

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Campaign To Ban Glyphosate

Parkinson's Europe calls on the European Commission to STOP the 10-year licence renewal for controversial pesticide glyphosate

THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2023 – Brussels: Today Parkinson's Europe, the leading voice for people with Parkinson's in Europe, is urging EU Member States to **vote against the European Commission's proposed 10-year renewal of the licence to use the pesticide glyphosate in Europe** at the ScoPaff meeting taking place on **16th November¹**.

This is due to growing concerns that exposure to glyphosate poses **public health risks**, including Parkinson's, other neurodegenerative disorders, and cancer.

While the EU's scientific body, the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), concluded that the use of glyphosate "did not identify critical areas of concern"², its recent report listed several **outstanding data gaps**, and many experts, including neurologist Prof. Bas Bloem³, believe the current EU testing and authorisation of glyphosate is flawed. Most notably, the current policy fails to understand the risk of neurodegenerative diseases, including **evidence that glyphosate is a possible cause of Parkinson's**.

We therefore propose a **one-year extension** to glyphosate's licence which will allow time to undertake the necessary independent scientific research to fully demonstrate whether or not glyphosate is safe to use.

Russell Patten, Director General of Parkinson's Europe, said:

"The health risks posed by glyphosate don't just affect the Parkinson's community – but all of us in Europe. Protecting our health must be a top priority for EU policymakers so we urge them to do the right thing and vote against the glyphosate licence extension."

More information and updates can be found on Parkinson's Europe's [website](#), [Instagram](#) & [X](#)

For further enquiries please contact Laura Vickers-Green at laura@parkinsonseurope.org

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¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/pesticides/approval-active-substances/renewal-approval/glyphosate_en

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/glyphosate>

³ <https://www.parkinsonseurope.org/media/3490/le-monde-paper-on-glyphosate-11-10-23-docx.pdf>



Notes to Editors

To interview a spokesperson from Parkinson's Europe or a person with Parkinson's, please contact laura@parkinsonseurope.org

About Parkinson's

- Parkinson's is the **fastest growing neurological condition in the world**, with over **10 million** diagnoses globally – a number that is expected to double over the next 50 years.
- Parkinson's occurs when brain cells that make dopamine, a chemical that coordinates movement, stop working or die. The most common symptoms are tremor (shaking), slowness of movement and rigidity (muscle stiffness, but the condition can cause a wide range of other symptoms including anxiety, pain, sleep disturbance, mood and cognition issues and a decreased quality of life.
- There is currently no cure for Parkinson's. Symptoms are currently managed with medication, surgical treatments and complementary therapies.

More information:

1. [Parkinson disease - key facts from the World Health Organisation](#)
2. [The burden of neurological diseases in Europe: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017](#)
3. [The Lancet - Global, regional, and national burden of neurological disorders, 1990–2016](#)

About Parkinson's Europe

- Parkinson's Europe is the leading voice for Parkinson's in Europe. We provide trusted information; advance and share good practices; raise awareness and improve understanding of the condition; and facilitate research collaboration.
- We are an umbrella organisation with members across Europe, including **Parkinson's UK, France Parkinson, Parkinson Vereniging, Parkinson Italia & Federación Española de Párkinson**.
- Parkinson's Europe founded World Parkinson's Day which takes place annually on 11th April.
- Parkinson's Europe is a not for profit organisation registered in Brussels, and a charity registered in England and Wales.