

Open Letter: Head of Unit Pesticides and Biocides and Senior Scientist Chemical Regulations Division

Klaus Berend
 Head of Unit
 EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
 Food and feed safety, Innovation
 Pesticides and Biocides
 Cc Dave Bench UK CRD

Dear Klaus Berend

I am fully aware that you are not an expert in Pesticides and Biocides, but an expert in the REACH specifications of plastics in aviation. Nor was the previous holder of the post, Michael Flüh, who was a non-scientist. Therefore, it is hardly surprising that your letter to me displayed a lack of knowledge of the subject. Does the Commissioner for Health Vytenis Andriukaitis have a shortage of qualified candidates to choose from to fill the post of Head of Unit, as specified by Jean-Claude Juncker?

European Commission decision on middle management staff ¹

Page 2 (2) Middle managers should not only have a *very good knowledge of their subject areas*, they should also be outstanding in managing work and people.

Page 5 Article 4 The role of heads of unit is regarded as particularly important. They shall possess specific management (i.e. work organisation, people management and, where relevant, financial resources management) competencies and *an appropriate degree of specialist knowledge and technical expertise*.

You said: "*In your correspondence, among others, you allege that the Commission is colluding with chemical corporations and I would like to strongly refute this allegation.*" I repeat this statement.

Why did you authorize glyphosate on behalf of the Glyphosate Task Force led by Monsanto?

In the Final version of the commission proposal² it says: "*In its opinion, the Committee for Risk Assessment of the Agency (European Chemicals Agency) concluded by consensus that on the basis of the information currently available, no hazard classification for carcinogenicity is justified for glyphosate.*" The omission of the full classification would appear to be intentionally fraudulent.³ *ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) agrees to maintain the current harmonised classification of glyphosate as a substance causing serious eye damage and being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects. RAC concluded that the available scientific evidence did not meet the criteria to classify glyphosate as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction.*

Deterioration of coral in the Great Barrier Reef not just due to global warming

Did Monsanto and President Juncker conceal the ECHA harmonized classification of glyphosate as "*toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects*" as it would explain the accelerating deterioration of coral in the Great Barrier Reef?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-commission-decision-on-middle-management-staff_3288_c_2016_en.pdf

²

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/pesticides_glyphosate_commission_proposal_final_version.pdf

³ <https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-not-classified-as-a-carcinogen-by-echa>

Biocides glyphosate and the systemic neonicotinoid pesticides are highly toxic to aquatic life. Instructions for use state that all water bodies should be protected

Instructions for using Roundup Advance AG Herbicide by Monsanto include: “*Protection of Wildlife, Fish, Crustacea and Environment. Do not contaminate dam, river or stream with the product.*”⁴

Clothianidin (Sumitomo Shield a long-acting systemic neonicotinoid insecticide) granted registration by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for use on very low-lying sugar cane plantations draining into the Great Barrier Reef. In addition to global warming that is why there has been progressive destruction and bleaching of coral.

Instructions: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE, FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND ENVIRONMENT⁵

*DO NOT apply under weather conditions, or from spraying equipment, that may cause spray drift onto nearby or adjacent areas, particularly wetlands, water-bodies or watercourses. **This product is highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates.** DO NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the chemical or used containers. DO NOT apply when there are aquatic and wetland areas including aquacultural ponds or surface streams and rivers downwind from the application area and within the mandatory no-spray zone shown in table 1.*

European Legislation would appear to have been set up for the benefit of the agrochemical industry: exchanges between Monsanto Europe and the Health Commissioner confirm this

Monsanto Europe replied to Health Commissioner Andriukaitis on 04/04/2016 to say that the 24 Glyphosate Task Force (GTF) members were prepared to grant very limited access to the data.⁶

From this very revealing letter we learn that the current EU legislation is set up to “*protect intellectual property and confidential information from public disclosure...All confidential data ...shall be deleted or redacted (Regulation 1107/2009, Article 63).*” Much of the industry data submitted to the German Rapporteur Member State was redacted.

The European Parliament has no legislative function in the approvals process

According to the European Glyphosate Task Force, the renewal process is legislated for by means of a Commission Regulation (No. 1107/2009). Therefore, the European Parliament has no legislative function within the framework of the approval process.⁷ However, US Attorneys Baum Hedlund sent the *Monsanto Papers* to four members of the European Parliament after their request for advice.⁸

What happens with glyphosate-based products, like Roundup? Are they automatically re-authorised as well?⁹

The European Commission replies to questions: “*No. This is up to Member States. Member States are responsible for the authorisation and use on their territories of plant protection products ('pesticides') containing active substances. Only the approval of active substances is decided at EU level. This division of responsibility is based on the principle of subsidiarity and reflects the differences in climatic, agronomic and environmental conditions in Member States.*

Following a renewal of glyphosate, Member States must re-evaluate all existing authorised products containing this active substance – such as Roundup. If the authorisation holders request from national authorities to maintain the earlier authorisations, Member States may also decide to introduce restrictions or bans for some or all of them, where this is warranted on the basis of evidence related to the particular circumstances in their territories.”

⁴ <http://websvr.infopest.com.au/LabelRouter?LabelType=L&ProductCode=70096>

⁵ http://www.sumitomo-chem.com.au/sites/default/files/pdf/labels/shield_label.pdf

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/letter_1.pdf

⁷ http://www.glyphosate.eu/system/files/sidebar-files/renewal_process_for_glyphosate_faqs_0.pdf

⁸ <https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Exhibit-Letter-from-plaintiffs-attorneys-to-European-Parliament.pdf>

⁹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-5192_en.htm

Why did the European Commission only assess glyphosate not glyphosate-based herbicides? For 4 years the Chemicals Regulation Division said they were waiting for the European Commission?

