

# Follow the money...

How corporate power and the pesticide industry is blocking progress



**THE PESTICIDE  
COLLABORATION** 



# THE PESTICIDE COLLABORATION

TACKLING PESTICIDES FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE



# How the pesticide industry blocks environmental change in Europe

Clare Carlile - investigative journalist at DeSmog





**DeSmog**

# Enormous lobbying power....



Syngenta US > Thrive > Policy

## EU's Farm to Fork Strategy Misses Mark

The Farm to Fork Strategy proposal strives to decrease pesticide use, but instead increases agricultural land use and hunger in U.S. and abroad.

YouTube

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**Farm to Fork: What the analysis and data tell us**

EURACTIV #euDebates Supported by: CropLife EUROPE

0:06 / 1:14:53 • Introduction

Farm to Fork: What the analysis and data tell us

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Wednesday, 20 December 2023

**The Brussels Times**

MAGAZINE BRUSSELS BELGIUM BUSINESS ART & CULTURE EU AFFAIRS WORLD BELGIUM **is UNLOCKED**

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Promoted

**Farm to Fork – setting the right policy direction in times of change**

Sunday, 6 March 2022

On May 20, 2020, the European Commission presented the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies, both are at the heart of the EU's Green Deal. Now almost two years later, the first implementation steps have been

CropLife Europe @CropLifeEU

Soil is an important carbon sink that stores 10% of the world's CO2. When soil is tilled, CO2 is released and contributes to global warming. Crop protection products enable farmers to use sustainable practices such as no-till, keeping carbon in the soil. [#PreparingTheGround](#)

Preparing the ground for tomorrow [cpa.eu/with-or-without](#)

European Crop Protection

4:03 PM · Mar 9, 2020

5

# Massive wins for pesticide lobby in Europe

2021 – Lawmakers agree to halve pesticide use

2023 – EU votes down law for pesticide reduction


2024 – EU elections – a major anti-green landslide?



# Borrowing fossil fuel tactics...


## 1. Funding “Independent” science

Abc

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**News**

**Green Deal probably leads to lower agricultural yields**

## 2. Creating fear and doubt

The European Union's (EU) Farm to Fork Strategy (FFS) might have admirable climate goals – but the price tag for farmers and the global population is high.

Some of the proposed changes include strict guidelines for fertilizer and pesticide use along with increased organic production goals. They look good on paper, but the impact of FFS approval is an imposition on EU farmers who would have to use more land and spend more money —, both of which will produce lower yields. Lower yields mean more people go hungry.

And if passed, it might not be long before more growers than just those in the EU are losing income.

