IARC’s comment on the outcome of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Hearing

In November and December 2017, The United States House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology sent a letter to Dr Christopher Wild, Director of IARC. The IARC Director provided full and clear answers to all the points raised by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The letters and the IARC response to criticisms of the Monographs and the glyphosate evaluation are publicly available on the IARC website and its webpage on the IARC Monograph on Glyphosate. The points raised by the Chairman (Lamar Smith, R-Texas) and Vice Chairman (Frank Lucas, R-Oklahoma) in the recent Hearing of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology largely recapitulated those covered in the earlier written exchanges between the Committee and the Director. IARC also took note of statements of the Ranking Member Bonamici (D-Oregon) and Ranking Member Johnson (D-Texas), and the referenced report entitled "Spinning Science and Silencing Scientists: A Case Study in How the Chemical Industry Attempts to Influence Science". IARC has no further comment at this time regarding the outcome of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Hearing.

IARC has provided a written response to concerns raised by the scientific consultants to the agricultural industry who participated in the hearing. IARC scientists have written a letter to the editor in response to an article co-authored by Dr. Pastoor, correcting some misrepresentations of the IARC Monographs Programme (see PMID: 28216242). IARC scientists also took note of an article published online in 2016 by Tarone, and a letter to the editor from IARC has been accepted for publication in December 2016, but never published. In correspondence with the editor, copied to IARC, the Committee on Publication Ethics questioned the editor regarding the nature of the interaction of the author and a Monsanto lawyer, and the needed corrections to the article.

1 see Loomis D., Guyton K. Z., Straif K., Wild C. P. (2017) Classification schemes for carcinogenicity based on hazard identification serve science and society Regul Toxicol Pharmacol; 356-357. PMID: 28216242