The International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague with regard to ecocide

Summary of the advisory opinion of the International Monsanto Tribunal¹⁰

Delivered on the 18th of April 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands

The International Monsanto Tribunal is a unique "Opinion Tribunal" convened by civil society to clarify the legal obligations and consequences of some of the activities of the Monsanto Company. In brief: the five judges of the Monsanto Tribunal agree that:

- **Monsanto has violated human rights to food, health, a healthy environment and the freedom indispensable for independent scientific research.**
- **'ecocide' should be recognized as a crime in international law.**
- **human rights and environmental laws are undermined by corporate-friendly trade and investment regulation.**

*The Monsanto Tribunal hearings allowed for the gathering of testimonies related to various impacts on human health (especially on farmers), soils, plants, aquatic organisms, animal health and biodiversity. These testimonies also included the impacts of spraying crop protection products (herbicides, pesticides). Based on the above findings and to answer Question 1, **the Tribunal concludes that Monsanto has engaged in practices that have negatively impacted the right to a healthy environment.***

Question 2 concerned the alleged infringement on the right to food as recognized in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in Articles 24.2(c) and (e) and 27.3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in Articles 25(f) and 28.1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Tribunal heard witnesses' accounts of severe congenital diseases, development of non-Hodgkin lymphomas, chronic diseases, Lasso poisoning or even death occurring after direct or indirect environmental exposure to products manufactured by Monsanto. The Tribunal recalls that this company has manufactured and distributed many dangerous substances. First were PCBs, persistent organic pollutants exclusively commercialized by Monsanto between 1935 and 1979 despite the fact that the company knew about their deleterious health impacts. PCBs are now forbidden by the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. This carcinogenic product also causes problems with fertility and child development and disrupts the immune system.

*Secondly, glyphosate (ingredient in Roundup) is considered in some studies as a carcinogenic product while other reports, such as the one from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), conclude the opposite. In an opinion issued on the 15th of March 2017 and related to the classification of glyphosate, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) indeed estimated that this product could not be classified as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction. The Tribunal however stresses that this classification does not take into account the risks of exposure, with residues found in food, drinking water and even in human urine. The commercialization of Roundup-resistant GMO crop seed has resulted in widespread distribution and use of this product. It is classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer. Other reports assert the genotoxicity of glyphosate on humans and animals. Last but not least, internal Monsanto documents released in March 2017 as a result of a court order of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (San Francisco) show that **Monsanto has manipulated science**. This makes hollow the so-called scientific controversy about the risks glyphosate pose on health.*

¹⁰ http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/upload/asset_cache/1016160509.pdf

Thirdly, the use of GMO seed raises multiple questions. There is a distinct lack of scientific consensus about the impacts of GMOs on human health. The controversy is embedded in a context of opacity on GMO studies, and even on the inability of researchers to conduct independent research. The "Monsanto Papers" cast light on practices of systematic manipulation of scientific studies, and on the influence exerted on experts by Monsanto. There is no political consensus on the cultivation of GMOs either. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, an independent expert, calls for the need to follow the precautionary principle at the global level. The Tribunal concludes that Monsanto has engaged in practices that negatively impacted the right to health.

Question 4 concerned the alleged infringement on the freedom indispensable for scientific research, as guaranteed by Article 15(3) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the freedoms of thought and expression guaranteed in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The "freedom indispensable for scientific research" closely relates to freedom of thought and expression, as well as the right to information. It is therefore key to safeguarding other fundamental rights, such as the right to health, food, water and a healthy environment. This freedom engenders the requirement to ensure that scientific researchers are able to express themselves freely and are protected when acting as whistle-blowers. Some of Monsanto's practices mentioned in the testimonies of agronomists and molecular biologists have resulted in court convictions for the company. Among those practices are: illegal GMO plantations; resorting to studies misrepresenting the negative impacts of Roundup by limiting the analysis to glyphosate only while the product is a combination of substances; massive campaigns aiming at discrediting the results of independent scientific studies. These strategies led, for example, to the withdrawal of a study published in an international journal and to the loss of a job for a scientist working in a governmental health agency. **In response to Question 4**, the Tribunal concludes that Monsanto's conduct is negatively affecting the right to freedom indispensable for scientific research. Conduct such as intimidation, discrediting independent scientific research when it raises serious questions about the protection of the environment and public health, suborning false research reports, putting pressure on governments are transgressing the freedom indispensable for scientific research. This abuse is exacerbated by exposure to health and accompanying environmental risks, which deprive society the possibility to safeguard fundamental rights. Taking direct measures to silence scientists or attempting to discredit their work constitutes conduct that abuses the right to freedom indispensable for scientific research and the right to freedom of expression. This negatively affects the right to information.

Question 6 asked the Tribunal if the activities of Monsanto could constitute a crime of ecocide, understood as causing serious damage or destroying the environment, so as to significantly and durably alter the global commons or ecosystem services upon which certain human groups rely. Developments in international environmental law confirms the increased awareness of how environmental harm negatively affects the fundamental values of society. Preserving dignity for present and future generations and the integrity of ecosystems is an idea that has gained traction in the international community. As an evidence of these developments, and according to the Policy Paper on Case Selection and Prioritisation from September 2016, the Prosecutor of the ICC wants to give particular consideration to Rome Statute crimes involving the illegal dispossession of land or the destruction of the environment. However, despite the development of many instruments to protect the environment, a gap remains between legal commitments and the reality of environmental protection. The Tribunal assesses that international law should now precisely and clearly assert the protection of the environment and the crime of ecocide. The Tribunal concludes that if such a crime of ecocide were recognized in international criminal law, the activities of Monsanto could possibly constitute a crime of ecocide. Several of the company's activities may fall within this infraction, such as the manufacture and supply of glyphosate-based herbicides to Colombia in the context of its plan for aerial application on coca crops, which negatively impacted the environment and the health of

local populations; the large-scale use of dangerous agrochemicals in industrial agriculture; and the engineering, production, introduction and release of genetically engineered crops. Severe contamination of plant diversity, soils and waters would also fall within the qualification of ecocide. Finally, the introduction of persistent organic pollutants such as PCB into the environment causing widespread, long-lasting and severe environmental harm and affecting the right of the future generations could fall within the qualification of ecocide as well.

Koffi Dogbevi, Lawyer for the International Monsanto Tribunal commented on the ECHA's classification

It is interesting to see that ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) agreed to maintain the classification of glyphosate as a substance causing serious and irreversible effect on the eye (Eye Dam. 1, H318) and being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects (Aquatic Chronic 2, H411), and at the same time reaching the conclusion that glyphosate is safe and non-hazardous. While this imbroglio seems to relate to the distinction between hazard (the intrinsic potential to cause harm) and risk (the probability of harm occurring at a given exposure), it is clear that any reasonable person would assert that a product causing an irreversible harm on the eye, and having a long-lasting toxicity impact on aquatic life, is likely a dangerous product.

