



Press release-Paris, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

## Countdown: 46 days until the 9th annual Pesticides Action Week (20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March 2014)

The impact of pesticides on our health (debate on endocrine disruptors) and the environment (water pollution, extinction of bees) are at the forefront of public debate.

**Context:** In Europe, the issue of neonicotinoid insecticides is far from being resolved. The European Commission have already banned the use of 4 neonicotinoids, but only for a period of 3 years, despite the fact that there is plenty of scientific evidence showing that these chemicals can prove fatal for bees. Another major issue is that of endocrine disruptors, found in many pesticides, an issue which the EU does not seem to be in a rush to address. The European Commission have also repeatedly delayed establishing scientific guidelines regarding endocrine disruptors. This delay is unnecessary and is only prolonging public exposure to dangerous chemical substances. Individual governments and the EU need to take responsibility for these public health issues.

### The public need to be made aware of the dangers of pesticides and their alternatives because:

- The EU is one of the biggest pesticide consumers in the world and the use of pesticides is still on the increase.
- According to a survey by the European Commission, 1 in 3 people believe that pesticide residues are an important issue to address.
- The WHO estimates that pesticides are the cause of more than 220,000 deaths and a million serious poisonings every year.
- More and more victims of pesticide exposure (workers and residents) from around the world are coming forward with their stories.

**Some scheduled events:** Like every year, this event will rely on local, national and international cooperation. Here are some examples:

- In France, NGOs will talk to communities, as part of a new campaign called "0% phyto 100% bio", highlighting their own efforts to reduce or completely eliminate pesticide usage as well as efforts to promote organic farming, especially on a large scale. A **national list** of these actions will be published on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.
- A dossier on endocrine disruptors for an **international poster campaign named "Stop EDs"** will be launched on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.
- In Belgium, there will be an **art competition** in schools and a photography competition for the general public.
- In Israel, a **public lecture** about the effects of pesticides has been organised.
- **At the European Parliament in Brussels**, a **seminar and public debate with testimonies from pesticide victims** will be held, with support from international NGOs and MEPs.

### What is the Pesticide Action Week?

This event, launched in 2006 by Générations Futures, is a national and international public campaign aimed at promoting pesticide alternatives. During the first 10 days of spring, the time of year when pesticides are used once again, the public can become better informed about the health and environmental issues surrounding pesticides and their alternatives by way of hundreds of events and activities in France and worldwide.

>>> [How to take part](#)

Many other local and national events are being organised.

**An international event:** Around 40 national and international organisations from about 20 countries in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East are currently partners for the event. New countries including Vietnam, Austria, Haiti, Portugal and Israel are taking part for the first time.

**Multilingual materials:** The event is becoming global and all the campaign materials are available in French, English, Spanish and German as well as some in Arabic, Italian, Dutch and Hebrew: [Web site, videos, logos, posters, multilingual information leaflets.](#)

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For more information on the Pesticide Action week, go to:  
<http://www.pesticideactionweek.org>

## The poster for 2014



**PESTICIDE ACTION WEEK**  
March 20-30

9<sup>th</sup> edition  
20th-30th March 2014

"TOGETHER WE CAN CULTIVATE THE FUTURE!"

DEBATES  
ACTIVITIES  
SHOWS  
FILM SCREENINGS

[www.pesticideactionweek.org](http://www.pesticideactionweek.org)

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