
As regards the questions in relation to the assessment of genotoxicity, carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity raised in your letter, I have asked EFSA to consider them and reply to you directly. You should receive a reply by EFSA shortly.

As part of the evaluation for possible renewal of the approval of glyphosate, a full and comprehensive assessment of all available data and information was carried out by the Rapporteur Member State (RMS), Germany, and peer reviewed by all other EU Member States and EFSA. Furthermore, the European Commission requested EFSA to take into account the assessment of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) during the peer review, to ensure that all relevant information was considered. The peer review process also included detailed expert discussion on the genotoxic and carcinogenic potential of glyphosate, and took epidemiological data into account.

Regarding your concern on the wording of the Commission's mandate to EFSA, I would like to stress that the Commission's request to consider "[...] whether a firm causality can be established [...]" was in addition to the request to consider "[...] whether an amendment of the original proposal as regards classification of glyphosate is necessary [...]". EFSA's task to recommend an appropriate classification was therefore not limited in any way by the request to consider whether a firm causality could be established.

The Commission is carefully considering the findings presented in the EFSA Conclusion. In compliance with its legal obligation, the Commission will then present a draft review report to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, followed by a draft act renewing the approval or providing for a non-approval.

Yours faithfully,



C.c.: Mr Xavier Prats Monné, Director-General, DG SANTE

Mr Ladislav Miko, Deputy Director-General, DG SANTE

Mr Bernhard Url, Executive Director, EFSA