



# The World Foundation for Natural Science

## The New World Franciscan Scientific Endeavour of The New World Church

*Restoring and Healing the World through Responsibility and Commitment in accord with Natural and Divine Law!*

European Headquarters ✦ PO Box 7995 ✦ 6000 Lucerne 7, Switzerland ☎-Tel: 41(41)798 0398 ☎-Fax: 41(41)798 0399  
World Headquarters ✦ PO Drawer 16900 ✦ Washington DC, 20041, USA ☎-Tel: 1(703)631-1408 ☎-Fax: 1(703)631-1919 ✦ [www.naturalscience.org](http://www.naturalscience.org)

To the  
President of the European Commission  
Commissioner of the Agriculture and Rural Department  
Commissioner of the Health and Food Safety Department  
Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy  
Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

1049 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Belgium

December, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

With great disappointment and concern we learned about the EU appeal committee vote on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to reauthorize the deadly substance and weed killer, glyphosate.

How can an agriculture based on toxins ever create health, life and prosperity in the long term? Having the toxins in our food chain and drinking water, they are slowly poisoning us, our children and following generations. Just because the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) judged glyphosate as "safe for public use" which means it "did not meet the criteria to classify glyphosate as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction"<sup>1</sup> doesn't mean that the substance doesn't affect life. Studies demonstrate the opposite. Zaller et al. (2014)<sup>2</sup> for example found that herbicides containing glyphosate:

- ▶ significantly decreased root mycorrhization, soil arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) spore biomass, vesicles and propagules.
- ▶ led, in interaction with AMF, to slightly heavier but less active earthworms.
- ▶ tended to reduce soil water infiltration after a simulated heavy rainfall.

Furthermore, it is a fact, that glyphosate kills bees and other insects<sup>3</sup>. Who is going to pollinate all the blossoms and flowers when they have vanished? China shows us actually, what this means, as farmers climb the trees themselves to pollinate by hand<sup>4</sup>. But who in Europe would be willing to do this in the future?<sup>5</sup>

At least since the International Year of Soils 2015, the fact that our soils are the key player in achieving food security and food vitality for healthy lives should be clear to all of us. But - have you already forgotten the message of José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, who says that **"Soils also host at least one quarter of the world's biodiversity.** They are key in the carbon cycle. They help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They play a role in water management and in improving resilience to floods and droughts."<sup>6</sup> Only if soils are healthy, which means **not poisoned**, microbes and other organisms can provide the essential soil processes. If we kill weeds, these important organisms are killed too, the whole "soil" ecosystem is damaged. No wonder productivity is reduced in the long term. Floods are threatening human infrastructure and eroding fertile soil, only to mention a few aspects apart from glyphosate being "carcinogenic". And there is evidence for its carcinogenicity: The WHO labels glyphosate as a *probable carcinogen*<sup>7</sup> which means that there is some evidence of carcinogenicity in humans, especially in farm workers who develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma from exposure to glyphosate<sup>8</sup> and significant evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. Please don't forget that, when dealing with nature, interfering with her finely balanced processes, we disturb the whole ecosystem - on which we human beings depend - since everything on earth is connected. You can't kill a weed without damaging the whole network.

Agriculture *not* based on toxins and killing parts of Mother Nature is not only working but produces sustainably healthy products - Over 2.4 million organic farmers worldwide prove this fact and their markets thrive<sup>9</sup>. The 1.3 million European citizens who signed the "Stop Glyphosate Initiative" know about this and see the dangers of using toxins in agriculture and gardening. What about them and their arguments you might have heard during the hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative "Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides" on November 20<sup>th</sup>? Can they just be ignored?

**The World Foundation for Natural Science** asks you to reconsider this unwise vote and apply all your power and influence within the European Union to start lobbying for the health of the citizens you represent and the nature on which we all depend. Please trust in the vast potential that lies in the real cooperation between man and nature, a cooperation based on love and appreciation bringing health and strength to plants, animals and people.

Yours sincerely,



The Very Rev. Dean Paul Probst, SF em  
European President of  
**The World Foundation for Natural Science**



Denise Ulrich, MSc in Geography  
Representative of  
**The World Foundation for Natural Science**

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/15/no-cancer-risk-to-using-glyphosate-weedkiller-says-eu-watchdog>
2. Zaller, J.G. et al. (2014): Glyphosate herbicide affects belowground interactions between earthworms and symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi in a model ecosystem. Sci Rep. 2014; 4: 5634, Published online 2014 Jul 9. doi: [10.1038/srep05634](https://doi.org/10.1038/srep05634)
3. <http://www.glyphosate.news/2016-06-27-study-shows-honeybees-are-starving-because-of-roundup.html>
4. [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/humans-bees-china\\_us\\_570404b3e4b083f5c6092ba9](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/humans-bees-china_us_570404b3e4b083f5c6092ba9)
5. <http://www.glyphosate.news/2016-06-27-study-shows-honeybees-are-starving-because-of-roundup.html>
6. <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>
7. <http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/pdf/MonographVolume112.pdf>
8. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(15\)70134-8/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(15)70134-8/abstract)
9. The World of Organic Agriculture 2017, FiBL.org