

Dear Mrs Mechtild Rossler,
director of UNESCO World Heritage Center – Paris

we send you this letter because in the greeting of welcome of WH Watch NGO UNESCO FORUM in Paris on 4 May 2019 you said:

“Civil society is involved and contributes to the goal of conservation and the large monitoring mechanism. The interaction with civil society is very important and I ask you to send me the request letters directly and the identity of the informants will also be protected. I have the resources available and the information and requests will be sent by UNESCO to the State Parties”.

After this declaration of your availability, the Comitato Stop Pesticidi, which represents dozens of Associations and Committees in Italy, sends you the attached letter with the kind request to send it to the addressees in the letter address, but also to the WH Committee.

Thanks and best regards

Vittorio Veneto, 03 may 2019

The Presidents of Comitato Marcia Stop Pesticidi

Renato Garbelotto 

Lisa Trinca 

Mario Azzalini 

Vittorio Veneto, May 8nd 2019

Messrs. World Heritage Centre UNESCO

To the kind attn. of the Director

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**RE: CANDIDACY "PROSECCO HILLS OF CONEGLIANO AND VALDOBBIADENE"
- TERRITORY MODIFICATION - TREATMENTS WITH PLANT-PROTECTION
PRODUCTS**

Dear Director of WH Centre UNESCO,

the undersigned are forced to endorse this document in view of the forthcoming crucial appointment in Baku that will declare (or not declare) Prosecco hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene as World Heritage Site and do hereby highlight the reasons why these hills **CANNOT BE DECLARED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE**, so as they are at present.

1. The hills, currently covered by vineyards for the industrial production of prosecco, have completely changed further to massive excavation works, to the uprooting of trees, even secular or historical ones, to hedges' eradication, done to make way to the **MONOCULTURE OF PROSECCO**.

The landscape is not the same as fifty years ago or even ten years ago: where once there was a crop surrounded by hedges, meadows and woods, now there are only vineyards for the production of a single grape variety, the prosecco. The other wine varieties (Merlot, Cabernet, Raboso, etc.) seem to have disappeared; this happens to the detriment of the ground and of the vineyards themselves, because not all the soils are suitable for the cultivation of prosecco; this entails the need to use substances that prevent plant diseases.

The poet Andrea Zanzotto said: "I was horrified by the killing fields and now I am horrified by the killing of fields": by these words he was referring to the uncontrolled and massive building, whereas we are referring to the uninterrupted expanse of iron and concrete poles, to which vines are clinging, that manipulate and completely change the territory, erasing animal and plant biodiversities.

In our opinion, this would be already enough to qualify the industrialized hills of prosecco as ineligible World Heritage Site.

2. In the places where vineyards for the industrial production of prosecco have been planted (not only on hilly but also on flat lands where an intensive agriculture is practised), 52% of bird species has disappeared, as stated by L.I.P.U.

The use of pesticides in agriculture, the upsetting of the landscape, the removal of trees and hedges hinder the proliferation of bird species that consequently disappear, such as the goldfinch, the lark, the quail, the tree sparrow, the swallow, the chaffinch, the red-backed shrike, the nightingale, the bat (the only flying mammal): since they are all insectivorous species, their nourishment will be exterminated by several and repeated treatments: a toxic cloud, floating few centimeters above the soil, that slaughters all types of insects (the world community recently launched a warning signal because the number of insects is decreasing by 3% per year).

The zones designed in the programmes of the Province of Treviso as "avifauna corridor" to safeguard the biodiversity have been upset and are now useless; the corridors for the avifauna represent a connection among the different SIC and ZPS areas, painfully created by rete natura 2000; these are particularly significant areas that are now in suffering.

3. Moreover the **territory** turns out to be **extremely fragile** from a hydrogeological point of view. The excavation works and the consequent trees uprooting, the removal of the sward layer, the wrong positioning of plants that are often placed on the slopes of the hills lead to landslide phenomena, having even a wide extension.

It is no coincidence that the rains that fell beginning of April of this year (2019) have triggered a landslip in part of Tarzo municipality, an area having a heavy cultivation of vineyards.

4. **The massive and reckless use of synthetic pesticides.** If this would not be enough, every year the people living in the zones planted with prosecco are held hostage and detained in their own home from April to August/September.

They are held hostage because of pesticides that are sprayed on the vines: substances are applied not only to the plants, but the contamination reaches the surrounding areas, neighbors' yards, up to some kilometers from the target point;

different environmental and climatic conditions (humidity, wind, heat, etc.) affect and increase this pesticides' drift phenomenon.