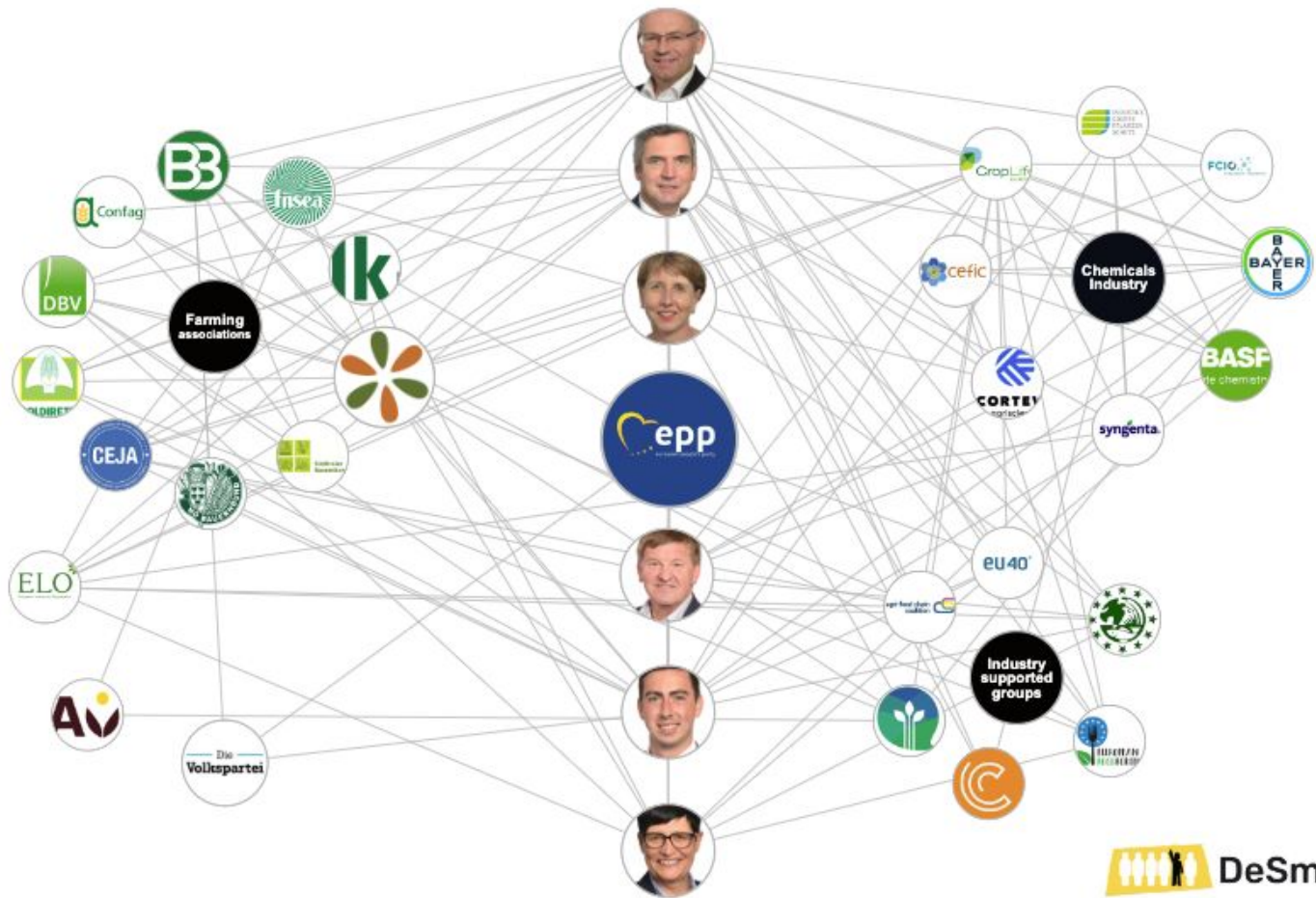


## Key Narratives Used by Big Agribusiness to Delay Nature-Friendly Legislation in the EU

	“ Arbitrary Targets are Not the Solution.	“ Reforms Will Jeopardize Food Production.	“ The EU Targets Ignore the Science.	“ Reforms Will Make Europe Dependent on Imports.	“ Innovation Can Save Nature.
Bayer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BASF	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Corteva	-	-	-	-	-
Syngenta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yara	-	✓	✓	-	-
EuroChem	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
CropLife Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fertilizers Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Euroseeds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cefic	✓	-	-	-	✓
COPA-COGECA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FNSEA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agri-Food Chain Coalition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Carbon+ Farming Coalition	✓	-	-	-	✓

### 3. Forming powerful alliances





## 4. Promoting industry-friendly solutions

### **We need to shift the focus from reduction to innovation**

Looking back at the last years, we can see that progress in the right direction. However, the main focus of the focus is still on reducing and not on innovation. Innovation is still seen as reduction rather than as an

New tools such as digital and precision technologies, new pesticides and biopesticides as well as modern breeding techniques offer a real opportunity

to help farmers meet the Green Deal goals, while safeguarding food food security and affordability.

To bring these technologies to the market in a timely manner and help to deliver on the Green Deal, we need a regulatory framework that promotes innovation instead of preventing it. The time for setting the right policies is now.

2023

# ShareAction's agrochemicals campaign

4 January 2024



# We educate and influence financial institutions and policymakers



## Research

We survey financial institutions, publicly ranking their performance in managing risks and driving impact



## Engagement

We build relationships with investors and banks, both criticizing their practices and supporting improvement



## Advocacy

We advocate for financial regulation that will serve the long-term interests of humanity

# drive change in company behavior by working with their investors



## Coalitions

We build, inform and coordinate groups of investors to change corporate behaviors in strategic areas



## AGMs

We train and facilitate individuals and investors to put pressure on boards at their annual shareholder meetings



## Resolutions

We organize more forceful investor activism where attempts to shift company behavior have failed

# We create networks of people and organizations to transform the system



## Individuals

We support pension savers, activists, and affected communities to demand change in company and institution behavior



## Asset owners

We coordinate networks for charities and universities that want to invest their assets responsibly



## Civil society

We collaborate with NGOs, investors, companies and governments who are working to make an impact in and through finance



# Pesticides campaign

**Aim:** Pesticide companies significantly reduce the negative impact of their pesticide products on biodiversity.

**How:** Working with large financial institutions (asset managers, owners and banks) to influence the world's largest pesticide companies on biodiversity. We do so by leveraging the investments (both debt and equity) these firms have in these companies.

To achieve this, the campaign has three objectives for the companies:

- 1 Establish and measure progress against commitments and targets that aim to **reduce the risks of its pesticide products by 50 per cent by 2030**, in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework Target 7.
- 2 **Assess and disclose biodiversity-related impacts, dependencies and risks** that result from all pesticide products.
- 3 Develop a **transition plan and product stewardship strategy** to address the risks that HHPs pose to biodiversity and human health, including **phasing out HHPs by 2035**.

