



**EurEau**

Rue du Luxembourg 47-51,  
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.  
Tel: +32 (0)2 706 40 80  
Fax: +32 (0) 2 706 40 81  
secretariat@EurEau.org  
www.eureau.org

# EurEau Position Paper on Glyphosate

## Summary

EurEau follows the current debate around the renewal of approval for glyphosate. By opening the debate and the inclusion of the latest scientific evidence policy makers will be able to make informed decisions. Glyphosate is routinely found in raw water resources across Europe.

Although both EFSA<sup>1</sup> and WHO<sup>2</sup> point to evidence of no direct human carcinogenicity of glyphosate water producers should be mindful of the impacts of effects on the endocrine system when providing water for human consumption. As such EurEau support measures taken to control the concentrations of chemical in surface waters and in urban run-off.

---

It is vital that consumers across Europe have access to safe drinking water. Water suppliers need adequate and reliable sources to provide this. Protecting against contamination and other threats affecting surface water and ground water quality is crucial for the supply of safe, wholesome and clean drinking water that complies with the requirements set by the Drinking Water Directive (DWD), now and for future generations.

Water suppliers must have access to adequate and reliable sources that are protected from contamination and other threats regarding the aquifer and therefore a sustainable protection of source waters is essential. It is also necessary to comply with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), especially article 7.3 which states that deterioration of the water quality should be avoided in order to reduce the level of purification treatment required in the production of drinking water.

If the renewal of authorisation of glyphosate is granted, Member States should strive to reduce the contamination of drinking water resources whether it is ground water or surface water. The use of surface water is prevalent in Europe and contamination with glyphosate and AMPA are observed. Since for glyphosate the urban run-off represents the largest contribution to surface water contamination, taking measures to reduce this source of contamination

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4302](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4302).

<sup>2</sup> [www.who.int/foodsafety/jmprsummary2016.pdf](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/jmprsummary2016.pdf).



will help to fulfil article 7.3 of the WFD and therefore will be beneficial for drinking water producers.

Pesticides are substances that prevent, destroy or control a harmful organism ('pest') or disease, or protect plants or plant products during production, storage and transport. The so-called 'Pesticides package' regulates the authorisation and the sustainable use of pesticides as well as obligations for the documentation of the applications by farmers.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and WHO have both stated that glyphosate is unlikely to cause cancer. Despite this EFSA has stated that an endocrine mediated mode of action of the compound cannot be ruled out. The occurrence of glyphosate in drinking water resources is the focus of concern for EurEau in the debate on the re-approval of glyphosate.

EurEau acknowledges the need for product authorisation to be based on robust and up to date science and to be flexible enough to allow changes to scientific opinion to be acted upon at a later date.

---

## About EurEau

EurEau is the voice of Europe's water sector. We represent drinking and waste water service providers from 29 countries in Europe, from both the private and the public sectors.

Our members are the national associations of water services in Europe. We bring national water professionals together to agree European water industry positions regarding the management of water quality, resource efficiency and access to water for Europe's citizens and businesses. The EurEau secretariat coordinates the work of around 200 experts from member organisations and utilities and advocate common positions with EU decision makers.

Our members are fully committed to the continuous supply of clean water and its safe return into the water cycle.



Rue du Luxembourg 47-51,  
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)2 706 40 80  
Fax: +32 (0) 2 706 40 81  
secretariat@EurEau.org  
www.eureau.org