Furthermore, these substances can enter into the groundwater, since treatments are applied near to waterways and contaminate the surface water system; this leads progressively to the extinction of some fish and amphibian varieties.

Further to ISPRA Institute's analysis, four groundwater wells were found contaminated with pesticides, with values exceeding the limits in three municipalities within the prosecco DOCG area (see attachment).

People are obliged to change their own habits according to the treatment periods, so as to reduce the risk of substances inhalation: for example, they avoid doing outdoor walks, drying clothes outside, staying on their own backyard, growing organic vegetables in their own garden, letting kids playing outside: in other words, the right to health and to private property is limited.

In any case, the practice of pesticides spraying leads to real "people kidnappings", since during the whole treatment time and at least 48 hours after application it is impossible to open the windows to ventilate the houses and people must shut up at home in Summer! This is even enshrined in the DGR nr. 1379/2012 (see ATTACHMENT).

In many cases, after pesticides application, people living near to the treated vineyard have breathing problems, burning throat, skin rashes and even dizziness in the most serious cases.

The industrial application of synthetic pesticides led to the disappearing of many insects and is gradually reducing the number of some other species, such as fireflies, bumble bees, wild bees, locusts; the number of bees has drastically decreased because they are poisoned with synthetic pesticides and beekeepers are obliged to move the beehives to the mountains.

In some areas where bees completely disappeared, 50% of pollination doesn't happen anymore, with incalculables damages.

Here below just some exemples of the synthetic pesticides that are applied and their effects on the environment and on the living organisms (including human beings):

- **Polyram**, it is stated that it can cause some symptoms, such as respiratory tract irritation; its use must be suspended in the seven days before the harvest of tomatoes and in the twenty-eight days before the harvest of all other crops.
- **Vertimec** it has been declared as toxic for bees and for this reason shall not be applied during flower blooming phase; unfortunately many treatments take place at the peak stage of flower blooming.
- **Foliane 80 WG** is suspected to cause cancer and is admittedly harmful if it will be inhaled; it is composed by FOLPET, a substance that is very likely to induce cancer in humans.
- **Soleil 50 WG** is a toxic product, as stated in its information leaflet; it can cause respiratory irritation and it is harmful if it will be inhaled..

All these products are classified as toxic for water species.

If the hills *de quo* will be declared as World Heritage Site the consequences will be:

1. the stabilization of the actual landscape, completely upset and not realistic in comparison with the original one, but, above all, not autochthonous, meaning that it is not the one that was present only ten or eight years ago;
2. a presumable tourism growth; this will be accompanied by a complete lack of efficient road networks (just test how long it takes to drive from Conegliano to Vittorio Veneto, passing through S. Giacomo di Veglia during rush hour) and by the absence of adequate services: the result will be then a more fragile situation in terms of pollution (more vehicles queuing up) and in terms of intense territory exploitation, not respecting natural rhythms;
3. a continuous state of agitation and ongoing protests of local inhabitants against the risks and dangers arising from the treatments. This deep and widespread sense of unease can also be seen from the number and variety of subscribers of this letter.

If the hills planted with vineyards for the production of Prosecco will be recognized as World Heritage Site, there will be also a big responsibility, not only moral, towards all young generations who are protesting and fighting in order to reduce climate disruptions: unfortunately, according to a survey carried out by Wwf, based on the data published by Arpav, in 2016 we had **16.290 tons of synthetic pesticides sold within Veneto Region, with a record of 4.085 only in the province of Treviso!**

What deserves to be declared as World Heritage Site is a good or work of genius, to be preserved because it is particularly valuable and noble, because it elevates the soul; this can be a work of man or a work of nature.

In the hills we are discussing about there are just only few remnants of nature: the open-air prosecco industry has nothing to do with the growing of vines of some decades ago and damages are there for all to see; the rural world of yesteryear that ethically characterized this zone has disappeared and has been replaced by an industrial entrepreneurship.

In our opinion the landscape of ten / fifteen years ago could have been considered as an heritage to be protected, but not the current one.

We conclude emphasising that when the wine speculative bubble will be deflated, only the consequences of synthetic pesticides will remain on prosecco hills and all grounds will have to be massively reclaimed: but at this point the damages caused to the ecosystem will be irreversible.

We regret all of that, but we are confident that these hills, whose candidacy as World Heritage Site is under evaluation at present, will not be deemed as such.

