



Press release (16 January 2020)

Luxembourg, the first country in the European Union to ban the use of glyphosate

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is in the process of becoming the first country in the European Union to ban the use of the active substance glyphosate present in a number of herbicides.

The Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Romain Schneider, is thus implementing the Government's commitment by banning the use of glyphosate-based plant protection products on Luxembourg soil.

Indeed, the 2018-2023 coalition agreement stipulates for “the abandonment of the use of glyphosate by 31 December 2020, in compliance with the relevant legal provisions”.

Abandonment of the use of glyphosate by 31 December 2020

With a view to this abandonment, the stakeholders concerned such as farmers, winegrowers and market gardeners as well as authorisation holders have been informed beforehand by the Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development of the planned measures:

- withdrawal of the marketing authorisation of plant protection products containing the active substance glyphosate as from 1 February 2020;
- grace period for the placing on the market of existing stocks granted until 30 June 2020;
- grace period for the use of these products by professional and/or private users until 31 December 2020.

Luxembourg, a pioneer among the Member States of the European Union

By this government decision, Luxembourg terminates the use of the active substance glyphosate as from 1 January 2021, despite its current approval at European level until 15 December 2022.

In Romain Schneider's view, this decision has the capacity to produce a significant leverage effect throughout the European Union, bearing in mind that other countries such as Austria have embarked on similar steps.

Voluntary renunciation of the use of the active substance glyphosate since autumn 2019

Farmers who give up using glyphosate-based plant protection products as from the 2019/20 crop year will be compensated under the landscape maintenance program.

Farmers who who give up the use of glyphosate-based plant protection products from the crop year 2019/20 will receive additional compensation per hectare of € 30 for agricultural land, € 50 for land used for wine-growing and € 100 for land used to grow fruit trees.

In this context, Romain Schneider welcomes the enthusiasm on the part of farmers to commit to giving up the active substance glyphosate before the pivotal date of 31 December 2020. Indeed, to date 592 of the 1005 farms, having confirmed their participation in the landscape maintenance program, are participating on a voluntary basis in this specific action.

In addition, winegrowers who agree to voluntarily renounce all use of herbicides in their vineyards will be compensated to the tune of between € 500 and 550 per hectare, depending on the slope of the land.

Use of plant protection products compatible with sustainable development

The Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development wishes to emphasise that abandoning glyphosate is a major step forward in the government's commitment to significantly reduce the use of plant protection products in general.

Indeed, the National Action Plan for the Reduction of Plant Protection Products (**Plan d'Action National (PAN) de réduction des produits pharmaceutiques**) aims to reduce the use of plant protection products by 50% by 2030 as well as a 30% reduction of the “big movers” (the most dangerous or the most used plant protection products), which includes glyphosate-based products, by 2025.

Romain Schneider is convinced that the ban on the active substance glyphosate is a decisive step towards a sustainable approach that meets the ambitions of a modern and environmentally friendly use of plant protection products.

<https://agriculture.public.lu>