



## Launch of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pesticide Action Week

20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014: <http://www.pesticideactionweek.org>

The impact of pesticides on our health (debate on endocrine disruptors) and on the environment (water pollution, decline in the bee population) is at the centre of public discussions.

**The situation in France:** At the end of 2013, the Minister for Agriculture M. Le Foll announced a 5.7% fall in pesticide usage in 2012 but, a few days later, the [news](#) showed that the data used from 2012 was not complete and that, in fact, the results had mostly stayed the same. France is **still the highest user of pesticides in Europe. At the start of 2014, the French parliament adopted a new law**, aiming to eventually ban the use of pesticides in urban areas and the right to sell them for personal use, but these will only come into force in 2020 and 2022, and there may still be exemptions. This law also does not take into account the agricultural sector which is, by far, the biggest user of pesticides. In the meantime, **organic farming is struggling to develop** despite specific targets being set, and we have even seen an organic wine-grower prosecuted for refusing to treat his grapes with insecticide.

**The international situation:** In Europe, the news of 2014 has been focusing on the issue of **endocrine disruptors (EDCs)** which are found in pesticides and which, according to the concerned [Swedish government](#), the EU does not seem to be taking seriously. Likewise, the Free Trade Agreements (TAFTA) are raising concerns about the possibility of European regulations on pesticides being renounced and suffering setbacks. Meanwhile, [Sri Lanka](#) has **banned glyphosate**, the active ingredient in RoundUp®, which is believed to be an EDC and is the highest-selling herbicide in the world.

*“It is therefore crucial to continue to raise awareness and inform the public and those in charge about the dangers of pesticides and possible alternatives, as the Pesticide Action Week has been doing for nearly 10 years now.”*

F. Veillerette, spokesperson for Générations Futures.

**Some highlights:** Like every year, the Pesticide Action Week will rely on local, national and international schemes to help spread the word. For example:

- **5 NGOs launched, at the end of February, the ‘O phyto 100% bio!’ project** which aims to highlight the issue and to challenge and encourage local communities to reduce the use of pesticides and to promote organic agriculture. **A national map showing those who are part of the scheme will be published on the 20th of March.**
- **A large gardening retailer has launched a pesticide collection scheme** to help amateur gardeners to get rid of these toxins.
- A publicity campaign on the topic of endocrine disruptors will be launched on the 25th of March **entitled ‘Stop EDCs’.**
- **At the European Parliament, they have organised a screening of ‘La mort est dans le pré’ (Death is in the meadows) by E. Guéret** showing the struggles of farmers who have been victims of pesticide exposure. **Several people who were interviewed for the film will be at the screening.**

There are many other events which will take place locally and nationally, and can be found on the website and in the [press pack](#).

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### What is the Pesticide Action Week?

Launched in 2006 by Générations Futures, the Week is a national and international community event held every year which promotes safer alternatives to pesticides. During the first 10 days of spring, when the spreading of pesticides begins once again, we can all find out about both the health and the environmental issues regarding pesticides and their alternatives through hundreds of events [organised in several regions](#).

### The event in 2014

- **700 events confirmed** by mid-March and around 10 others are awaiting confirmation
- **27 countries** are involved, which is 11 more than in 2013
- **New countries** including: Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico, Vietnam, Haiti, Portugal and Israel.
- **54 national and international partners:** 20 more than in 2013
- Around 300 local participants

# Resources for 2014

In 2014, the Pesticide Action Week have released new communication tools in several languages so that people all over the world can find out about the event. See here for [more photos of pesticides and their alternatives](#).

## Official poster



## Information leaflet



## Video of the event

A 2 minute [YouTube](#) video in French, English, German and Spanish which tells you all about the event.



## Logo



## Banner



## Postcards

4 funny e-postcards on the health issues related to pesticides in different continents: Europe, Africa, Latin America and North America. These postcards illustrate the fact that no one is safe, regardless of which country they live in.

