

Because ‘A World Without Insects Is Not Worth Living In,’ Germany Announces Plan to Ban Glyphosate

"What we need is more humming and buzzing."

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The German government announced Wednesday it had agreed on a plan to phase out the use of glyphosate—the key chemical in the weedkiller Roundup—with a total ban set to begin by the end of 2023.

"Way to go, Germany!" [tweeted](#) the U.S.-based advocacy group Organic Consumers Association.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet agreed to the plan Wednesday. The proposal, [reported Bloomberg](#), also says that

the "government intends to oppose any request for the E.U. to renew the license to produce the weedkiller, according to a release by the environment ministry."

The European Commission, the E.U.'s rules and regulations body, in 2017 renewed the [license for glyphosate](#) in the bloc through the end of 2022.

Germany's environment Minister, **Svenja Schulze**, [framed](#) the new move as necessary to protect biodiversity, and said that "a world without insects is not worth living in".

"What harms insects also harms people," Schulze said at a press conference.
"What we need is more humming and buzzing."

Glyphosate is no longer exclusive to Monsanto's Roundup, as it "is now off-patent and marketed worldwide by dozens of other chemical groups including Dow Agrosiences and Germany's BASF," as *Reuters* [noted](#).

That's despite the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer's 2015 [designation](#) of glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen," increasing [concerns](#) over its health effects, and mounting legal woes for Bayer, which [acquired](#) Monsanto last year, as multiple juries have [found](#) Roundup to have been a [factor](#) in plaintiffs' cancers.

Such concerns prompted Austria to become the first E.U. country to ban glyphosate, a step

it [took](#) in July.

Erwin Preiner, a member of the Austrian parliament who worked on the ban, [said](#) at the time,

“We want to be a role model for other countries in the E.U. and the world.”

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