



FEATURED / HEALTH - PESTICIDES: CHLORPYRIFOS HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN HEALTH

The European food protection agency, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), after several tests, identified the effects of chlorpyrifos on human health. According to the agency's statements in early August 2019, the pesticide chlorpyrifos would not meet the criteria required by the legislation for its renewal as a substance approved in the European Union.

Chlorpyrifos has an approval period that expires in January 2020, so the manufacturer's renewal application is currently being evaluated under the peer review system, implemented in the EU for pesticide approval.

The European Commission, despite being subject to peer review, requested EFSA to provide a statement on the available results of the human health assessment. This is due to concerns about possible genotoxic effects, as well as neurological effects during development, backed by epidemiological evidence of the effects in children.

This means that a safe level of exposure or a toxicological reference value for the substance cannot be established.

As a safe level of exposure cannot be established, the state of scientific knowledge does not allow the use of the principle of prevention, but it would allow the application of the precautionary principle.



TOURISM - Criticism of mass tourism

Every year, there are one billion tourist arrivals in the world, every 30 seconds. By 2020, this number will increase by 60%. Tourism often puts pressure on natural resources as a result of excessive consumption, often in places where resources are already scarce. An average golf course in a tropical country, for example, uses as much water as 60,000 rural villagers. It also uses 1,500 kilograms of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides a year.

Tourism exerts tremendous pressure on local land use and can lead to soil erosion, increased pollution, loss of natural habitat and increased pressure on endangered species. These effects can gradually destroy the environmental resources on which tourism depends.

Tourism contributes more than 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and transport accounts for 90%.

Despite the slow but steady growth in the number of ecologically clean businesses, the current international mass tourism system is totally unsustainable.

Through the application of the same industrial model as the one developed for cars, homes and consumer goods, international tourism has exploded since the 1950s and has invaded virtually every corner of the planet, generating cash, jobs, golf courses, airports and other large amounts of real estate.

Considered by the United Nations World Tourism Organization as a stimulus for economic recovery, tourism is undoubtedly a force to take into account. It generates more than \$ 2.1 billion in annual revenue. In many countries and regions of the world, tourism is now the main source of foreign exchange and employment.

It is clear that the media are making a lot of money by advertising holiday places around the world, but on a more general level, suppliers, customers and regulators may have become too addicted to the promises and pleasures of cheap travel and frequent.

The challenge is much more complex than the simple prospect of fleeting volume growth on a finite planet. Many sectors compete financially as margins fall apart. At the same time, due to congestion or



HEALTH - CONFUSION BETWEEN POISONOUS PLANT AND EDIBLE PLANT

The national agency for food, environmental and occupational safety and the network of poison control centers are calling attention to reports of several cases of serious poisoning, including two deaths due to the risks associated with confusion between toxic plants and edible plants. The Agency asks for more attention and gave some advice to avoid the risk of poisoning.

In fact, one may notice that certain poisonous plants resemble edible plants and may be confused with them during nature collection, but also in the garden or vegetable garden. The authorities call attention to the collection of plants for consumption that, according to her, is not without risks.

The agency has identified several recent cases of serious poisoning related to food confusion. Particularly, a death related to food confusion alarmed the Agency and the poison control centers, which decided to take stock of the poisonings related to such confusion and propose preventive measures.

In June 2019, a 63-year-old man died from consumption of devil's turnip which he confused with parsley, grown and picked in his garden. Another fifteen cases of food confusion of turnip of the devil with edible plants were recorded by the Poison Control Centers from 2012 to June 2019. A walker died a year earlier, after having collected and consumed blue anapelo leaves (or blue flower matalobos), a very toxic plant, confused with the cuscul (*Molopospermum peloponnesiacum*), whose leaves are usually consumed in salads.

Finally, last May, the Grand-Est Regional Health Agency issued an alert following the report of the twenty control centers of poisoning of colic (*Colchicum autumnale*), confused with bear garlic (*Allium ursinum*) or wild leek (*Allium polyanthum*).



FOOD - EFSA POSTPONED SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON SUGARS

In 2017, five European countries requested EFSA's scientific opinion on food sugars. The large volume of data sets and studies that will be collected, analyzed and evaluated led EFSA to update the calendar for its scientific advice. According to the five

overexploitation of water and rare earth resources, many destinations are destroying the natural and cultural landscapes and attractions on which they depend.

ECOLOGY: What is happening in the Amazon?

Thousands of fires burn in Brazil, including the world's largest rainforest, sending clouds of smoke to the region and emitting alarming amounts of carbon into the planet's atmosphere.

Yes, but some regions have suffered much more than usual. In the Brazilian state of Amazonas, the most affected, this month's peak was 700% higher than the average on the same date in the last 15 years. In other states, the amount of ashes and other particles in August reached its highest level since 2010. Most of the fires are of agricultural origin, whether small owners who burn stubble after harvest or farmers who cut forests for arable land. Illegal land hoarders also destroy trees to increase the value of the assets they confiscate. But they are artificial and especially deliberate. Unlike the huge recent fires in Siberia and Alaska, it is very unlikely that the fires in the Amazon were caused by lightning.

Satellite surveillance experts say the images of an entire forest in flames are exaggerated. Social networks have spread widespread misinformation, including amazing images of the hot seasons of previous years. This week, there are more large fires in Colombia and eastern Brazil than in the Amazon. Most agricultural burns are found in deforested areas. But there are also fires in protected reserves.