Hazardous materials/substances were covered, in the European Union under the Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD) and the Dangerous Preparations Directive (DPD), regulations that are currently replaced by the EC Regulation No 1272/2008 of 16 December 2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. It is very interesting to notice that glyphosate is listed under the EC Regulation No 1272/2008 as substance causing eye irritation (Eye Dam. 1, H318), toxic to the aquatic environment (Aquatic Chronic 2, H411), and having an acute toxicity (H302) which is a Hazard Category 4. However, it is very troubling to see that the ECHA not only voluntarily omitted the acute toxicity characteristic (H302/ hazard category 4) of glyphosate, but also exonerate itself of any risk assessment task that may lead to unexpected or non-provisionary outcome, and classified glyphosate as safe and non-hazardous substance.

UN Rapporteur: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food: Pesticides are “global human rights concern” and UN experts urge new treaty

The United Nations received a [report](#) by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council, focused more narrowly on agricultural chemicals. The UN report states unequivocally that the storyline perpetuated by companies like Monsanto—the one that says we need pesticides to feed the world—is a myth. The Report presented to the UN human rights council on 08/03/2017, is severely critical of the global corporations that manufacture pesticides, accusing them of the “*systematic denial of harms*”, “*aggressive, unethical marketing tactics*” and heavy lobbying of governments which has “*obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions*”. ¹¹

EU Commission and EFSA say that glyphosate has no unacceptable effects on the environment including contamination of water bodies

"Furthermore, the EU pesticides legislation makes it clear that plant protection products can only be authorised by the Member States if it has been demonstrated that they have no unacceptable effects on the environment, including the contamination of water bodies and the impact on non-target species, including insects, and on biodiversity. Accordingly, the assessment of glyphosate took into account the predicted levels of glyphosate in soil, water and air and a full risk assessment was undertaken for non-target organisms. This evaluation showed that glyphosate can be used without deleterious effects on the environment... "

¹¹ <http://www.pan-uk.org/site/wp-content/uploads/United-Nations-Report-of-the-Special-Rapporteur-on-the-right-to-food.pdf>

But ECHA disagrees and says glyphosate is toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects¹²

Jack de Bruijn said that it was the same classification in 2002!

Extract from my email to EFSA January 2016

Dr José V Tarazona
 Head of the Pesticides Unit
 European Food Safety Authority
 Via Carlo Magna 1/A
 I-43126 Parma
 ITALY

Dear Dr Tarazona

Thank you for your e-mail of 29 January 2016. I am not surprised to hear that EFSA has found 'data gaps' in the RMS's environmental assessment. I sent EFSA's Executive Director a copy of our photo-journal *The Year of the Bumblebee* for a very good reason. This is a 10-year study of the effects of Roundup® sprayed on Japanese knotweed (some miles away) on a small nature reserve **in a REAL-LIFE situation**. According to hydrologists in the US Geological Survey (USGS) glyphosate and its degradation product AMPA occur frequently and widely in U.S. Soils, surface water, groundwater, and precipitation sampled "between 2001 and 2010 from 38 states."¹³ Levels in farmland have correlated with losses of biodiversity. Our reserve in the UK is approaching what Craig Childs described as a **biological desert** (when he spent a long weekend in a farm which grew Monsanto's and Dow's GE herbicide-resistant crops).¹⁴

What is more, **unlike all the Regulatory Agencies that claim 'sound science'**, we (and the USGS) have actually measured glyphosate levels. In 2013, the level of glyphosate in one Welsh river draining from areas of Japanese knotweed spraying was 190 parts per trillion (ppt) and local tap water was 30 ppt. These were of the order of concentrations found in a study in 2013 which showed that breast cancer cell proliferation is accelerated by glyphosate in extremely low concentrations: "The present study used pure glyphosate substance at log intervals from 10^{-12} to 10^{-6} M. These concentrations are in a crucial range which correlated to the potential biological levels at part per trillion (ppt) to part per billion (ppb) which have been reported in epidemiological studies."

Glyphosate and AMPA: widespread persistence in topsoils in Europe: 2017¹⁵

"A new research study by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the Dutch University of Wageningen and Rikilt laboratories, reveals that among 317 EU soil samples of arable land, 42% contained aminomethyl phosphonic acid (AMPA), the most toxic metabolite of glyphosate, while glyphosate was found in 21% of the soils; 18% of the samples had both. The study was conducted in six crop systems along 11 EU member states comprising soils under different geographical and climatic conditions. **Denmark, the UK and Portugal** are the worst in this spectrum, with the highest detection frequency, while Italy and Greece seem to be the ones using less glyphosate on their crops. However, and most notably, these 2 molecules could be found in every tested member state. All tested crops presented glyphosate and AMPA residues. [N.B. In 2001, the then Danish Government banned glyphosate because it was detected in groundwater. Subsequent governments in Denmark, under pressure from farmers, have unbanned it, so now Denmark has the highest detection frequency in soils on arable land.]

¹² <https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-not-classified-as-a-carcinogen-by-echa>

¹³ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jawr.2014.50.issue-2/issuetoc>

¹⁴ Childs, C. *Apocalyptic Planet. Field Guide to the Future of the Earth*, New York: Vintage Books (2013).

¹⁵ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969717327973>

Ecological Armageddon after dramatic plunge in insect numbers 18/10/2017

More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas in Germany.¹⁶

Part of Abstract: Global declines in insects have sparked wide interest among scientists, politicians, and the general public. Loss of insect diversity and abundance is expected to provoke cascading effects on food webs and to jeopardize ecosystem services. Here, we used a standardized protocol to measure total insect biomass using Malaise traps, deployed over 27 years in 63 nature protection areas in Germany (96 unique location-year combinations) to infer on the status and trend of local entomofauna.

When the total weight of the insects in each sample was measured a startling decline was revealed. The annual average fell by 76% over the 27-year period, but the fall was even higher – 82% – in summer, when insect numbers reach their peak.

Industrialised farming with a vast tide of poisons is the main culprit

Following the revelation of the dramatic plunges in insects' mass in German nature reserves, Michael McCarthy the award-winning Environmental Journalist says: *"It is human activity – more specifically, three generations of industrialised farming with a vast tide of poisons pouring over the land year after year after year, since the end of the second world war. This is the true price of pesticide-based agriculture, which society has for so long blithely accepted. So what is the future for 21st-century insects? It will be worse still, as we struggle to feed the nine billion people expected to be inhabiting the world by 2050, and the possible 12 billion by 2100, and agriculture intensifies even further to let us do so. You think there will be fewer insecticides sprayed on farmlands around the globe in the years to come? Think again. It is the most uncomfortable of truths, but one which stares us in the face: that even the most successful organisms that have ever existed on earth are now being overwhelmed by the titanic scale of the human enterprise, as indeed, is the whole natural world."*¹⁷

Klaus Berend's reply to me states that: *"Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) are the highest levels of pesticide residues that are legally tolerated in or on food and feed."*

In that case, why does EFSA's Reasoned Opinion Panel increase MRLs at the request of industry Monsanto Europe asked EFSA to set the import tolerance for glyphosate in lentils *"in order to accommodate the authorised desiccation use of glyphosate in lentils in the US and Canada"* from 0.1 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg¹⁸ (i.e. 100 times: January 2012). EFSA had granted similarly elevated MRLs for glyphosate on wheat and GM soya.

