France to vote against 5-year EU renewal of glyphosate herbicide

France will vote against a five-year extension of the license for weed-killer glyphosate that the European Commission will propose on Monday [Nov. 27], a junior French environment minister said.

The decision makes renewal more difficult for the product.... Glyphosate is a key ingredient in Monsanto Co's top-selling weed-killer Roundup.

"The Commission will put one single proposition on the table on Monday: renewing glyphosate (license) for five years. In view of the risks, France will oppose this proposition and vote against it," Brune Poirson said in an editorial in French Sunday newspaper Journal du Dimanche.

Fourteen out of 28 countries voted in favor of extending the license when the EU voted on the issue on Nov. 9 with nine against and five abstentions. Under EU rules, 16 favorable votes are needed as a "qualified majority" for renewal before authorization expires on Dec. 15.

The Commission said after the Nov. 9 vote it would resubmit the proposal at the end of the month.

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