Thanks for your attention and best regards

Forum Stop Pesticidi

This document has been approved during the meeting of the Forum Stop Pesticides held in Conegliano on May 3rd. 2019 by following local, regional and national Associations, Committees and Groups:

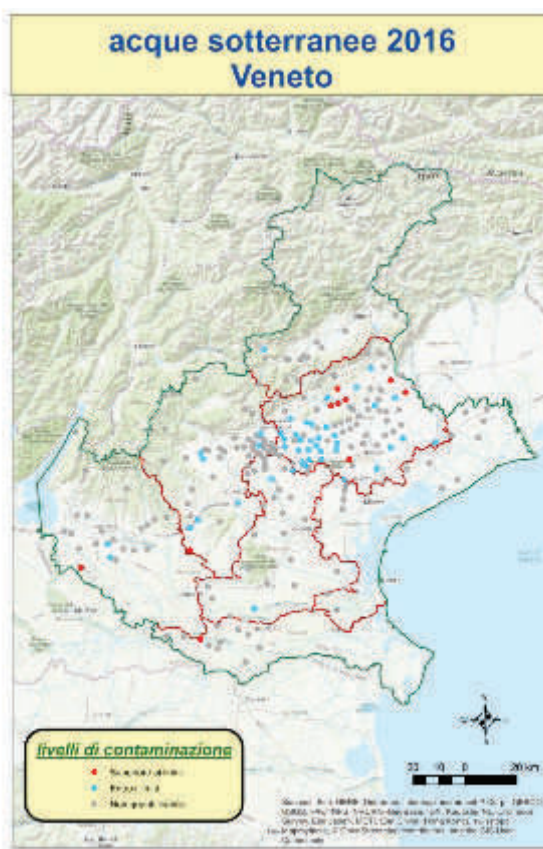
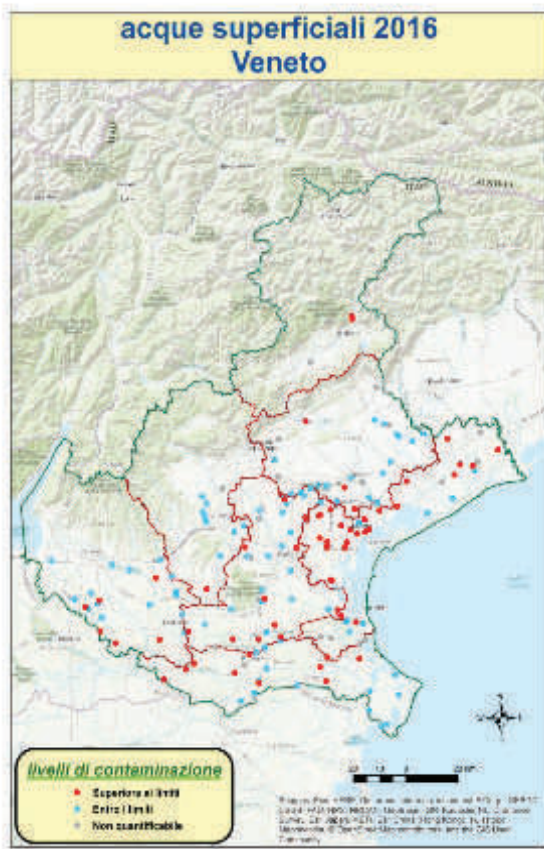
Comitato Marcia Stop Pesticidi - Italia
Amica Terra Onlus - Gaiarine (TV)
ANPI BL - Belluno (BL)
APIMarca _Treviso (TV)
Ass. AIRETT - Follina (TV)
Cinema e Ambiente Vittorio Veneto - Vittorio Veneto (TV)
Cittadini attivi QDP - Quartier del Piave (TV)
Colli Puri di Conegliano - Conegliano (TV)
ColtiviamoFuturo GAPM - Grappa, Asolo, Montello, Piave (TV)
Comitato No Pirogassificatore - Orsago Orsago (TV)
Comitato NO Pedemontana Treviso - Treviso (TV)
Comitato referendario Conegliano - Conegliano (TV)
Comitato Stop Pesticidi Friuli -_Friuli Venezia Giulia
Fare Rete - (TV)
Follina Città dell'acqua - Follina(TV)
FRIDAY FOR FUTURE Vittorio Veneto - Vittorio Veneto (TV)
Gas Magalu Barbisano - Pieve di Soligo (TV)
Gas Miane - Miane (TV)
Genuino Clandestino Treviso - Treviso (TV)
Gruppo AIDO "Maria Rosa Biz" - Follina (TV)
Gruppo AIL "Giuliano De Mari" - Follina (TV)
Gruppo Mamme Revine Lago - Revine Lago (TV)
Gruppo Mamme Susegana - Susegana (TV)
Gruppo Mamme Valbelluna - (BL)
Gruppo Sano Biagio - San Biagio (TV)
Gruppo Stop Pesticidi Tarzo - Tarzo (TV)
Gruppo Stop Pesticidi Alpago - (BL)
Gruppo Stop Pesticidi Cappella Maggiore - Cappella Maggiore (TV)
Gruppo Stop Pesticidi Cordignano - Cordignano (TV)
Liberi di Respirare Orsago - Orsago (TV)
Nuovo Comitato Ambiente Salute
PAN Italia - Italia
Per i nostri bambini Follina - Follina (TV)
Piano-Terra Vittorio Veneto - Vittorio Veneto (TV)
Rete Contadina Altamarca - (TV)
Rive Sane Colle Umberto - Colle Umberto (TV)
Società Operaia Mutuo Soccorso Follina - Follina (TV)
WWF - OA -TV-BL - (TV), (BL)
Sezione Soci Ramazzini Veneto - Veneto



