

Message

**From:** Smith Lewis GBAP [/O=MESSAGING/OU=BE-AG/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LEWIS.SMITH]  
**Sent:** 10/5/2006 3:08:51 PM  
**To:** Lawrence David CHBS [/O=MESSAGING/OU=BE-AG/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LAWREDA1]  
**Subject:** FW: France: Parkinson's disease  
**Attachments:** FW: Script Europe1; RE: Script Europe1

Dave

Although I do not think that this in itself is a serious threat to Syngenta, it is an example of what I have been saying is almost certain to happen. That is, that we shall be threatened with litigation( likely in the USA) because of the epidemiology that shows an increase in Parkinson's disease in agricultural workers and the increasing evidence that PQ causes depletion of neuronal cells in the substantia nigra of rats (and probable non human primates). I had arranged to have a lawyer involved in this issue but I know he has been moved and a new lawyer will deal with this but only if stimulated. I am unclear what my role is on PQ issues. I really think this is part of a bigger problem of governance in R and D which needs to be resolved. I introduced a barrister who is familiar with governance issues to the RDLT a year ago but it was not decided whether you wanted me to ask him to help to get this issue addressed and try to come to some conclusions or recommendations. I think this is a cross functional issue so you could choose to ask a functional leader to do this but he shall have to be prepared to look objectively at his own function as well as others. Anyway, a review will only happen if you want it to, but it would be helpful for me if you could let me know how you want to ascribe responsibilities and accountabilities for the Parkinson's issue so that we are clear who does what for whom.

Lewis

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**From:** Elliott Barry GBAP  
**Sent:** 05 October 2006 14:20  
**To:** Smith Lewis GBAP  
**Cc:** Bembridge John GBGU  
**Subject:** France: Parkinson's disease

Lewis,

To appraise you a development in France. A tribunal in France has ruled that Parkinson's disease in an agricultural worker who has worked with pesticides can be considered an occupational illness. The main relevant memos are below.

I have not heard a reply from Kesper Juergen (re my memo below).

Barry

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**From:** Elliott Barry GBAP  
**Sent:** 28 September 2006 11:08  
**To:** Linneweber Rainer CHBS; Kesper Juergen CHBS  
**Cc:** Wilks Martin CHBS  
**Subject:** RE: PD in Le Monde: Translation of "La maladie de Parkinson reconnue comme pathologie professionnelle"

Rainer,

This came to Martin and I recently from Francois Massenot in France where a radio interview had mentioned paraquat in connection with this case (although in a general sense I believe). I enclose relevant memos below:



FW: Script  
Europe1



RE: Script Europe1

Any responses should focus on the general issue of pesticides and PD, but we should recognise that if this story is followed up, PQ may be mentioned again. Our present positions do comment on the MPTP comparison, and also epidemiology.

I have copied to Juergen Kesper just to alert legal to this development, which although not focussing on paraquat does presumably provide a potential precedent for further pesticide vs PD claims.

Kesper, could you comment if this raises concerns for you, or if it appears to be a low level issue. Could you also comment on whether such a ruling is usually followed by compensation claims against suppliers of alleged materials?

Regards,

Barry

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**From:** Linneweber Rainer CHBS  
**Sent:** 28 September 2006 10:07  
**To:** Elliott Barry GBAP  
**Cc:** Wilks Martin CHBS  
**Subject:** PD in Le Monde: Translation of "La maladie de Parkinson reconnue comme pathologie professionnelle"

Barry,

This is just for your information.

I think, this would not change anything regarding our position and statements on PD, even more when taking into account that paraquat isn't even mentioned below. However, I was asked to ensure that our statements remain valid in the actual discussion

Therefore I would appreciate a brief, general comment from you.

Sorry for bothering you with this.

Thanks in advance.

Best regards

Rainer

Translation of "La maladie de Parkinson reconnue comme pathologie professionnelle", Le Monde, 23.09.2006

## PARKINSON'S DISEASE RECOGNIZED AS AN OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS

The Social Security Tribunal in Bourges (French Cher Department) has accepted the plea of a former agricultural worker who argued that his illness was caused by the handling of pesticides.

The Social Security Tribunal (TASS) of Bourges (Cher) has acknowledged as an occupational illness a case of Parkinson's disease from which a former agricultural worker is suffering. In a ruling handed down on 12 May and reported in the Nouvelle Republique of 20 September, the TASS accepted the existence of a link between the plaintiff's illness and his prolonged exposure to pesticide products.

This is the first

time that a court has ever recognized as an occupational illness this pathology, the second commonest neuro-degenerative condition in France after Alzheimer's disease.

The former salaried manager of a big farm holding in the Berry area of central France known as the Champagne berrichonne, M.V., aged 52, contracted Parkinson's disease when he was 44 in 1998. At the time, he handled large quantities of plant health products as part of his working duties. In 2001, certain that his conditions was caused by his prolonged exposure to pesticides, he applied to the Agricultural Mutual Social Insurance Scheme (MSA) for recognition of his case as an occupational illness.

But Parkinson's disease does not figure on the reference table of occupational pathologies, and the MSA took the view that the medical literature did not enable a proven link to be established with exposure to pesticides. Asked for its expert opinion, the Regional Committee for the Recognition of

Occupational Illnesses (CRRMP) in Orleans reached the same conclusion in 2004. Researchers are cautious But M.V. did not give up. With his lawyer, Maitre Bertrand Couderc, he referred the matter to the TASS in Bourges which sought the opinion of another regional committee taking the view that "the issue is currently the subject of debate." In December 2005, in the light of new scientific studies produced by the plaintiff, the CRRMP in Clermont-Ferrand delivered a favourable opinion believing that there is indeed "a direct and essential cause and effect relationship between the pathology as presented and the occupational history of M.V." On the basis of that opinion, the TASS in Bourges ruled on 12 May that "the Parkinson's disease from which M.V. is suffering has an occupational origin."

The possibility of a link between pesticides and Parkinson's disease has been the subject of scientific research since the early 1980s. According to some thirty internal studies of typical cases, persons who have been exposed to pesticides have a risk which is between 50% and 90% higher of developing the pathology. However, the researchers remain cautious. According to Dr Alexis Elbaz, a neurologist and epidemiologist, responsible for research at INSERM (the French national medical research institute) "there is an assumption which seems to be soundly based, but for the time being the existence of a cause and effect relationship between professional exposure to pesticides and Parkinson's disease cannot be formally proven. Many mechanisms still remain to be elucidated." There are indeed still many uncertain aspects. Epidemiological studies have difficulty in assessing the scale of exposure to pesticides (no particular product has been incriminated) and their long term effects are not well known. Parkinson's disease is a complex pathology; its causes are unknown and many factors no doubt come into play. In France it is thought to affect 100,000 persons with 10,000 new cases emerging each year.

Cecile Prieur

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