# Campaign timeline 2023 -2024

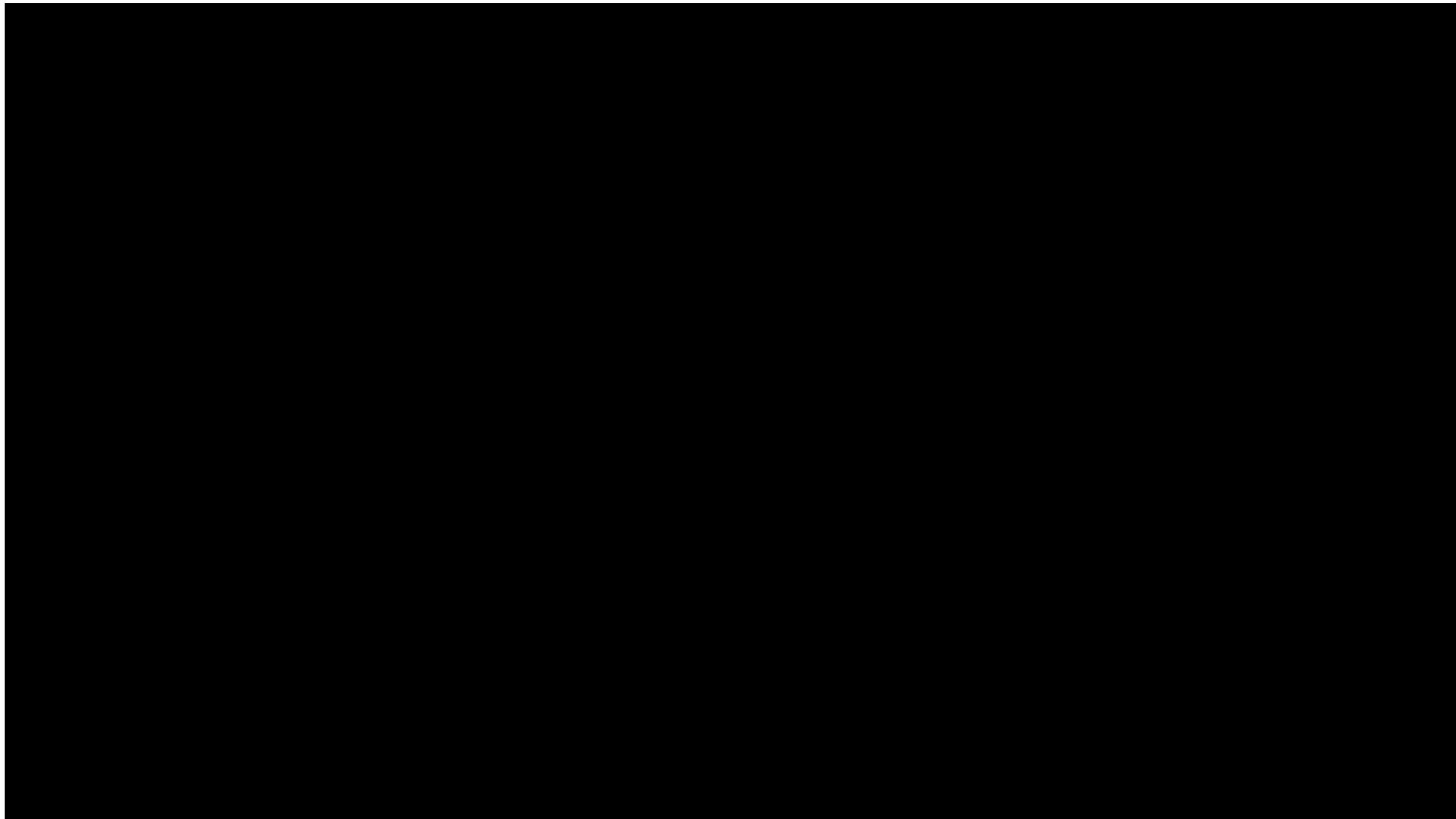


For more information contact:  
[eve.gleeson@shareaction.org](mailto:eve.gleeson@shareaction.org)



# The trade in banned pesticides

Crispin Dowler, co-editor, *Unearthed*



# In 2019 we realised the crisis in nature was being under-reported by environmental journalists

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NEWS · 06 MAY 2019

UPDATE 06 MAY 2019

## Humans are driving one million species to extinction

Landmark United Nations-backed report finds that agriculture is one of the biggest threats to Earth's ecosystems.

Jeff Tollefson



 PDF version

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ABOUT

UNEARTHED



## 'We are losing the web of life': why the global nature crisis is as dangerous as climate change

One million species now face extinction, according to a major new UN report. Scientists warn that this is not only a crisis for nature, but for humanity. Why are they so worried and what does it mean for our lives?

