European Commission

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Mr Jorgo Riss, Director, Greenpeace European Unit
Ms Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director,
Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL)
Mr F. Veillerette, President, PAN Europe

Brussels, 25. 11. 2015
ARES(2015)

Dear Mr Riss, dear Ms Jensen, dear Mr Veillerette,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 October 2015, sent on behalf of 47 organisations, regarding the active substance glyphosate.

The letter outlines your concerns about the renewal assessment of glyphosate, in particular, on the evaluation of the mammalian toxicology carried out by the Rapporteur Member State Germany, the divergent findings of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and the peer review conducted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

As a consequence, you are requesting the Commission to mandate the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to analyse carcinogenicity and other endpoints in the context of the European legislation on classification, labelling and packaging (CLP).

First, I would like to clarify that the Commission did ask ECHA in July 2015 to provide scientific advice concerning the possible classification of glyphosate during the EFSA peer review of that active substance. ECHA's contribution will be published on the EFSA website in the coming weeks as part of the background documents to the EFSA Conclusion on glyphosate.

In addition, the Commission is aware that a file is in preparation for an evaluation of glyphosate by ECHA, in accordance with the CLP legislation. In the light of the deadlines set for the EFSA

process under the EU legislation on plant protection products, it was however not possible to postpone further the conclusion of the EFSA process until ECHA's work is finalised. However, the Commission may review the approval of an active substance at any time in the light of new scientific and technical knowledge. In that context, the Commission will take duly into account ECHA's analysis.

Regarding the EFSA peer review process, I have full confidence in its scientific robustness and credibility, not least because it brings together the expertise of EFSA and the risk assessment bodies in all 28 Member States as well as additional agencies such as ECHA.

EFSA based its Conclusion on all available scientific evidence. This included studies that have to be conducted according to the guidelines referred to in the data requirements for active substances, and scientific peer-reviewed open literature. Summaries of these studies were published on the EFSA website in April 2014, in time for the public consultation conducted in the same year. Both the submission of studies and the publication of information on those studies were in line with the requirements of European legislation.

The Commission is now carefully considering the findings presented in the EFSA Conclusion. The Commission will present a draft review report to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, followed by a draft act renewing the approval or providing for a non-approval.

Yours sincerely,