JURISPRUDENCE

C. Crim. June 12, 2019 Free appreciation of the judges about the content of the terms of the repair. Compensation for environmental damage suffered by an environmental protection association due to a construction carried out without taking into account urban planning standards does not necessarily imply the demolition of this.

Whereas the contested judgment establishes that the principle of total compensation for damages does not imply that the judges order the demolition claimed by the civil party, but that it defines the most appropriate methods for reparation; that the appeals court observes that the National Forestry Office has not noticed "disagreement with the environment", that the city [...] council, which did not form a civil party, indicated that the restoration of the "caseddu" was "in total correlation "with the statute concluded for the preservation of the plateau [...] and that the president of the association for the safeguarding and the future of said plateau confirmed this statement stating that the construction was perfectly integrated with the site and did not damage the environment; that the judges add that it is not necessary to order the restoration, but that the construction carried out through the release of urban planning regulation undermines the general interests of the environmental protection defended by the association, which suffers damages that must be repaired through the allocation of A sum of one euro. While the court of appeal, which was not obliged to follow the civil party in the detail of its argument, when determining, and as it has appreciated, within the limits of the conclusions of the parties and the elements it considered relevant, that the demolition of the premises was not an adequate measure to repair the damage resulting from the crime.

countries, he agreed to extend the deadline for this scientific opinion. Therefore, EFSA intends to prepare a draft opinion for the public consultation scheduled for the end of 2020 with the objective of completing the work in 2021

In fact, EFSA was invited in 2017 to provide scientific advice on added sugars and developed a scientific protocol, that is, a detailed plan to carry out this evaluation. After a public consultation on the protocol in 2018, the number of studies that will be included in the evaluation has increased. Significant progress has been made, but many additional studies remain to be evaluated and contacts are being made with some data owners to request additional information.

EFSA nutrition experts will attempt to define the maximum tolerable intake of total sugars, added sugars and free sugars, if available data allows. Otherwise, other values could be used to characterize the risks. This council will help national authorities to provide advice on sugar consumption and the development of nutritional recommendations in terms of food.

HUMAN HEALTH - STUDIES ON THE CARCINOGENIC POTENTIAL OF GLYPHOSATE

In a notice published on 07/22/2019, the National Agency for Food Safety, Environment and Labor (ANSES) has developed a set of specifications to carry out additional studies on the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate. A call will be launched in the next few days of tender for the realization of this work. The studies will aim to detect the possible carcinogenic mechanisms of glyphosate and assess its relevance to humans.

Glyphosate is an active substance used in many herbicide products, the use of which has been approved by the European Union for five years in December 2017. ANSES carries out a series of works on this substance and active products that contain it, as part of the national plan of glyphosate output in order to ban its main uses by the end of 2020. Disputes about the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate led ANSES to develop specifications to carry out one or more toxicology studies in order to improve knowledge about the carcinogenic potential of the substance.

A group of experts based on studies focusing on an integrated approach defined these specifications. This group consists of toxicologists specialized in genotoxicity and carcinogenesis, which has been based on evaluations and all the data currently available in the literature. Following this experience, the Agency proposes an integrated approach to better understand the possible mechanisms of carcinogenic action (genotoxic or epigenetic) of glyphosate and assess its relevance to humans.

To do this, ANSES recommends carrying out several studies and technical tests. These studies must be carried out by independent research teams and under rigorous conditions of experimentation and traceability. The results must be available by the end of 2021 to be presented as part of the reassessment of the active substance.

A public call for applications was published on the ANSES website in July 2019. The Agency will implement a transparent selection procedure, with special attention to respecting ethical standards.

SPACE - LEGAL STATUS OF SPECIAL DEBRIS

Initially, the term "space debris" referred to natural wastes in the solar system: asteroids, comets and meteorites. A typical dictionary definition of the term debris is "the remains of something that decomposes or destroys." To this is often added "ruins, fragments, debris". A more geological orientation can cause "an accumulation of rock fragments."

With the development of space activities, the term also refers to the remains of the mass of missing objects created artificially in space, especially in the Earth's orbit. These include ancient satellites and spent rocket stages, as well as fragments of their disintegration and collisions. Are space debris space objects? The 1967 Outer Space Treaty does not really provide a definition of "objects thrown into outer space", except for an indication in Article VIII that it includes the "constituent elements" of the "object thrown into outer space."

When studying the legal status of space debris, it can be mentioned that, in almost sixty years of space activities, more than five thousand launches have resulted in approximately forty-three thousand objects being left in orbit, of which approximately twenty-three thousand remain in space and are regularly monitored by the US space surveillance network. UU., And remain in its catalog, which covers objects of more than five to ten centimeters in low Earth orbit, and thirty centimeters to one meter in geostationary Earth orbit (GEO). This large amount of space material has a total mass of more than seven thousand five hundred tons (mass of the Eiffel Tower).

It should be remembered that a space object that causes damage implies the international civil responsibility of the Convention on international responsibility for damage caused by space objects (entered into force in September 1972). Article I (d) states that "the term space object includes the constituent elements of a space object and its launch vehicle and its parts." Article II adds that "A launching State is absolutely obligated to repair the damage caused by its space object to the surface of the Earth or to aircraft in flight."

According to the European Space Agency, space debris, called orbital debris or space debris, is defined as all non-functional objects made by man, including fragments, in Earth orbit or entering the Earth's atmosphere. All man-made space objects are the result of a few thousand launches since the beginning of the space age. However, most cataloged objects come from orbit breaks and some orbit collisions.