



Rainforest Rescue
team@regnwald.org

Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Our Ref: 2016/55823P /PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I refer to your recent correspondence to Minister Michael Creed regarding glyphosate.

As you are aware the EU review of glyphosate carried out by Germany as the Rapporteur Member State has been peer reviewed by the Member States and the European Food Safety Authority. This EU review gave in depth consideration of the conclusion of the WHO (World Health Organisation) body, the IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer), and disagreed with the findings. Subsequently another WHO affiliate, the JMPR (Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues) concluded that glyphosate was unlikely to pose any carcinogenic risk to humans, a direct contradiction of what the IARC concluded. Furthermore, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is currently considering a classification proposal from Germany in relation to glyphosate. The German proposal does not recommend a carcinogenic classification. The ECHA process will be finalised in the later part of 2017.

On foot of the EU evaluation, the peer reviewed conclusions and some misgivings expressed by some member States, the EU Commission proposed an 18 month extension of the existing glyphosate approval. This proposal did not achieve the requisite qualified majority at technical committee level nor at Appeal Committee level. Consequently, the approval of glyphosate is now at the behest of the college of Commissioners and so largely out of the hands of the Member States.

The Minister recognises his responsibilities to the health and welfare of EU consumers and indeed to the wider environment but also his responsibilities in ensuring food security for all people. In the absence of any alternative total herbicide, glyphosate plays a pivotal role in many sustainable farming systems where "minimum cultivation" or "no cultivation" is carried out to preserve soil organic matter, soil structure, prevent soil erosion and reduce CO² emissions. To jeopardise the continuance of what are universally recognised sustainable farming systems, would endanger not only food production capacity but would also threaten many millions of hectares of afforested area to compensate for shortfalls in production.

We all share a global responsibility to allow agriculture develop additional sustainable production techniques to ensure food security of future generations and safeguard existing cropland and prevent the destruction of alternative habitats.

Yours sincerely

Graham Lennox
Private Secretary