

1. No Agenda

There is no agenda available for this meeting. Please review the minutes.

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5/22/2019

Geneva Green Committee

Memo - Information About Glyphosates and Potential Hazards of Glyphosates

Prepared by Tricia Johnson

The first article, "Facts and Fallacies in the Debate of Glyphosate Toxicity" was authored by Robin Mesnage & Michael N. Antoniou. The conclusion of this study is that the peer reviewed studies of Samsel and Seneff are: "the mechanisms and vast range of conditions proposed to result from glyphosate toxicity presented by Samsel and Seneff in their commentaries are at best unsubstantiated theories or speculations that are not supported by experimental observation and thus are likely to be wrong."

If that is true, why is Antoniou claiming that Roundup causes issues in the following articles?

<https://www.gmoEvidence.com/dr-michael-antoniou-roundup-causes-massive-kidney-and-liver-damage-at-low-doses/>

Dr. Michael Antoniou: Roundup Causes Massive Kidney and Liver Damage at Low Doses | GMO EVIDENCE

A new ground-breaking peer-reviewed study has been published in Environmental Health Journal that shows the levels of glyphosate-based herbicides which the general public are commonly exposed to in drinking water, altered the gene function of over 4000 genes in the livers and kidneys of rats.

www.gmoEvidence.com

<https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/groundbreaking-study-shows-roundup-herbicide-causes-liver-disease-low-doses>

Groundbreaking Study Shows Roundup
Herbicide Causes Liver Disease at Low Doses -

Organic Consumers Association | Campaigning for health, justice, sustainability, peace, and democracy

A new study published Monday in Scientific Reports, an online, open access journal from the publishers of Nature, has shown that the glyphosate-based Roundup herbicide causes non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in rats at very low doses.

www.organicconsumers.org

As for the study Larry attached, "A review of the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate by four independent expert panels and comparison to the IARC assessment", where the conclusion of the study claims that "glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans". This study was done by Taylor & Francis. Monsanto has been found to have worked with an outside consulting firm to induce journals to publish a biased review of the health effects of its product Roundup...

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-09/monsanto-was-its-own-ghostwriter-for-some-safety-reviews>

Monsanto Was Its Own Ghostwriter for Some Safety Reviews - Bloomberg

Monsanto Co. started an agricultural revolution with its "Roundup Ready" seeds, genetically modified to resist the effects of its blockbuster herbicide called Roundup. That ability to kill ...

www.bloomberg.com

Monsanto ties to Oxford can be found in this article, with various links showing multiple conflicts of interest:

<https://www.alternet.org/2017/11/university-oxford-has-disturbingly-cozy-connection-monsanto/>



Even Oxford University Is Mixed up With Corrupt Monsanto

An unscientific report completely discounts Monsanto's role in climatic and ecological damage.

www.alternet.org

You can find 'peer reviewed studies' both for and against glyphosate.... I think it's better to look at the big picture if both sides can present studies proving their agenda. What is the big picture?

We are currently in the 6th mass extinction. Massive insect and animal species are dying off each year, some gone for good. Now whether this is because of pesticides or not, wouldn't we all agree that spraying poisonous chemicals on insect habitat an unwise gesture?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>

Plummeting insect numbers 'threaten collapse of nature' | Environment | The Guardian

The rate of insect extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles. Photograph: Courtesy of Entomologischer Verein Krefeld The world's insects are hurtling down the path ...

www.theguardian.com

The planet's topsoil is also in crisis. We need healthy, functioning topsoil to exist, and it's being degraded by modern agricultural techniques, which includes the use of pesticides. Not only does degraded topsoil increase erosion/runoff, but it contains very little micro organisms which are necessary for healthy plant growth and ecosystem. 1/3 of the planet's topsoil is now gone.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/only-60-years-of-farming-left-if-soil-degradation-continues/>

Only 60 Years of Farming Left If Soil Degradation Continues

Generating three centimeters of top soil takes 1,000 years, and if current rates of degradation continue all of the world's top soil could be gone within 60 years, a senior UN official said

www.scientificamerican.com

Then there is the issue of public health. If Glyphosate/Roundup is banned from all school grounds.... why is it okay for the rest of the public? This doesn't make sense. We know that this substance is toxic (that's why nobody will voluntarily drink a glass of it), we know it's banned in many other countries (in this link you can see that it's banned in Rockland, NY, which happens to be the 'healthiest county in NY'....Google it). Why is that? Because it's a toxic substance, but in the US, the EPA establishes 'baselines of safety'. Meaning if something is harmful, the US

standard is to ask 'how much of the substance can be used/ingested in a ONE TIME EXPOSURE'? This is ridiculous as we know glyphosate is exposed to us from various forms on a daily basis (in your food, in your clothes, in your tampons, on plants, etc) Europe uses the "Precautionary Principle", meaning if there is a risk of toxicity, the burden of proof falls to those who distribute it. If a substance is toxic, it's toxic. Levels do not matter, which seems a much more safe and reasonable way of decision. The US standard of deciding toxicity assumes that exposure to toxins is an inevitable part of our economic health, which promotes continued use in favor of industry. Industry controls our government, and our 'colleges'. That is why we have allowed such widespread use of a toxic substance, it's been normalized in favor of the economy. And if anyone has noticed, our 'economy' is destroying the resources we depend on to exist.

<https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/where-is-glyphosate-banned/>

Pesticides are now being found in soil and water samples all over the globe. There really is no such thing as a 'one time exposure', that is utterly ridiculous. We are swimming in it, drinking it, bathing in it...it's even found in breast milk.

https://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/2014-04-23-glyphosate_2014.html

All land grant universities are funded by public tax dollars and endowments from large agribusiness corporations like Monsanto, Cargill, Syngenta & Dupont. They are deeply webbed in our public institutions. Do not expect most who work at Cornell to speak out about pesticides. While I don't begrudge anyone their opinion, designating someone who works for Cornell as the pesticide expert for the Green Committee, and allowing that person to have heavy weight in pesticide discussions is rather unbalanced. I'm not trying to single anyone out here, but I feel these things can't be ignored.

There are many reasons why the City of Geneva should consider banning pesticides.
