(English version)

Question for written answer E-002862/25
to the Commission
Biljana Borzan (S&D)
(14 July 2025)

Subject: Implications and contingency planning in case of glyphosate withdrawal

Glyphosate is a world's most widely used weedkiller. It was previously classified by the World Health Organisation as 'probably carcinogenic to humans'. However, there is a consensus among health institutions that it is not harmful and, in 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (EHCA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that there was no justification for a glyphosate ban and extended its approval for 10 years. Now, a new study published on 10 June 2025 shows that long-term exposure to glyphosate caused cancer in rats. The study lacked transparency and is currently being reviewed by the EHCA and the EFSA.

1. What are the next steps for the Commission if the study proves valid and glyphosate approval is withdrawn?

2. What measures will the Commission take to protect human health and the environment during the transition period if glyphosate approval is withdrawn, particularly regarding existing stocks, alternative substances and support for farmers?

Submitted: 14.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(16 September 2025)

As the Commission explained in its reply to written questions E-002611/25 and E-2696/2025, the need to initiate a review of the approval of glyphosate in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ([1]) will be considered in light of the outcome of the assessment by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the study ([2]) published on 10 June 2025.

Following a mandate ([3]) from the Commission, ECHA and EFSA asked the authors of the study to provide all raw data without delay ([4]) and to subsequently conduct a robust and thorough scientific evaluation as to whether the new information, considered alongside all other available data, changes the agencies' previous conclusions on glyphosate.

Until the outcome of the assessments by the agencies is completed it is not possible to provide any views on the regulatory actions or other measures to be taken by the Commission.

([1]) Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1-50.
([2]) Panzacchi, S., Tibaldi, E., De Angelis, L. *et al.* Carcinogenic effects of long-term exposure from prenatal life to glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides in Sprague-Dawley rats. *Environ Health* **24,** 36 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12940-025-01187-2.
([3]) The mandate letter sent to the agencies can be found here: https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2025-00410?search=glyphosate.
([4]) See the letter 'ECHA-EFSA joint letter following EC mandate' at https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2025-00410?search=glyphosate.