

9 October 2017

Members of the ENVI & AGRI Committee
European Parliament

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European Parliament hearing on the Monsanto papers & Glyphosate

I write to you in advance of the joint hearing of the AGRI & ENVI Committee taking place on 11th October on the subject of the Monsanto papers & Glyphosate. It is worth noting that whilst Monsanto is indeed a member company of the European Crop Protection Association, I am also writing on behalf of 21 other member companies involved in the manufacture of pesticides, including for some of them, glyphosate.

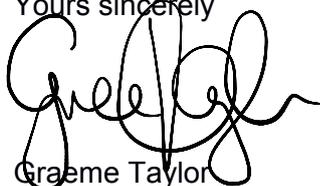
The purpose of this email is not to enter in to the debate on the issue of the Monsanto papers or the reputation of our industry but to ask you to place your trust in the rigorous scientific process that both Member States and you as MEPs endorsed, back in 2009, to ensure that the pesticides that are placed on the market in the EU are safe. For now, the system that is in place is the only means by which the approval of products should be judged. The rules laid down for the approval of products quite rightly do not take in to account the image of an industry, but instead set-out a rigorous and robust set of scientific rules.

On behalf of the 26,000 people who get out of bed every day and come to work for an industry that they passionately believe is making a positive difference to people's lives, I ask you to look beyond your opinion of one company, or of all companies, and instead focus on the facts. Look to the science. 90,000 pages of evidence, 3,300 peer reviewed studies, regulatory authorities around the world, EFSA, ECHA, and the WHO all consider glyphosate to be safe. Please don't allow emotion to let us slowly sleep-walk in to a food production crisis in Europe.

We can claim, proudly, in Europe, to have the safest food in the world. We can claim to be living longer, healthier lives than anywhere else in the world or at any point in history. Yet you might think from following the debate on glyphosate and many other issues in front of your house today, that the opposite is the case. Calling into question the approval process only serves to undermine consumer confidence in the EU food safety system, and that's to the benefit of no one.

Although I will not be part of the hearing, I will attend, and would be pleased to meet with you to discuss any aspect of the approval of this vital substance, and issues related to our sector more generally.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Taylor
Director of Public Affairs

