

## Vote to approve glyphosate herbicide shakes up German, EU politics

European Union countries found themselves at odds on Monday [Nov. 27] over weed killer. After a long deadlock over renewing the license for pesticide glyphosate—and despite 1.3 million Europeans signing a [petition](#) to ban it—Germany cast the deciding vote, allowing it be licensed for another five years. France, Italy, Austria, and Belgium were all against it.

In Germany, the Social Democrats—totally against the use of glyphosate—were furious with Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats. They accused the German agriculture minister Christian Schmidt, who cast the deciding “yes” vote in Brussels, of going back on what they had agreed.

This is bad news for Merkel, considering Germany still doesn't have a government and these two parties—currently in a caretaker government together—are at the very early stages of thinking about forming a coalition again.

The German chancellor in turn is vexed with Schmidt for okaying the pesticide-license off his own bat—and rebuked him Tuesday, saying: “Schmidt's decision went against agreements we have made in government—these also apply to the current caretaker government.”

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Germany's weed killer approval gets a withering response from its EU neighbors](#)**