

15 December 2025

To: Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission  
Euro Commissioners

**Subject: Alert by 50+ civil society organisations and scientists opposing European Commission proposals to weaken the assessment framework for pesticides**

Dear Mrs. Von der Leyen and European Commissioners,

We, a coalition of more than 50 Dutch civil society organisations and scientists working in the fields of health, nature and the environment, respectfully ask your urgent attention to the following:

On Wednesday 10 December, the European Commission discussed the ‘Food and Feed Simplification Package’ with the College of European Commissioners. This package contains proposals that would weaken the assessment framework for pesticides. For example, periodic re-assessment of pesticides would be replaced by authorisations of indefinite duration, and national authorities would no longer be required to take the latest scientific evidence into account. Finally, the phase-out period for banned substances would be extended from 18 to 36 months.

This is despite a growing body of scientific research increasingly demonstrating links between pesticides and neurological conditions such as Parkinson’s disease, dementia, ALS and various forms of cancer. Pesticides also have a significant negative impact on biodiversity in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. Moreover, these proposals are inconsistent with the European Commission’s own commitment to *evidence-based* policymaking, as reflected by the establishment of the Joint Research Centre and platforms like Knowledge 4Policy.

### **Deeply concerning proposals**

We are deeply concerned about the significant deterioration of the current, already inadequate assessment framework for pesticides on which the European Commission is expected to decide this week. This so-called ‘simplification’ of the existing regulatory framework contains a number of highly undesirable measures that would reduce the level of protection for human health and the environment. Instead of being dismantled, the current level of protection should be strengthened and enhanced. For a detailed substantiation of our concerns, we refer you to the enclosed letter entitled “URGENT LETTER TO DUTCH PARLIAMENT AND CABINET”.

### **Call to action**

We respectfully but strongly urge the European Commission to remain steadfast in protecting the health of farmers, citizens and the environment, rather than weakening the level of protection. This requires maintaining periodic re-assessment and ensuring that the latest scientific evidence is considered in the (re)assessment of pesticides. It also involves shortening the permitted use period for banned substances, allowing no exemptions for their continued use and fully respecting the cut-off criteria. In addition, we advocate a balanced and responsible approach to strengthening alternatives, such as the authorisation of biological products and pesticides.

We urgently call on you and the European Commission to rescind the proposed measures and uphold the protection of human health, nature and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Lantink, Chair of the Parkinson Alliance Netherlands

Marjolein Demmers, Director of Natuur & Milieu

Dick Koerselman, Interim Chair of FNV

Prof. dr. Bas Bloem, Professor of Neurology, Radboud University Nijmegen

Prof. dr. Martina Vijver, Professor of Ecotoxicology, Leiden University

Prof. dr. Geert de Snoo, Professor of Environmental Biology, Leiden University

Prof. Dr. Nico van den Brink, Professor of Toxicology, Wageningen University

Prof. dr. Paul van den Brink, Professor of Chemical Stress Ecology, Wageningen University

Also on behalf of the following organizations:

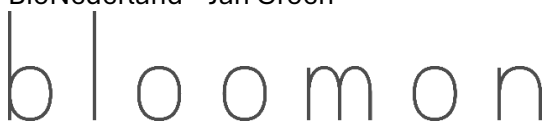




Bee Foundation – ir. Sonne Copijn



BioNederland – Jan Groen



Bloomon – Sibbe Krol



CLM Onderzoek en Advies – Edo Dijkman



De Bolster biologische zaden – Annemarie Kruise



De Vlinderstichting – Koen Verhoogt



DO IT Organic – Noah Timp



Foodwatch Nederland – Tahnee Didderen



Biocore – Marco Molier



Biowinkelvereniging - Roosmarijn Saat



Caring Vets – Nicole de Schwartz



Cue2Walk International – Floor Waardenburg



De Groene Weg BV – Allard Bakker



De Wespenstichting – Sjoert Fleurke



Ekoplaza – Steven IJzerman



Greenpeace Nederland – Hilde Anna de Vries



Groene Kerken – Carla Dik-Faber



Groene Zorg Alliantie – Wendy Hoekamp



H. Bieleman Veevoeders – J. H. Bieleman



High Quality Organics BV – Oeble Kempenaar



IVN Helmond



LandschappenNL – H. H. Bartelink



Louis Bolk Instituut



Meten = Weten – Leo van Kampenhout



Milieudefensie – Mathilde de Jeu



Natuur en Milieu Federaties – Annie van der Pas



Natuur en Milieufederatie Groningen – Jan-Willem Lobeek



Natuur en Milieu Federatie Limburg – Andrea Bakker

*De Nieuwe Band*



Odin de Nieuwe Band



Odin Foodcoop – Mari den Hartog



PAN Nederland – Anna Kretova



Partij voor de Dieren Waterschap de Dommel – Judith Lammers



Pesticide Action Network Netherlands – Margriet Mantingh



Robin Food Coalition – Volkert Engelsman



Soorten NL – Sander Turnhout



Sprinklr – Suzanne van Straaten



Stichting Natuur Onderzoek Nederland – K. Akkers



Stoker Organica BV – René Laan



Urgenda – Marjan Minnesma



Velt vzw – Yacine Ryckebusch



Vereniging Natuurmonumenten – Pim van der Feltz



Vewin – Pieter Litjens



Vogelbescherming – Karsten Schipper Heijn