Giraffes gallop near the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya, in 2019. Giraffes are now considered vulnerable to extinction. Photo: Stuart Franklin / Getty

06.05.2019 by [Emma Howard](#) and [Georgie Johnson](#)

 [@EmmaEHoward](#)

 [@@geor@efjohnson](#)

# Could we report on biodiversity loss in the same way investigative journalists have reported on climate change?



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN **175**

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CLIMATE

## Exxon Knew about Climate Change almost 40 years ago

A new investigation shows the oil company understood the science before it became a public issue and spent millions to promote misinformation

By Shannon Hall on October 26, 2015

[Véalo en español](#)



## Revealed: the 20 firms behind a third of all carbon emissions

New data shows how fossil fuel companies have driven climate crisis despite industry knowing dangers

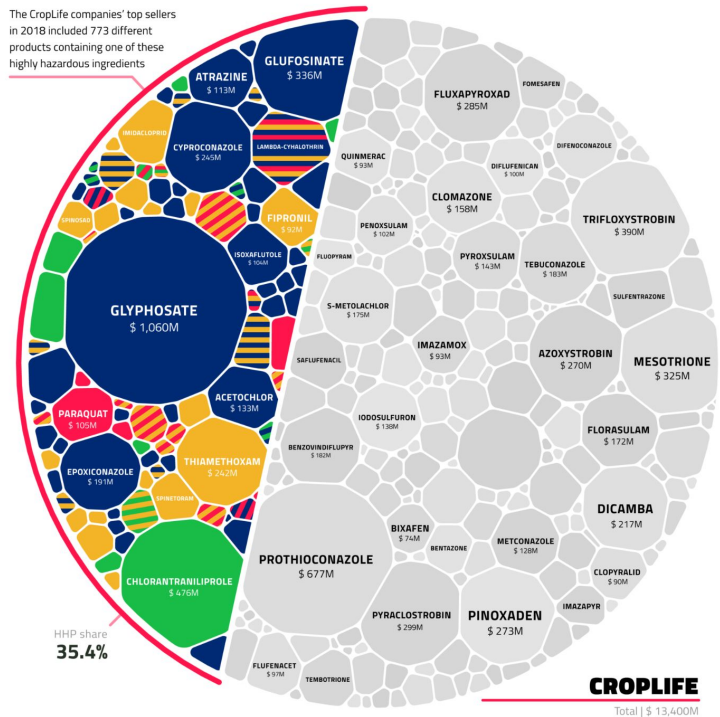
- [Half a century of dither and denial - a climate crisis timeline](#)

# CropLife's top-selling hazardous pesticides

The world's five largest agrochemical companies – members of the powerful CropLife International lobby group – earned \$13.4bn from their top-selling products in the biggest pesticide markets in 2018. **More than a third of that income came from the sale of chemicals listed as highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).** In total, these companies sold an estimated \$37.2bn of pesticides that year, giving them a 65% share of the \$57.6bn global market.

The CropLife companies' top sellers in 2018 included 773 different products containing one of these highly hazardous ingredients

- Highly Hazardous Pesticides**  
Hazard categories
- Acutely toxic
  - Chronic health hazards
  - Environmental hazards
  - Toxic to bees
- Pesticides can exhibit multiple of these categories*



**Data sources** Unearthed/Public Eye analysis of Phillips McDougall data (2018) and Pesticide Action Network list of HHPs (2019). Phillips McDougall data shows only sales of leading products in the most valuable market segments in the biggest pesticide markets; **sales shown here account for 36% of the CropLife companies' total 2018 sales.** Companies included in this analysis are Bayer, BASF, Corteva, FMC and Syngenta – five of the six members of CropLife International. The sixth member, Sumitomo, is excluded.

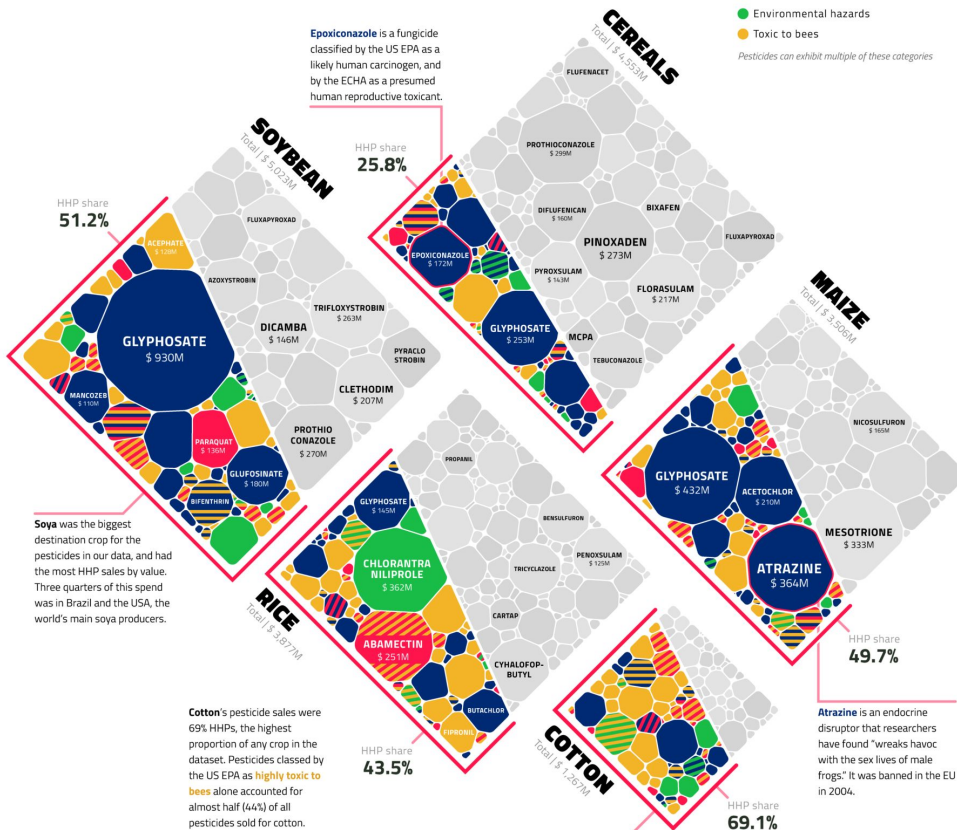
# Crops that drive world trade in hazardous pesticides

