

To: Ms. Sandra Gallina  
Director-General  
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (SANTE)  
European Commission

Brussels, Paris, Vienna, 31 January 2025

**Subject: Urgent call to ban the PFAS pesticide fluopyram due to its TFA emissions**

Dear Ms. Gallina,

We, a coalition of 29 NGOs dedicated to protecting human health and the environment, urgently call upon the Commission to ban the active substance fluopyram, a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS). The significant emissions of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) from fluopyram and the resulting groundwater contamination clearly demonstrate that the substance does not meet the requirements of the Pesticide Regulation 1107/2009.

TFA, an ultra-short PFAS, is a common metabolite of PFAS pesticides, i.e. active substances containing at least one C-CF<sub>3</sub>-group. Evidence revealed that TFA contaminates European water resources, including surface, groundwater, and drinking water. It is even detected in mineral waters<sup>1</sup>. Further data suggests TFA is also detected in food<sup>2</sup> including in baby products<sup>3</sup>. This widespread contamination is deeply concerning as knowledge about the substance's toxicity is increasing. TFA has been proposed for hazard classification under Regulation 1272/2008 as toxic for reproduction category 1B, acute toxic 3, very persistent and very mobile (vPvM) and persistent, mobile and toxic (PMT)<sup>4</sup>.

As acknowledged by the Commission<sup>5</sup>, these hazard classification proposals result in TFA being a 'relevant' metabolite in accordance with the Pesticide Regulation 1107/2009. Underpinned by the precautionary principle, this Regulation prohibits the approval of any active substance or pesticide product whose 'relevant' metabolite(s) are likely to contaminate groundwater above the legal limit of 0.1 µg/L set out in the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC<sup>6</sup>. However, in the case of fluopyram, data indicates that TFA exceeds this groundwater legal limit.

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<sup>1</sup> PAN Europe, TFA in Water: Dirty PFAS Legacy Under the Radar, May 2024 [\[link\]](#).

PAN Europe, TFA: The Forever Chemical in the Water We Drink, July 2024 [\[link\]](#).

PAN Europe, TFA: The 'Forever Chemical' in European Mineral Waters, December 2024 [\[link\]](#).

<sup>2</sup> EURL-SRM, Residues of DFA and TFA in samples of plant origin, June 2017 [\[link\]](#).

<sup>3</sup> Van Hees *et al*, Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and trifluoromethane sulphonic acid (TFMS) in juice and fruit/vegetable purees, Eurofins, September 2024 [\[link\]](#).

<sup>4</sup> [Registry of CLH intentions until outcome - ECHA](#)

<sup>5</sup> Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals - Legislation 22 - 23 May 2024: "TFA should be considered as a relevant metabolite in groundwater" [\[link\]](#).

<sup>6</sup> Points 2.5.1.2 of Part I of Regulation No 546/20112.

According to the information available in the application for renewal of fluopyram (submitted by Bayer)<sup>7</sup>, TFA has clearly been identified as a metabolite of the substance in soil degradation studies<sup>8</sup>. The modeling of TFA concentrations in groundwater conducted by Bayer indicates that TFA concentrations in groundwater are significantly above 0.1 µg/L for all scenarios and for all claimed uses, even when fluopyram is applied once every three years<sup>9</sup>.

These data available for three years are sufficient to conclude without further risk assessment that fluopyram does not meet the approval criteria of the Pesticide Regulation. Yet, its approval was extended in January 2024 for an additional 2.5 years, until June 30, 2026. This prolongation knowingly exposes consumers, including pregnant women and children, to a potential reprotoxic substance, contradicting warnings from leading scientists that TFA poses a “*planetary boundary threat for novel entities*” and requires “*binding actions to reduce emissions*.”<sup>10</sup>:

Fluopyram should be regarded as constituting “*a serious risk to human health*”. In line with Article 69 of Regulation 1107/2009, the Commission must take all necessary measures to prohibit the use and sale of fluopyram and fluopyram-based products, and prevent further TFA contamination of Europe’s groundwater. Delays risk repeating the mismanagement seen with flufenacet, which was prolonged for 11 years before its non-renewal was proposed in December 2024 despite the available scientific evidence indicating its harmful effects and TFA contribution.

Additionally, a proposal for the withdrawal of the approval of fluopyram should be presented to the Member States at the next Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals in March 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We trust you will make the right decision to protect our water resources, public health and the environment from further contamination by TFA.

Sincerely yours,

Maria Pelletier  
President  
Génération Futures

On behalf of:

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<sup>7</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00165?search=fluopyram>

<sup>8</sup> See Document MCA – Section 7: Fate and behaviour in the environment, §7.1.1 and Document N2 List of end points

<sup>9</sup> See Document N2 List of end points p.84-130

<sup>10</sup> Arp et. al., 2024. The Global Threat from the Irreversible Accumulation of Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA) <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.4c06189>



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