

Short biography: Helmut Burtscher-Schaden, PhD

I was born on September 15, 1966 in Höchst near Lake Constance. In 1986 my studies of technical biochemistry and food technology led me to Vienna, where my family and I still live.

Between 1996 and 2001, I worked for my doctoral thesis and as a research assistant at the Institute of Immunology at the Medical University of Vienna and at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Rheumatology (the focus of my work was on the immunological basis of chronic inflammatory diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, diabetes-associated arteriosclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis).

Since 2001, I have been working at GLOBAL 2000 (Friends of the Earth, Austria) on the effects of chemicals, especially pesticides, on human health and the environment. The last three years, my work has mainly focused on the question: What are the underlying reasons for the discrepancy between the assessment performed by IARC, which led to the WHO-classification of glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen, and the assessment by EU authorities, which led to an all clear?

The answers I found are linked to questions of independence, transparency and scientific robustness of the assessment performed by the authorities. In more detail, this is explained in my book *Die Akte Glyphosat (K&S)*¹ and some other reports and papers^{2 3 4}.

The approval procedure's independence from industry and the transparency of the decision-making process has become a major demand of the European Citizen's Initiative (ECI) *Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides*⁵, co-organized by GLOBAL 2000, and is currently under the scrutiny⁶ of the *PEST Committee*⁷ of the European Parliament. In mid-April, the EU Commission presented a legislative proposal⁸ that in my view⁹ has strong potential for improved health and environmental protection since it provides for the automatic publication of all studies in European approval procedures relating to food safety.

1 Helmut Burtscher-Schaden: „Die Akte Glyphosat: Wie Konzerne die Schwächen des Systems nutzen und damit unsere Gesundheit gefährden“, Kremayr & Scheriau, Wien (2017): <http://www.kremayr-scheriau.at/bucher-e-books/die-akte-glyphosat-918> (English translation available as E-book “The Glyphosate Files“)

2 Burtscher H, Clausing P, Robinson C: Buying Science: How industry strategized (and regulators colluded) in an attempt to save the world's most widely used herbicide from a ban. GLOBAL 2000, März. 2017: https://www.global2000.at/sites/global/files/Glyphosate_and_cancer_Buying_science_EN_0.pdf

3 Clausing P, Robinson C, Burtscher-Schaden H. Glyphosate and cancer: authorities systematically breach regulations. How industry strategized (and regulators colluded) in an attempt to save the world's most widely used herbicide from a ban. GLOBAL 2000, Friends of the Earth Austria. 2017; July. Available online at: https://www.global2000.at/sites/global/files/Glyphosate_authorities_breach_regulations.pdf.

4 Clausing P, Robinson C, Burtscher-Schaden H - Pesticides and public health: an analysis of the regulatory approach to assessing the carcinogenicity of glyphosate in the European Union - J Epidemiol Community Health Published Online First: 13 March 2018. doi: [10.1136/jech-2017-209776](https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2017-209776)

5 <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/initiatives/successful/details/2017/000002?lg=en>

6 In May 15, I was invited as an expert to the 3rd PEST Hearing with the topic *Application for approval of an active substance + Draft assessment report of the application*. The video of the meeting is here: <http://web.ep.streamovations.be/index.php/event/stream/20180515-1500-committee-pest>

7 Mandate of the PEST-Committee: https://www.global2000.at/sites/global/files/Mandat615773-REV_EN.PDF

8 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018PC0179&from=EN>

9 https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTE_20180424_OTE0007/more-transparency-eu-commission-seeks-support-from-austria-bild