Unearthed and Public Eye analysed more than \$23bn of agrochemical sales data for 2018 – about 40% of the global market – to identify sales of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). Across 12 crop groups analysed, those shown here accounted for more than four out of every five dollars spent on HHPs.

## Highly Hazardous Pesticides

Hazard categories

- Acutely toxic
  - Chronic health hazards
  - Environmental hazards
  - Toxic to bees
- Pesticides can exhibit multiple of these categories*



**Data sources** Unearthed/Public Eye analysis of Phillips McDougall data (2018) and Pesticide Action Network list of HHPs (2019). The **Phillips McDougall data focuses on leading product sales in the agrochemical industry's most valuable 'market segments'** (broken down by crop and category of pesticide). Other crops included in the analysis but not shown here were **peas, fruits, sugarcane, rapeseed, potato, vine, sunflower, and sugarbeet.** Because many fruits and vegetables represent more fragmented markets for pesticides they are not covered in the data, although the production of some such crops may involve intensive pesticide use.





The New York Times

UNCERTAIN HARVEST

# This Pesticide Is Prohibited in Britain. Why Is It Still Being Exported?

Paraquat, one of many pesticides that can't be used in Europe but is sold in the United States and elsewhere, has been linked to Parkinson's disease in a growing body of research.



## ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

SECRETARIAT FOR THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE



### Form for Export Notification

**Note for the importing party:** This export notification is sent by the European Chemicals Agency on behalf of the European Commission and of the exporting Member State in accordance with Article 12 of the Rotterdam Convention. The European Chemicals Agency will only notify the first yearly export from the European Union to your country of the chemical, mixture or article identified below. You are kindly requested to acknowledge receipt of this export notification within 30 days of the date indicated in section 7, preferably by using the attached form. Please note that this export notification form deviates from the form established under the Convention in order to comply with legal requirements in the European Union. All changes stemming from European Union legislation are marked with an asterisk \*.

