

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

17 November 2003

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Caroline Lucas, Ulla Sandbæk and Pernille Frahm

on the effects of pesticide exposure on residents and others in agricultural areas

Expiry date: 17 February 2004

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the precautionary principle as a guiding principle,
 - having regard to the World Health Organisation's findings that 3 million people suffer from pesticide poisoning every year, 20 000 of which die and that there are approximately 770 000 new cases of chronic ill-health from pesticide exposure each year,
- A. concerned that several million EU citizens live in zones close to fields where pesticides are regularly sprayed, and that regulations on crop spraying over the past 50 years have only concentrated on immediate visible spray-drift, without considering that once dispersed into the air, pesticides are airborne contaminants and will remain in the air sometime after spraying has been applied,
- B. concerned that there are a growing number of people living in arable farming areas with cancer, leukaemia, ME, chronic respiratory problems, neurological conditions, allergies and various other unexplained medical conditions,
- C. concerned that the Scientific Committee on Plants (SCP) stated that 'there appears to be no clear definition of bystander. In addition, specific criteria to assess or estimate bystander exposure have not yet been developed. The SCP is of the opinion that a difference should be made between a subject who is at risk of being exposed during the application of the PPP because he is occasionally in the proximity of the field and a subject who lives or works near the field being treated',
1. Calls on the Commission to introduce a ban on the use of pesticides in areas close to inhabited zones;
 2. Encourages the Commission to urgently conduct necessary research into the risks for residents and others exposed to pesticides over the longer term, including a detailed impact assessment of those already affected in the EU;
 3. Calls on the Commission to introduce new regulations to require farmers to publicly disclose the pesticides which they are using and to give prior notification before any spraying application.