

Some EU countries rebel against plans to relicense glyphosate

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A rebellion by several EU countries could scupper [plans by the European commission](#) to approve the relicensing of a weedkiller linked to cancer by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The vote to relicense glyphosate, [a key ingredient in herbicides](#) such as Monsanto's multibillion-dollar brand Roundup, had been scheduled at a two-day meeting of experts from the EU's 28 member states, which began on [March 7].

But officials are now saying that they may postpone the vote rather than lose it, raising the prospect of a legal limbo for glyphosate, the licence for which runs out in June.

France, the Netherlands and Sweden have all said they will not support an assessment by the European food safety authority (Efsa) that glyphosate is harmless.

That ruling ran counter to findings by the WHO's cancer agency that glyphosate was "probably carcinogenic to humans", causing a bitter row over [scientific methodology and industry influence](#).

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Public pressure over the pesticide has been intense, with [nearly 1.5 million people petitioning](#) the EU's health commissioner, Vytenis Andriukaitis, for a ban on the substance.

But splits between national environment and agriculture ministries across [Europe](#) have left diplomats holding their glyphosate voting cards close to their chests, with decisive meetings lined up for [March 5 and 6].

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Although the licence for glyphosate will run out at the end of June, there could still be time to avoid the issue falling into legal limbo if the vote does not back relicensing. The commission could appeal against the decision or bring forward another proposal, EU sources said.

Read full, original post: [EU states rebel against plans to relicense weedkiller glyphosate](#)