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Mr Ladislav Miko  
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**Subject: Response to your request for a statement regarding the EU assessment of glyphosate and the so-called "Monsanto papers"**

Dear Mr Miko,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 May 2017 in which you request a statement from ECHA concerning the EU assessment of glyphosate and the so-called "Monsanto papers".

Based on the careful assessment of the information contained in the "Monsanto papers", ECHA can confirm that they did not have an impact on the overall assessment as presented in the draft Opinion on glyphosate that was discussed and adopted by the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) on 15 March 2017.

In evaluating the German Dossier Submitter's proposal on the classification of glyphosate, RAC relied mainly on the harmonised classification and labelling (CLH) report and the information submitted during the public consultation. Of course, all information is not regarded equally, and in the CLH process, studies that have been performed in accordance with agreed (internationally standardised) methodology and quality requirements (OECD or equivalent technical guidelines and good laboratory practice) are given greater weight. In principle, such studies are sufficient by themselves for classification. Studies which do not comply with those principles - whether reported in published articles or not - are given less weight. Review articles, even where they provide relevant information, are accorded the lowest weight and would not normally on their own be sufficient for a conclusion to be reached on a harmonised classification.

The "Monsanto papers" referred to above were all reviewed, along with all the others. However, they did not influence the final opinion, because RAC had access to the original study reports, the pivotal data from which all are cited in the Opinion. This allowed the Committee to come to its independent conclusion, based on the original data and not on another's interpretation of it.

I enclose a statement with more detail. If you need further information on this matter or on any other aspect of the assessment of the harmonised classification of glyphosate by the RAC, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*Signed*

Jukka Malm  
Deputy Executive Director

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