

To:
Dr Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Subject: Uphold your promise to end the export of EU-banned pesticides

Brussels, 24 June 2025

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, write to you to share the attached statement signed by about 600 civil society organisations, trade unions, and farmers' groups across the globe. Together we call on the European Commission to finally act to end the production and export of toxic pesticides banned for use in the EU, as well as the import of food grown with these dangerous chemicals.

The statement expresses deep concern over the continued delay in fulfilling the Commission's commitment to end the export of banned and hazardous pesticides, particularly to low- and middle-income countries. The use of these substances results in devastating health impacts on local communities and pollution of ecosystems and natural resources, causing serious human rights violations.

In the *2020 Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability* the European Commission made a strong and widely welcomed promise that the EU would "lead by example" and ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the EU would no longer be produced for export. This promise was reiterated in your Commission's 2025 "*Vision for Agriculture and Food*", yet to date, no progress in that direction has been made. Meanwhile, new evidence suggests that exports of banned pesticides are actually rising, in contradiction to your stated objectives.

This inaction undermines the Commission's credibility and the EU's global leadership on the protection from hazardous chemicals. It represents an unethical double standard that puts communities in low- and middle-income countries at unacceptable risk, while also exposing European consumers to pesticide residues through imported food & feed and creating an unfair competition for European farmers.

We therefore urge you to uphold your commitment without further delay. The Commission must publish a legislative proposal banning both the production and export of EU-banned pesticides as well as the import of food treated with these substances, to protect the EU citizens from dangerous residues and create a level playing field for farmers. This action will help safeguard human health, human rights, and the environment in other countries, while also bringing economic, agricultural, and public health benefits within the EU. In addition, it will strengthen the European Union's role as a global leader in the transition to a safer and more sustainable chemical and agricultural industry. This is a question of environmental justice, human rights, and public trust.

The joint statement enclosed with this letter that has been endorsed by 600 organizations, provides both the arguments and overwhelming public support for this long-overdue

measure and urges you to urgently take legislative action leading to the end of the export of pesticides banned for use in the EU.

We call on you to keep the promise made under your leadership and ensure that the EU no longer contributes to toxic trade at the expense of human health and environmental protection.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Dermine, Executive Director
Pesticide Action Network Europe

Coalition members:

ActionAid France
Broederlijk Delen
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
Dreikönigsaktion der Katholischen Jungschar (DKA Austria)
Ekō
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme (FNH)
Foodwatch
Friends of the Earth Europe
Greenpeace EU
Humundi
Le CCFD-Terre Solidaire
Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. (PAN Germany)
Public Eye
Slow Food
Veblen Institute for economic reforms.