Monsanto says its pesticides are safe. Now, a court wants to see the proof¹⁹

At the age of 46, DeWayne Johnson is not ready to die. But with cancer spread through most of his body, doctors say he probably has just months to live. Now Johnson, a husband and father of three in California, hopes to survive long enough to make Monsanto take the blame for his fate. On 18 June, Johnson will become the first person to take the global seed and chemical company to trial on allegations that it has spent decades hiding the cancer-causing dangers of its popular Roundup herbicide products – and his case has just received a major boost.

¹⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/18/warning-of-ecological-armageddon-after-dramatic-plunge-in-insect-numbers>

¹⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/21/insects-giant-ecosystem-collapsing-human-activity-catastrophe>

¹⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2550.htm>

¹⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/may/22/monsanto-trial-cancer-weedkiller-roundup-dewayne-johnson>

Last week Judge Curtis Karnow issued an order clearing the way for jurors to consider not just scientific evidence related to what caused Johnson's cancer, but allegations that Monsanto suppressed evidence of the risks of its weed killing products. Karnow ruled that the trial will proceed and a jury would be allowed to consider possible punitive damages. Johnson's case, filed in San Francisco county superior court in California, is at the forefront of a legal fight against Monsanto. Some 4,000 plaintiffs have sued Monsanto alleging exposure to Roundup caused them, or their loved ones, to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL). Another case is scheduled for trial in October, in Monsanto's home town of St Louis, Missouri.

The lawsuits challenge Monsanto's position that its herbicides are proven safe and assert that the company has known about the dangers and hidden them from regulators and the public. The litigants cite an assortment of research studies indicating that the active ingredient in Monsanto's herbicides, a chemical called glyphosate, can lead to NHL and other ailments. They also cite research showing glyphosate formulations in its commercial-end products are more toxic than glyphosate alone. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen in 2015.

Email from John Fagan Executive Director of Earth Open Source on 1 June 2018 to Prof Gilles-Eric Seralini, CRIIGEN

"The lawsuit in California does, in essence, put Monsanto on trial. At this point, the court is not just looking at the carcinogenicity of Roundup, but also looking very pointedly at the evidence that Monsanto has premeditatedly hidden the evidence that Roundup is carcinogenic. The trial will open the door to hundreds of additional suits. In the balance is the future of Roundup as a product and literally many tens of billions of dollars of punitive damages for the harm they have caused. If I were the CEO of Bayer, I would be dragging my feet at this point regarding the planned merger. The damages are likely to rise high enough to be a threat to even a company with pockets as deep as Bayer's. I am in touch with some of the lawyers who are part of this and will let them know that you are available if your input would be helpful to their case. Ultimately the truth triumphs!"

Jess Rowlands US EPA allegedly bragged he could kill off the cancer risk

The Monsanto Papers included emails in which an Environmental Protection Agency official Jess Rowlands who was in charge of evaluating the cancer risk of Monsanto Corporation's Roundup allegedly bragged to a company executive that he deserved a medal if he could kill another agency's investigation into the herbicide's key chemical. Jess Rowlands also colluded with the European Food Safety Agency over IARC's classification of glyphosate.²⁰

Further revelations were email exchanges between EFSA and the EPA: did EFSA dismiss the IARC assessment before it was even published?

Corporate Europe Observatory has summarized the content of several new Monsanto Papers, which were released on 27 and 28 October 2017.²¹ "Certain email exchanges within the EPA in May 2015 indicate that EFSA had approached the EPA and – as early as then – stated that they were going to disagree with IARC's assessment." Yet in May 2015 EFSA hadn't even seen IARC's assessment. It wasn't published until 29th July 2015. The German Bundesamt für Risikobewertung (BfR), which were the official EU rapporteur for glyphosate, had also not conducted their own assessment of the IARC conclusions before 31 August 2015.

A letter written by the late Marion Copley US EPA toxicologist to her colleague Jess Rowland: the chelator action of glyphosate behind its tumor formation²²

²⁰ <https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/EPA-cooperation-with-EFSA.pdf>

²¹ <https://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2017/11/screening-new-monsanto-papers>

²² <https://www.organicconsumers.org/sites/default/files/marioncopleyletter.pdf>

In 2013, Marion Copley, a toxicologist who had worked for 30 years for the EPA, wrote this letter to her then-colleague, Jess Rowland, accusing him of conniving with Monsanto to bury the agency's own hard scientific evidence that it is "essentially certain" that glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weed killer, causes cancer. The date of the letter comes after Copley left the EPA in 2012 and shortly before she died from breast cancer at the age of 66 in January 2014. She accuses Rowland of having "intimidated staff" to change reports to favor industry, and writes that research on glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup, shows the pesticide should be categorized as a "probable human carcinogen."

"Jess,

Since I left the agency with cancer [breast] I have studied the tumor process extensively and I have some mechanism comments which may be very valuable to CARC based on my decades of pathology experience. Glyphosate was originally designed as a chelating agent and I strongly believe that is the identical process involved in tumor formation."

In a 1-page letter Dr Copley makes 14 observations about chelators and/or glyphosate, including that they are endocrine disruptors, suppress the immune system, damage the kidneys or pancreas which can lead to clinical chemistry changes that favor tumor growth; glyphosate kills bacteria in the gut, the gastrointestinal system is 80% of the immune system making the body susceptible to tumors.

She goes on to say: "***It is essentially certain that glyphosate causes cancer.***"

Dr Copley ends with the statement: "*I have cancer, and I don't want these serious issues in HED [EPA's Health Effects Division] to go unaddressed before I go to my grave. I have done my duty.*"

*Marion Copley
March 4, 2013*

The Monsanto Papers: Poisoning the Scientific Well (in press) ²³

Abstract.

