

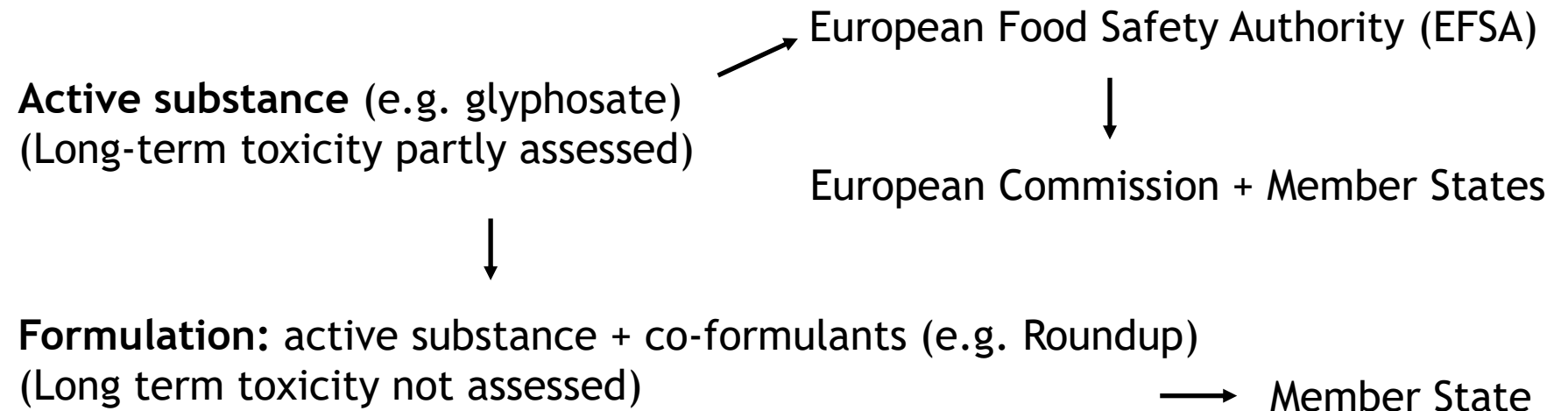
Focus Europe: The problem with pesticide usage and why we need to act

Martin Dermine, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe

Pesticide approval system

- Pesticides = only killing substances voluntarily massively emitted into the environment
- European Commission: „Highest level of protection in the world“

- 2-step approach



Pesticides are omnipresent



- Air, water, food, soil, rain, house dust: omnipresence!
- Pesticides' remnance is much longer than pretended by producers, having long-lasting effects on the environment and people's health



- High quantities of pesticides found in people's bedroom dust
- No evaluation of the health risk in the EU

Neonicotinoid-induced mortality risk for bees foraging on oilseed rape nectar persists despite EU moratorium

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A Colossal and underestimated impact

Citizens' health



Carcinogenicity

Toxic to reproduction

Neurotoxicity

Obesogen

Genotoxicity

A Colossal and underestimated impact

Environmental toxicity

Bees

Aquatic ecosystems

Bats

Earthworms

Soil micro- /macrobiotia

EU: Strictest rules in the world?

- Rules poorly implemented: EU- and Member States' level
- Rules not strict enough
 - Brain-damaging Chlorpyrifos used during 50 years!
 - 24 years to ban bee-toxic neonicotinoids
- Evidence shows: no safe use of synthetic pesticides
- Solution: phase out synthetic pesticides and replace them with agroecology



Save Bees and Farmers

European Citizens Initiative



- Phase-out synthetic pesticides by 2035
- Restore biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems
- Massive financial support to farmers in the transition towards agroecology

1.18 million signatures !

Pesticide reduction regulation

- « Sustainable Use » = industry myth
- No safe use of synthetic pesticides
- Pesticides cost at least 2.3 billion euros per year to EU citizens
- CAP money misspent to the benefit of agribusiness, not EU citizens
- Phasing out synthetic pesticides is the only sustainable way forward

Pesticide-free agriculture is performant



- Strategies for feeding the world more sustainably with organic agriculture, 2017, Muller *et al.*
- An agroecological Europe in 2050: multifunctional agriculture for healthy eating, 2018, Poux and Aubert
- The economic potential of agroecology: Empirical evidence from Europe, 2019, van der Ploeg *et al.*
- Small yield reductions (~20%)
- More balanced diet: less meat, more legumes
- Fight food waste: 20% of the produced food
- Agroecological farm are more profitable, more resilient, less dependent on markets and public subsidies

Thank you for your attention !



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