Reference number

Exporting party

EUROPEAN UNION

Importing party

Brazil

#### SECTION 1

#### IDENTITY OF THE CHEMICAL SUBJECT TO THE EXPORT NOTIFICATION

1.1 Common name

1) Paraquat dichloride belongs to the group Paraquat

1.2 Chemical name according to an internationally recognized nomenclature (e.g. IUPAC)

1.3 Code numbers

1.3.1 CAS number

1) 1910-42-5

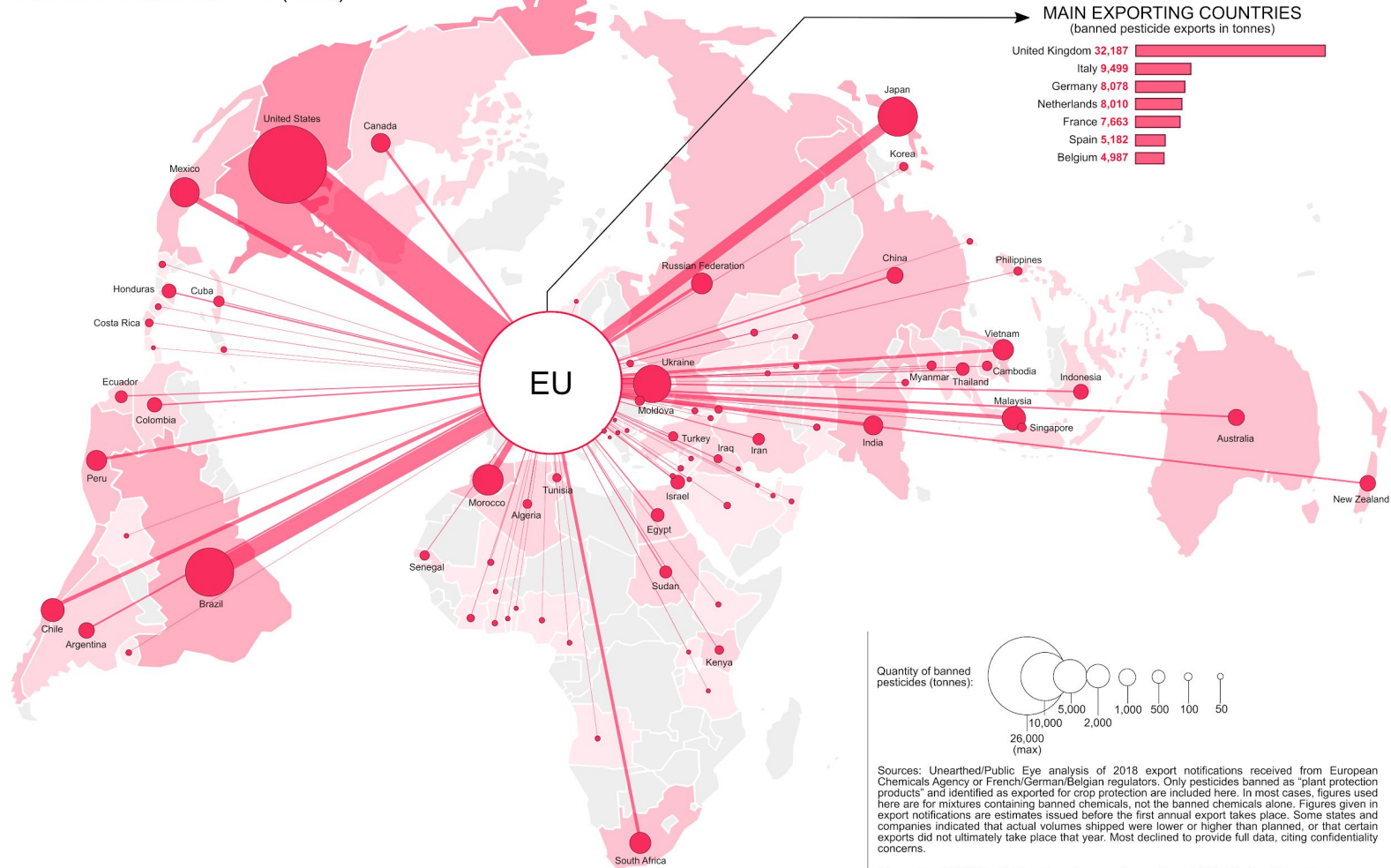
1.3.2 EC number\*

1) 217-615-7

1.3.3 Harmonized system customs code

1.3.4 CN code\*

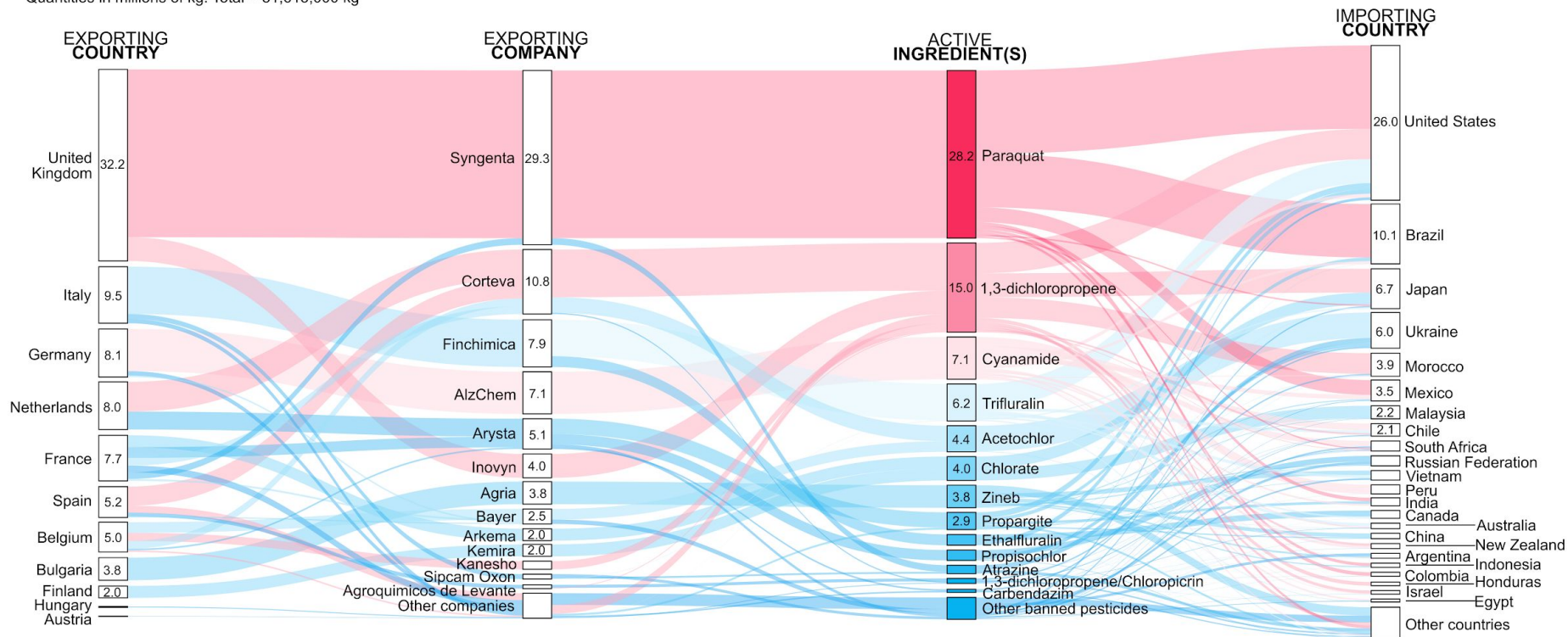
# BANNED PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT FROM THE EU (2018)