OBJECTIVE: Examination of de-classified Monsanto documents from litigation in order to expose the impact of the company's efforts to influence the reporting of scientific studies related to the safety of the herbicide, glyphosate.

METHODS: A set of 141 recently de-classified documents, made public during the course of pending toxic tort litigation, *In Re Roundup Products Liability Litigation* were examined.

RESULTS: The documents reveal Monsanto-sponsored ghostwriting of articles published in toxicology journals and the lay media, interference in the peer review process, behind-the-scenes influence on retraction and the creation of a so-called academic website as a front for the defense of Monsanto products.

CONCLUSION: The use of third-party academics in the corporate defense of glyphosate reveals that this practice extends beyond the corruption of medicine and persists in spite of efforts to enforce transparency in industry manipulation.

Keywords: Carcinogenicity, conflicts of interest, ghostwriting, genotoxicity, glyphosate, herbicides, Intertek, key opinion leaders, Monsanto, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, third parties, Roundup.

The author of this paper Leemon McHenry describes the travails of getting this paper published. It was accepted for *Accountability in Research* by Editor David Resnick after 5 reviews and reworking the manuscript. This online journal belongs to Publisher Taylor and Francis. The publisher delayed the publication of this paper for a 'best practices' review. McHenry says "*When re-working the references to conform to the stylistic guidelines of the journal, I discovered that three of the Monsanto-sponsored ghostwritten articles were published in the journal, Critical Reviews in Toxicology, a journal that is also owned by Taylor & Francis.*" He gave them a deadline to publish

²³ International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine xx (20xx) x–xx DOI 10.3233/JRS-180028

then submitted it to the *International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine* where it was accepted immediately because it had already had 5 reviews from *Accountability in Research*.

Greens ask for the decision on glyphosate to be annulled by the European Court of Justice²⁴

Philippe Lamberts, co-president of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament, comments: *"We will now try build a majority in the European Parliament to take this to the European Court of Justice and will appeal to the Member States that rightly objected to the Commission's proposals to join us. We must attempt to reverse what is set to be a deeply harmful decision. It will be clear to anyone that reads Professor De Schutter's meticulous report that the Commission has been led by business interests. They disregarded not only the European Citizens' Initiative and the view of the European Parliament, but also serious scientific warnings. Despite the large-scale concern, they pressed ahead without even allowing a pause for further investigation. The German government in particular has questions to answer. It seems they are more interested in ensuring the proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger goes ahead than protecting the health of their own citizens."* Professor Olivier De Schutter adds:

"The Commission has transformed into an institutional crisis what was, initially, a public health issue. It has dismissed the views of the International Agency of Research of Cancer (IARC) of the WHO, according to which glyphosate represents a 'probable risk of provoking cancer in humans'. It did so despite the fact that the IARC's findings are far more respected by the scientific community than those of the European agencies — the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) —, which have adopted their views based primarily, it now appears, on the documents provided by Monsanto. This is unacceptable. The Court of Justice shall have no choice but to annul the Implementing Regulation, for violation of the requirement to ensure a high level of protection of human health and of the environment, and for violation of the right of citizens to file a ECI — and to contribute thereby to the democratic life of the Union."

Questions for Dave Bench Senior Scientist Health and Safety Executive

Defra Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food:²⁵ Monsanto is responsible for humans and animals having glyphosate residues in their bodies: it is in all staple, non-organic foods

The results from monitoring of Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) have been published quarterly in the UK since 2000, but pre-harvest application to crops had already been authorised 20 years before in 1980. Bread and breakfast cereals are staple foods but there are no maximum residue levels (MRLs) for bread or breakfast cereals. Residues in bread are tested twice a year.

e.g. 2002 3rd Quarter: Comments from PRiF: *"Residues of chlormequat,²⁶ glyphosate and pirimiphos-methyl²⁷ were found (in bread). These pesticides are commonly used on cereal crops, and residues have been found in other cereal products, therefore these findings are not unexpected. None of the residues found were of concern for consumer health."*

2011 3rd/4th Quarters for Lentils: Comments: *"Sixteen samples of lentils contained glyphosate above the MRL. A new higher level of glyphosate is expected to come into force in summer 2012. None of the residues detected in this survey would be above the new proposed MRL."*

The Royal Society of Medicine Conference on pesticides safety in November 2017²⁸

²⁴ <https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/article/press/greens-efa-group-calls-for-commission-decision-to-be-annulled/#.WilLomM7LQ0.twitter>

²⁵ <http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/about-PRiF>

²⁶ Chlormequat, a plant growth regulator was present consistently throughout.

²⁷ pirimiphos-methyl, is an organophosphate insecticide for use in storage. The approval was revoked on 24/03/2011, but it was only finally banned 31/03/2013, presumably to allow stocks to be used up.

²⁸ <https://www.soilassociation.org/news/2017/november/rapid-increase-in-pesticide-use-and-new-evidence-of-health-impacts-of-very-low-doses/>

At the Royal Society of Medicine Conference on pesticide safety the Soil Association presented alarming figures. Under FOI request Fera Science (previously a government agency, now privatized) provided figures that showed that the number of active ingredients applied to wheat had risen **12-fold** from 1.7 in 1974 to 20.7 in 2014; that those applied to potatoes had risen **5.8** times from 5.3 in 1975 to 30.8 in 2014; that those applied to onions and leeks had risen **18-fold** from 5.3 in 1975 to 30.8 in 2014. Pesticides are tested individually but no one tests the cocktail of pesticides to which humans and the environment are exposed. **The Chief Scientist for Defra Professor Ian Boyd** pointed out that once a pesticide is approved there is no follow up. Dr Michael Antoniou, head of the Gene Expression and Therapy Group at King's College London, told the Royal Society of Medicine conference that the adjuvants in commercial pesticide formulations can be toxic in their own right and in some cases more toxic than the declared active ingredients. Yet only the active ingredients are tested and assessed for long-term health effects in the regulatory process. Dr Antoniou also said that research on hormone-disrupting chemicals, including pesticides, shows that very low realistic doses can be more toxic than higher doses. Professor Carl Leifert talked about pesticides linked to low sperm quality. In a recent study, published in JAMA Internal Medicine, Harvard researchers followed 325 women at an infertility clinic and found that women who regularly ate pesticide-treated fruits and vegetables had lower success rates getting pregnant with IVF, while women who ate organic food had reduced risk of pregnancy loss and increased fertility.²⁹ Dave Bench Head of UK Chemicals Regulation Division described the regulatory system for pesticides, which he portrayed *as robust and as balancing the risks of pesticides against the benefits to society*.

