

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

16th October, 2019

Proposition No. P.2019/87

REQUÊTE

Prohibition on importation, sale and use of Glyphosate

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy D de G. de Lisle

Seconded by: Deputy R G Prow

To insert the following at the end of the Propositions in the Prayer:-

"Or, in the event that Propositions 1, 2 and 3 are not agreed:-

"4. To direct the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security:-

- (a) to consult all relevant stakeholders in Guernsey, and the authorities in Alderney and Sark, in connection with the use within the Bailiwick of products containing the active substance Glyphosate (CAS No. 1071-83-6, EU No. 213-997-4),
- (b) to review any available research results, including from research undertaken by reputable international bodies such as the IARC and WHO, about the effects on health and the environment of the use of such products, and
- (c) taking into account the results of such consultation and review, to return to the States with a Policy Letter and Propositions as soon as practically possible, but in any case before the end of the current term of the States, addressing and recommending appropriate legislative and other measures, which may be necessary or prudent to prevent harm to health and the environment from such products and which are compatible with Guernsey's international obligations with respect to trade."

Rule 4(3) Information

It is not believed that the amendment, if approved and adopted, would have significant financial implications for the States. The period within which the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security would be obligated to return to the States with the results of its work, should be sufficient to enable officers of the Committee to plan for and undertake the necessary work at a convenient time without the need for additional resources. Should that not prove to be the case and additional resources were required to be contracted in to deal with the matter as a stand-alone project, it is not believed that the cost of those resources would exceed a few thousand pounds.

Explanatory note

Following publication of the Requête, the Requéérants have noted the Letter of Comment from the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) dated 9th October 2019 and the consultation responses from the Principal Committees and the States' Trading Supervisory Board (STSB).

In particular they note, in her letter of 18 September 2019, the views of the President of the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security, which has political responsibility for the control of poisonous substances legislation, and her conclusion that her Committee cannot support the Requête in its current form. However, they also note that the Committee would nonetheless support a delay to enable an appropriate review of the scientific evidence on the risks of glyphosate and consultation and assessment to take place before any decisions on future use of glyphosate are taken.

They note the opinion of the STSB as indicated by the President of the STSB at the foot of the second page of his letter of 20th September 2019 as follows:-

"In conclusion, STSB is of the opinion that a more comprehensive consultation and review process is carried out on the use of herbicides and pesticides, their impact and alternative options, as well as considering the environmental, legal and financial impacts of a ban, before any policy decision is taken"

The Requéérants note the comments and observations of the Policy & Resources Committee. They also note P&R's suggestion in the final paragraph that *"the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure may wish to consider this matter further"*. In particular they are aware that there are already some pesticides which are approved for use in other countries (including the United Kingdom) but which are prohibited for use in Guernsey or which may only be used in Guernsey under licence. Details of such pesticides and the restrictions and prohibitions on their use are available on the States of Guernsey website via the following link:-

<https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=112767&p=0>

The Requéranants note that these existing prohibitions do not appear to offend the application of Protocol 3.

Given Guernsey's size, population density and water collection infrastructure, Requéranants believe that there is reasonable and rational justification for Guernsey and the Bailiwick as a whole to treat the importation and use of glyphosate differently from other countries and territories.

The amendment recognises the need to consult and consider further the use of glyphosate in the light of the Letter of Comment and consultation responses from the committees of the States and all other stakeholders. This would include obligations to abide by international treaties and agreements.

In the light of the above they propose the amendment set out above and seek to have it inserted into the Propositions in the Prayer to the Requête as an alternative, that they would hope would find support from all or a majority of committees and members.