Sources: Unearthed/Public Eye analysis of 2018 export notifications received from European Chemicals Agency or French/German/Belgian regulators. Only pesticides banned as "plant protection products" and identified as exported for crop protection are included here. In most cases, figures used here are for mixtures containing banned chemicals, not the banned chemicals alone. Figures given in export notifications are estimates issued before the first annual export takes place. Some states and companies indicated that actual volumes shipped were lower or higher than planned, or that certain exports did not ultimately take place that year. Most declined to provide full data, citing confidentiality concerns.

# BANNED PESTICIDES NOTIFIED FOR EXPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2018

Quantities in millions of kg. Total = 81,615,000 kg



# The UK is probably still Europe's biggest exporter of banned pesticides

UNEARTHED



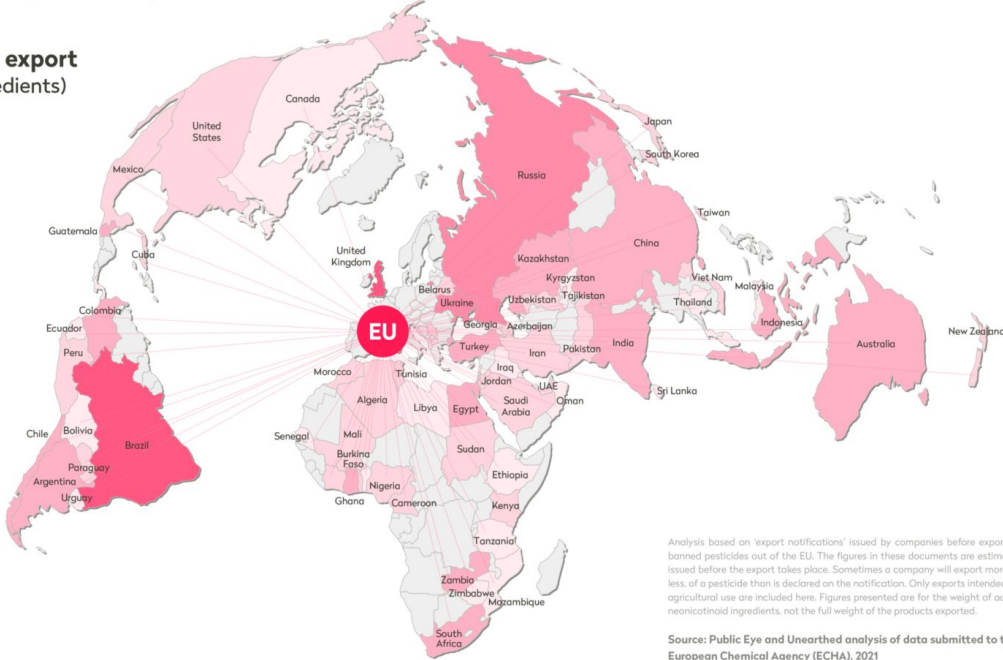
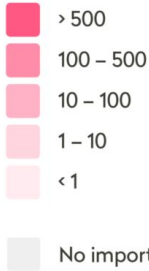
**Revealed: UK shipped more than 10,000 tonnes of banned pesticides overseas in 2020**

- The UK exported seven different banned pesticides in 2020: paraquat, diquat, asulam, imidacloprid, cyhalothrin, chlorothalonil and propiconazole;
- UK-based companies notified exports of agricultural products containing those chemicals to 20 different countries; most were low- or middle-income countries like Brazil, Colombia and India, where experts say hazardous pesticide use poses the greatest risks;
- The vast bulk of the notified exports were shipments of paraquat by the agrochemical giant Syngenta. Paraquat has caused tens of thousands of poisoning deaths, and has been linked to Parkinson's disease in farmers

# Neonicotinoids have become one of Europe's most significant banned pesticide exports...

## Countries importing banned neonicotinoids from the EU, 2021

Weight notified for export  
(tonnes of active ingredients)



Analysis based on 'export notifications' issued by companies before exporting banned pesticides out of the EU. The figures in these documents are estimates issued before the export takes place. Sometimes a company will export more, or less, of a pesticide than is declared on the notification. Only exports intended for agricultural use are included here. Figures presented are for the weight of active neonicotinoid ingredients, not the full weight of the products exported.