Fera statistics show that in 2014 glyphosate was used on Wheat (601,330 kg) Winter barley, Spring barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Oilseed rape (577,969 kg), Linseed, All potatoes, Peas, Beans, Sugar beet, with a total of 1,765,465 kg glyphosate on all crops. The total weight of pesticides (herbicides and desiccants, fungicides, growth regulators, molluscicides and repellants, insecticides and seed treatments) applied to farmland in 2014 was in excess of 16,000 tonnes.

Our small nature reserve that we established in 2006 had been poisoned by Roundup

Our then Assembly Member Mrs. Edwina Hart wrote to Swansea City and County Council. On 18/09/2013 Richard Staton, the Technical and System Development Manager, replied. He said that they would continue to use Roundup until the Health & Safety Executive instructed them to stop.

On 13/02/2014 I wrote to Ms Judith Hackitt, (later Dame Judith Hackitt for services rendered to the pesticides industry) Chair of the Health and Safety Executive, to ask her to instruct Swansea City and County Council to stop spraying glyphosate because it is converting weeds into super-weeds and poisoning the citizens of Swansea and our nature reserve. The contractor, Complete Weed Control Ltd, is actually being paid for this service. In South Wales glyphosate was present in tap water in August 2013 and glyphosate and other pesticide residues are found in staple foods.

When the CRD Head of Regulatory Policy replied on 28/02/2014 to reprimand me for writing to Ms Judith Hackitt and to defend the authorisation of glyphosate, he told me that the capability to detect individual pesticides in food had increased from 150 in 2003 to 393 in 2012. He stated: *"In the 2012 Report, although there were a large number of residues found in bread, none of these were at a level to suggest a risk to consumer health."*

A cosy relationship between the DOH, PHE, Defra, the Science Media Centre, Sense about Science, the UK Government and the Corporations, particularly the Agrochemical and Pharmaceutical

In 2011 Syngenta donated money (£450 million/year) to the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences and AstraZeneca provided 22 compounds to academic research to develop medicines. In return, Michael Pragnell, the founder of Syngenta and previous Chairman of CropLife International³⁰

²⁹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2659557>

³⁰ <http://www.4-traders.com/business-leaders/Michael-Pragnell-068VMB-E/biography/>

was appointed to the Board of Cancer Research UK in 2010 and subsequently as Chair in 2011 so that CRUK could control the 'reports' about the causes of cancer. As of 2015 CropLife International's member list includes the following 8 companies: BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, FMC Corp., Monsanto, Sumitomo and Syngenta. The CRUK website said there was little evidence that pesticides caused cancer, so it was easy to blame the public and the Department of Health (DoH) was complicit in that; Professor Dame Sally Davies said it was a 'lifestyle choice', alcohol, smoking and obesity. This was reinforced by various researchers, funded by CRUK, and the *British Medical Journal* played no small part in this. *"The link between alcohol and cancer is now well established, and it's not just heavy drinkers who are at risk. Drinking alcohol is linked to an increased risk of seven different cancers - liver, breast, bowel, mouth, throat, oesophageal (food pipe), laryngeal (voice box) - but when people were asked "which, if any, health conditions do you think can result from drinking too much alcohol?" just 13 per cent of adults mentioned cancer."*

In Britain there were 13,605 new cases of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2015 (and 4,920 deaths in 2016) and each year the incidence is increasing despite the Francis Crick Institute's pledges 41,804 new cases of bowel cancer in 2015 (and 16,384 deaths in 2016); 12,547 new cases of kidney cancer in 2015 (and 4,619 deaths in 2016); 5,736 new cases of liver cancer in 2015 (5,417 deaths in 2016); 15,906 new cases of melanoma in 2015 (2,285 deaths in 2016); 3,528 new cases of thyroid cancer in 2015 (382 deaths in 2016); 10,171 new cases of bladder cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 8,984 new cases of uterine cancer in 2015 (2,360 deaths in 2016); 7,270 cases of ovarian cancer in 2015 (4,227 deaths in 2016); 9,900 new cases of leukaemia in 2015 (4,712 deaths in 2016); 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer in 2015 (11,563 deaths in 2016); 47,151 new cases of prostate cancer in 2015 (11,631 deaths in 2016); 9,211 new cases of oesophageal cancer in 2015 (8,004 deaths in 2016) and 5,540 new cases of myeloma in 2015 (3,079 deaths in 2016); 2,288 new cases of testicular cancer in 2015 (57 deaths in 2016); 9,921 new cases of pancreatic cancer in 2015 (9,263 deaths in 2016); 11,432 new cases of brain cancer in 2015 (5,250 deaths in 2016). In the US in 2014 there were 24,050 new cases of myeloma.

Each year there are steady increases in the numbers of new cancers, and increases in deaths from the same cancers, with no treatments making any difference to the numbers.

Roundup sprayed by UK farmers on crops went from 226,762 kg in 1990 to 2,240,408 kg in 2016, a 10-fold increase in 16 years

UK Farmers started spraying crops pre-harvest to 'desiccate' them in 1980³¹ as recommended by a scientist from Monsanto and endorsed by ADAS. In the US the use of Roundup as a desiccant did not start until the late 1990s. The UK obesity levels now exceed those of the US. Children in Wales have been as obese as those in the US since 20014.³²

The Francis Crick Institute with its 'world class resources' is failing to improve people's lives with its treatments, but is definitely strengthening the economy of the pesticides industry, the pharmaceutical industry and the British Government

"The Francis Crick Institute is a biomedical discovery institute dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease. Its work is helping to understand why disease develops and to translate discoveries into new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, infections, and neurodegenerative diseases.

An independent organisation, its founding partners are the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, Wellcome, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King's College London. The Crick was formed in 2015, and in 2016 it moved into a brand new state-of-the-art

³¹ <http://www.hgca.com/media/185527/is02-pre-harvest-glyphosate-application-to-wheat-and-barley.pdf>

³² <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/33512>

building in central London which brings together 1500 scientists and support staff working collaboratively across disciplines, making it the biggest biomedical research facility under a single roof in Europe. The Francis Crick Institute will be world-class with a strong national role. Its distinctive vision for excellence includes commitments to collaboration; to developing emerging talent and exporting it to the rest of the UK; to public engagement; and to helping turn discoveries into treatments as quickly as possible to improve lives and strengthen the economy."

