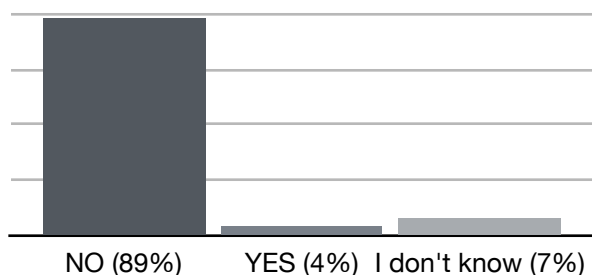


## Romanians DO NOT want pesticides

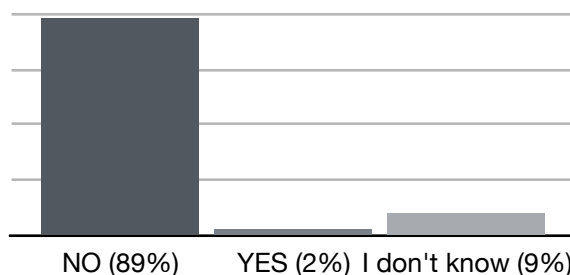
In the midst of the election campaign in Romania, the issues of health and food safety are gaining momentum. 89% of Romanians eligible to vote say they do not want to consume food produced with pesticides and do not want Romanian farmers to use pesticides banned in the EU

A national [opinion poll](#) conducted by the Center for Urban and Regional Sociology (CURS) between April 3 and 10, 2025 reveals a clear and massive opposition of the voting population to the use of dangerous pesticides in agriculture.

Question 1: Do you agree to consume food products that come from crops treated with pesticides?



Question 2: Do you think that farmers in Romania should use pesticides banned in the European Union, such as Neonicotinoids?



*National opinion poll. Data collection method: face-to-face, at the respondents' homes.  
Sample size 1067 respondents, aged >18 years.*

This message becomes even more important in the current context of the electoral campaign. It is time for political parties and all candidates in the Presidential elections to publicly express their commitments to ban dangerous pesticides and to clearly show that they respect the rule of law and the opinion of the overwhelming majority of citizens. The survey reveals a clear expectation on the part of the population: the voice of voters must be a decision-making force, not just an ignored formality between elections.

**Rural areas are more vocal than urban areas.** Contrary to the narrative promoted by some voices in the agro-industrial sector, opposition to the use of banned pesticides is even more pronounced among the rural population than in urban areas, which indicates a higher awareness of the direct risks to health and the environment on the part of peasants, beekeepers, agricultural workers, small farmers and village families. Those who live in proximity to agricultural lands understand and feel the real dangers of continuous exposure to toxic substances.

**Legal context: a [historic precedent in Romanian law](#).** On March 18, 2025, the Cluj Court of Appeal issued the [civil ruling no. 131/2025](#) suspending the authorizations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) for the use of neonicotinoids – substances prohibited in the EU. This decision of the Cluj Court of Appeal is enforceable. We recall that this decision is based on 3 EU Regulations banning neonicotinoids ([2018/783](#), [2018/784](#) and [2018/785](#)) and the [ruling of the European Court of Justice](#) confirming that exemptions for neonicotinoid authorizations are prohibited in the EU.

### **What has happened since then?**

**Appeal.** MADR and those who own businesses in the chemical industry have filed [an appeal with the High Court of Cassation and Justice](#) of Romania, and the trial date is yet to be determined.

**A dangerous and unusual maneuver: the attempt to suspend the effects of the Cluj Court of Appeal's ruling.** Despite the enforceable decision of the Cluj Court of Appeal, in parallel with the appeal, the Ministry of Agriculture, together with private entities, [requested the suspension of the effects of the Cluj Court of Appeal's ruling](#), **requesting permission to sow 3 million hectares of agricultural land with corn and sunflower seeds - treated with illegal neonicotinoids.** The request was also addressed to the High Court of Cassation and Justice. An urgent hearing was set for **April 29, 2025**.

**There are solutions. We appeal to all those involved and interested to take responsibility for the transition to legal pesticides and/or Agroecology.** We understand the dilemma of large farmers, who were misguided and did not prepare for the transition from neonicotinoids to legal alternatives, for 12 years in which exemptions were granted by the MADR, ignoring [the repeated requests of beekeepers and peasants farmers to respect EU law](#). The situation abusively maintained through systematic exemptions, could not continue indefinitely. Public institutions must defend the rule of law and the public interest. We welcome the countless steps taken by farmers and the chemical industry that are already promoting alternative products on the market. There are well-known solutions in the concept of integrated pest management (IPM) for reducing the effects of the pests *Tanymecus dilaticollis*, or *Agriotes spp.*

**Europe is watching Romania.** The way the Romanian authorities handle this situation will have repercussions not only domestically, but also in Brussels. It is time for the voice of the citizens to be heard and justice to be respected.

**Ramona Duminicioiu, president of Eco Ruralis:** "Millions of Romanian peasants have never been consulted and have never requested exemptions for illegal pesticides. Decisions regarding agriculture, pesticides and food security must be made transparently, with the participation of consumer citizens, peasants and small scale farmers who represent [the overwhelming majority of agricultural producers](#)."

**Constantin Dobrescu, ROMAPIS vice-president:** "We consider regrettable the refusal of the MADR to enter the European normality of renouncing the most toxic insecticides currently existing, being the only institution in an EU member state that issues exemptions for the use of neonicotinoids, and then persisting on this path, stubbornly refusing to accept a court decision to suspend them. Romania must stop these practices that compromise entire ecosystems and protect beekeeping, biodiversity and public health."

**Special thanks.** Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS thank lawyer Dumitru Dobrev for his professionalism and exemplary involvement in this process .

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