Source: Public Eye and Unearthed analysis of data submitted to the European Chemical Agency (ECHA), 2021

# ...even though Europe considers neonics so dangerous it is banning the import of foods grown with them

- (6) Adverse effects of clothianidin and thiamethoxam on bees are directly linked to the intrinsic properties of those substances. Therefore, the risks for bees from outdoor uses of these substances are unlikely to be limited to the Union.
- (7) There is a substantial body of evidence showing that active substances which are neonicotinoids, such as clothianidin and thiamethoxam, play an important role in the decline of bees and other pollinators worldwide. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production concluded in its 2016 assessment report <sup>(14)</sup> that neonicotinoids (such as clothianidin and thiamethoxam) have adverse effects on bees and other pollinators. The impact of neonicotinoids on wildlife has
- (11) As the decline in pollinators is an issue of international concern, Union measures need to be adopted to protect pollinator populations worldwide, including bees, from the risks of active substances, such as the neonicotinoids clothianidin and thiamethoxam. Preserving the pollinator population within the Union only would be insufficient to reverse the worldwide decline of pollinator populations and its effects on biodiversity, agricultural production and food security, also in the Union.

# The exposure of Europe's trade in banned pesticides has had some impact...

## European Commission commits to ending exports of banned chemicals

Landmark decision comes after Unerthed and Public Eye revealed EU manufacturers shipping tens of thousands of tonnes of banned pesticides to poorer countries

## Hazardous chemicals – prohibiting production for export of chemicals banned in the European Union

Have your say > Published initiatives > Hazardous chemicals – prohibiting production for export of chemicals banned in the European Union



### About this initiative

#### Summary

The legislative initiative aims to introduce a mechanism prohibiting production and/certain hazardous chemicals that are banned in the EU – to protect non-EU countries from negative effects on human health and the environment. The initiative will further align external policies and improve the international standing of the EU, strengthening the Commission's actions. It will fulfil a commitment made in the EU's chemicals strategy for sustainable

EURACTIV

## Germany to stop exporting banned pesticides, push for EU-wide halt

By Julia Dahm | EURACTIV ⌚ Est. 4min

LE SOIR

## Les pesticides interdits dans l'UE ne pourront plus être exportés par la Belgique

L'eau potable de plusieurs localités au Costa Rica est contaminée par des résidus de chlorothalonil, un pesticide produit en Europe et en Belgique mais interdit d'utilisation sur notre continent. Un projet d'arrêté royal a été adopté ce vendredi au Conseil des ministres qui mettra fin à cette situation.

# But attempts to ban these exports have faced intense lobbying pressure from the chemicals industry



PFAS – also known as forever chemicals – accumulate in nature and in our bodies where they can damage the endocrine, immune and reproductive systems. Photograph: OJO Images/Rex/Shutterstock

The EU has abandoned a **promise** to ban all but the most vital of toxic chemicals used in everyday consumer products, leaked documents show.

Other legislation to be dropped includes a ban on the export of outlawed chemicals from Europe to the rest of the world, a **ban on caged farming** and a **sustainable food systems** framework that the European Commission once described as “**a flagship**” of its farm to fork strategy.

## PLANÈTE • POLLUTIONS

### « Les lobbys de l'industrie chimique ont gagné » : la Commission européenne enterre le plan d'interdiction des substances toxiques pour la santé et l'environnement

La très attendue révision du règlement Reach, pilier de la stratégie zéro pollution du Green Deal européen, a été reportée à la fin 2023, compromettant son adoption sous la législature d'Ursula von der Leyen.

## L'argument ukrainien

Depuis plusieurs semaines, les géants allemands de la chimie, Bayer et BASF en tête, multiplient les interventions auprès de la Commission pour demander de marquer une pause dans sa « *stratégie pour la durabilité des produits chimiques* ». Dans un appel publié le 4 octobre, la Fédération allemande de l'industrie de la chimie exhortait à repousser toutes les initiatives législatives faisant « *peser des charges supplémentaires sur la compétitivité de l'industrie* ». Raison invoquée : le contexte de crise énergétique lié à la guerre en Ukraine, qui menacerait les compagnies européennes.

Le volet agricole du Pacte vert européen est, lui aussi, remis en question par la guerre en Ukraine, plusieurs Etats membres, dont la France, arguant d'une baisse possible de la production dans l'Union européenne (UE), consécutive à la mise en place des réductions de pesticides et d'intrants prévus par la stratégie « Farm to Fork ».



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Get in touch!  
[amy@pan-uk.org](mailto:amy@pan-uk.org)

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