Monsanto toxic synthetic chemicals cause many genetic defects

That is why Britain has become the number one global centre for researching and finding cures for these diseases.

Monsanto manufactured Agent Orange, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and formulated glyphosate (Roundup) and many other toxic chemicals. These synthetic chemicals, manufactured in Monsanto's factory in Wales from 1949 onwards, and dumped in Brofiscin Quarry³³ and various quarries, cause genetic defects. WWF-UK's Bio-monitoring Survey November 2003 showed that every person tested was contaminated by a cocktail of known highly toxic chemicals which were banned from use in the UK during the 1970s and which continue to pose unknown health risks.³⁴

UK Mortality rates from 2014 the highest for 50 years: they continue to rise³⁵

"The period July 2014 to June 2015 saw an additional 39 074 deaths in England and Wales compared with the same period the previous year. While mortality rates fluctuate year-on-year, this was the largest rise for nearly 50 years and the higher rate of mortality has been maintained throughout 2016 and into 2017."

Weed killer found in granola and crackers, internal FDA emails show³⁶

"I have brought wheat crackers, granola cereal and corn meal from home and there's a fair amount in all of them," FDA chemist Richard Thompson wrote to colleagues in an email last year regarding glyphosate. Thompson, who is based in an FDA regional laboratory in Arkansas, wrote that broccoli was the only food he had "on hand" that he found to be glyphosate-free.

That internal FDA email, dated January 2017, is part of a string of FDA communications that detail agency efforts to ascertain how much of the popular weedkiller is showing up in American food. The tests mark the agency's first-ever such examination. The FDA is charged with annually testing food samples for pesticide residues to monitor for illegally high residue levels. The fact that the agency only recently started testing for glyphosate, a chemical that has been used for over 40 years in food production, has led to criticism from consumer groups and the Government Accountability Office (GAO)"

The FDA has been testing glyphosate in food for nearly 2 years, but has not produced a Report³⁷

A letter from Congressman Ted Lieu, a member of the Committee on the Judiciary in the House of Representatives, to Dr Gottlieb of the FDA asking him to clarify the practices around testing glyphosate in food and why they are not releasing them. He asks seven pertinent questions which he hopes the FDA will answer.

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http://www.theecologist.org/The_Brofiscin_Monsanto_Files/777777/burying_the_truth_the_original_ecologist_investigation_into_monsanto_and_brofiscin_quarry.html

³⁴ <http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/biomonitoringresults.pdf>

³⁵ <http://jech.bmj.com/content/early/2017/09/01/jech-2017-209403>

³⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/apr/30/fda-weedkiller-glyphosate-in-food-internal-emails>

Carey Gillam, 30 April 2018.

³⁷ <https://lieu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-lieu-urges-fda-clarify-practices-around-testing-glyphosate-food>

Why are the European Commission and the UK Chemicals Regulation Division not testing foods or humans for glyphosate either?

I had a letter on 22/05/2018 from a scientist in Germany who reported a 2-year interim study measuring glyphosate residues in urine. He said: *“About 4 weeks ago we had a value on glyphosate residues from a child that was pretty high. In fact: It was the fifth highest of all 1200+ samples after 2 years. Until then the top 3 values of over 1200 samples were a bit over 4 ng/ml – that’s it. When I had contact with the father of the child it turned out that this young girl is autistic. So, I had this intuition that it might be a good idea to see if we have a pattern testing other autistic children too. I was lucky, because the father of this kid was leading a self-aid group of... autistic parents. As he reported his findings there, we had an ongoing stream of other samples from autistic children. NOW we have – from what I know by now – one sample from an autistic kid that is almost 7ng/ml. And this sample is from a kid living in UK. I expect to get a real bunch of those values within the next week on my desk, and since the lab already told me there are some disturbing values I can’t wait to see more about this truth. So – even if glyphosate is not a way to autism, which we should investigate very carefully – you have an idea about how high the UK food must be contaminated already. (In his survey, he found 100% of samples from the UK and Poland were contaminated with glyphosate residues). **We need to get this stuff banned, for once and for all.**”*

Glyphosate was initially patented as a chelator of minerals for cleaning boilers before Monsanto acquired it and patented it as a herbicide. Glyphosate disrupts our gut bacteria, the gut microbiome, without which we could not live. It is a strong chelator of essential minerals, such as cobalt, zinc, manganese, calcium, molybdenum and sulphate. In addition, it kills off beneficial gut bacteria and allows toxic bacteria such as *Clostridium difficile* to flourish. Two key problems caused by glyphosate in the diet are nutritional deficiencies, especially minerals and essential amino-acids, and systemic toxicity.

Glyphosate and modern diseases Samsel and Seneff II-IV 2016 ³⁸

The diseases that Samsel & Seneff described between 2013 and 2016 associated with glyphosate match those we have in Britain. Samsel, with the help of his Senator, had been trying to get the secret long-term studies concealed by the US EPA under the FOI Act. ³⁹

The Federal Agency finally supplied these documents (in excess of 100,000 pages) in 2015. The cataract study (Stout, L.D. & Ruecker, F.A. Chronic study of glyphosate administered in feed to albino rats. Unpublished Study, Project No. MSL-10495. Monsanto Agricultural Company (2,175 pp.) EPA MRID 416438-01 (26 September 1990). *“In a long-term study conducted by Monsanto between 1987 and 1989 [15], glyphosate was found to induce a statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) cataractous lens formation, highest in male rats.”*

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) corroborates this in their ‘**classification of glyphosate as causing serious eye damage**’.⁴⁰ A 2016 study by the WHO also confirmed that the incidence of cataracts had greatly increased: ‘A global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks’ says that cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide. Globally, cataracts are responsible for 51% of blindness – an estimated 20 million individuals suffer from this degenerative eye disease. The NHS waiting list for cataract operation is growing massively.

Question asked by The Countess of Mar in the House of Lords about the Defarge Paper and heavy metals found in glyphosate-based herbicides 22/01/2018⁴¹

³⁸ <http://www.amsi.ge/jbpc/31515/11SA15R.pdf>

³⁹ <http://gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/16515-monsanto-s-secret-studies-reveal-glyphosate-link-to-cancer>

⁴⁰ <https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-not-classified-as-a-carcinogen-by-echa>

⁴¹ <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2018-01-08.HL4486.h&p=12904>

“To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of Defarge et al in Toxicity of formulants and heavy metals in glyphosate-based herbicides and other pesticides published in Toxicology Reports, volume 5, about the use of so-called inert ingredients in those chemical formulations.”

Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Con) (The Defra spokesperson in the HOL).

“The paper by Defarge et al studied the effects of glyphosate (and other active substances) and of a number of other components of pesticide formulations. It concludes that the effects of those other components are greater than the effects of glyphosate and suggests a need to assess the impacts of pesticide products.

The current system for regulating pesticides does assess the impacts of both active substances and formulated products. The assessment and decision making for active substances is carried out at [EU](#) level; the equivalent process for products takes place nationally. This means that the potential impacts of each product are assessed; it is not assumed that a product is safe simply because the active substances it contains have been approved. The EU is also developing a list of chemicals which will be prohibited from use in pesticide products. The review of glyphosate raised some concerns over the inclusion of [POE](#) tallowamines in formulated products. In [August 2016](#), the [European Commission](#) therefore instructed [Member States](#) to require the removal of these chemicals from glyphosate products. [The UK](#) has implemented this requirement.

[The Commission](#) decided in [December 2017](#) to approve glyphosate for continuing use until [December 2022](#). Following that decision the UK and other Member States will review the product authorisations of all herbicides containing glyphosate. This review will take account of the relevant data on the properties of the products, as well as the properties of glyphosate as the active substance. Product authorisations will only be renewed if the assessment of the scientific evidence concludes that the formulated product will not harm people or pose unacceptable risks to the environment.”

Has Defra removed POE tallowamines from Roundup?

I doubt it. Lord Gardiner has been given a fraudulent statement by Defra staff. The links look convincing, but those links are all to Wikipedia! Where is the evidence that the UK had implemented the EU's instructions to remove POE tallowamines in August 2016? Is it likely that Monsanto's contractor Complete Weed Control would throw away the Dakar Pro (Roundup) that they were spraying on the streets of Swansea? It is unlikely.

When the EU banned atrazine and simazine in 2004 and gave Britain a year's grace, Defra continued to let Syngenta use up the stocks until 2008, when suddenly the Environment Agency showed that atrazine and its metabolites had been found above the EU legal limit in more than 25% of sample sites. The Environment Agency Groundwater Database had recorded a maximum concentration of atrazine of 13.04µg/l at one site. That is 130 times the EU legal limit for groundwater (2004/248/EC).

Has Defra instructed the non-agricultural use of Roundup to stop as the EU suggested?

Definitely not. I have obtained Freedom of Environmental Information requests that show glyphosate-based herbicides are still being used on the streets and pavements in Wales, and in large amounts.

Dame Judith Hackitt was appointed to conduct an inquiry into the Grenfell Fire

This was a report from the *Times*: *“Dame Judith Hackitt's appointment to lead a review of building regulations was announced last month, accompanied by a long list of her career achievements.”*⁴² *The credentials included her former roles as head of the Health and Safety Executive, fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, president of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and current position as chairwoman of the EEF.*

⁴² <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/grenfell-survivors-are-losing-faith-in-officials-ifqzqh25>

The biography said she was appointed a dame last year for ‘services to health and safety and engineering’ and for being a role model for young women. It omitted to mention her directorship of the Energy Saving Trust, from which Dame Judith had resigned the day before. The trust is an independent body that promotes efforts to create a low carbon economy with advice on renewable energy, efficient homes and water usage. It advocates insulation products that use polyisocyanurate foam, which has been linked to the rapid spread of the fire up the outside of Grenfell Tower. Sir Martin Moore-Bick, the judge leading the public inquiry, has faced questions over rulings in housing cases and his ability to engage with people in social housing. Sir Ken Knight, former London fire chief who chairs the panel overseeing safety testing of insulation systems, was director of a firm that certified cladding similar to that at Grenfell.

The Grenfell Recovery Taskforce has been criticised for basing itself at the offices of the local council, which has been under constant attack over its performance. “Every single appointment or announcement seems designed to minimise the commercial and political fall-out,” Sue Caro, of the Justice for Grenfell campaign, said.” Dame Judith struggled to find a reply to Jon Snow on Channel 4 news when he asked why she hadn’t mentioned flammable cladding which was the prime cause of the fire.⁴³ The most outrageous award from the Government was to Michael Pragnell, Founder of Syngenta and former Chairman of CropLife International, when he finished his chairmanship of Cancer Research UK (2010-2016) was a CBE for services to Cancer.⁴⁴

Damian Carrington’s interview with Professor Paul Ehrlich⁴⁵

A shattering collapse of civilisation is a “near certainty” in the next few decades due to humanity’s continuing destruction of the natural world that sustains all life on Earth, according to biologist Prof Paul Ehrlich. The world’s optimum population is less than two billion people – 5.6 billion fewer than on the planet today, he argues, and there is an increasing toxification of the entire planet by synthetic chemicals that may be more dangerous to people and wildlife than climate change. Ehrlich also says an unprecedented redistribution of wealth is needed to end the over-consumption of resources, but “the rich who now run the global system – that hold the annual ‘world destroyer’ meetings in Davos – are unlikely to let it happen”. It is the combination of high population and high consumption by the rich that is destroying the natural world, he says. Research published by Ehrlich and colleagues in 2017 concluded that this is driving a sixth mass extinction of biodiversity, upon which civilisation depends for clean air, water and food. Ehrlich is also concerned about chemical pollution, which has already reached the most remote corners of the globe. “The evidence we have is that toxics reduce the intelligence of children, and members of the first heavily influenced generation are now adults.”

He treats this risk with characteristic dark humour: “The first empirical evidence we are dumbing down *Homo sapiens* were the Republican debates in the US 2016 presidential elections – and the resultant kakistocracy. On the other hand, toxification may solve the population problem, since sperm counts are plunging.”

Summary of the Advisory Opinion of the International Monsanto Tribunal

- Monsanto has violated human rights to food, health, a healthy environment and the freedom indispensable for independent scientific research.
- ‘ecocide’ should be recognized as a crime in international law.

Rosemary Mason 4th June 2018

⁴³ <https://www.channel4.com/news/author-of-grenfell-tower-review-the-lack-of-discipline-has-shocked-me>

⁴⁴ <http://www.cruk.cam.ac.uk/news/latest-news/new-year-honours-cancer-research-uk-experts>

⁴⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/mar/22/collapse-civilisation-near-certain-decades-population-bomb-paul-ehrllich>