Rapporto nazionale pesticidi nelle acque dati 2015-2016

Edizione 2018

Tabelle regionali



ACQUE SUPERFICIALI 2016		LIVELLI DI CONTAMINAZIONE		
COD_STAZ	COMUNE	BACINO_IDROGRAFICO	CORPO_IDRICO	LC
1097	Battaglia Terme	BACCHIGLIONE	Rialto	●
1100	Polesella	FISSERO TARTARO CANALBIANCO	CAVO MAESTRO DEL BAC. INF.	●
1101	Rovigo	FISSERO TARTARO CANALBIANCO	COLL. PRINC. RAMOSTORTO	●
1110	Scorzè	B.S. LAGUNA DI VENEZIA	SAN AMBROGIO	●
1111	Eraclea	PIANURA TRA LIVENZA E PIAVE	COLL. TERZO	●
1114	Nogarole Rocca	FISSERO TARTARO CANALBIANCO	TIONE	●
1127	RESANA	B.S. LAGUNA DI VENEZIA	SCOLO MUSONCELLO	●
1146	TREVENZUOLO	FISSERO TARTARO CANALBIANCO	FOSSA DE MORTA DE TREVENZUOLO	●
1150	VICENZA	BACCHIGLIONE	TORRENTE GIARA - OROLO	●
1152	GRUMOLO DELLE ABBADESSE	BACCHIGLIONE	ROGGIA TESINELLA	●
1036	SAN BIAGIO DI CALLALTA	B.S. LAGUNA DI VENEZIA	FIUME MEOLO	●
1158	SAN GIORGIO IN BOSCO	BRENTA	ROGGIA BRENTELLA COGNAROLA	●
1161	CANARO	FISSERO TARTARO CANALBIANCO	SCOLO POAZZO	●
3102	SAN MARTINO BUON ALBERGO	ADIGE	FIUME ANTANELLO	●
6022	FONANELLE	LIVENZA	FOSSO BORNIOLO	●
6030	ISTRANA	SILE	CANALE GRONDA	●

ACQUE SOTTERRANEE 2016		LIVELLI DI CONTAMINAZIONE		
COD_STAZ	COMUNE	BACINO_IDROGRAFICO	CORPO_IDRICO	LC
99	QUINTO DI TREVISO	Sile	Media Pianura tra Muson dei Sassi e Sile	●
153	LONIGO	Brenta-Bacchiglione	Bassa Pianura Settore Adige	●
681	Mozzecane	Tartaro-C.Bianco	Media Pianura Veronese	●
706	GODEGA DI SANT'URBANO	Livenza	Piave Orientale e Monticano	●
726	GAIARINE	Livenza	Media Pianura Monticano e Livenza	●
746	MORIAGO DELLA BATTAGLIA	Piave	Quartiere del Piave	●
754	SERNAGLIA DELLA BATTAGLIA	Piave	Quartiere del Piave	●
756	SERNAGLIA DELLA BATTAGLIA	Piave	Quartiere del Piave	●
758	FARRA DI SOLIGO	Piave	Quartiere del Piave	●
916	GIACCIANO CON BARUCHELLA	Tartaro-C.Bianco	Bassa Pianura Settore Adige	●
80	VILLA ESTENSE	Brenta-Bacchiglione	Bassa Pianura Settore Adige	●
102	VITTORIO VENETO	Livenza	Piave Orientale e Monticano	●
108	CAERANO DI SAN MARCO	Bac. Scolante nella Laguna di VE	Piave sud Montello	●
114	CESSALTO	Pianura tra Piave e Livenza	Bassa Pianura Settore Piave	●
117	CASALE SUL SILE	Sile	Media Pianura tra Muson dei Sassi e Sile	●
155	TORRI DI QUARTESOLO	Brenta-Bacchiglione	Bassa Pianura Settore Brenta	●
236	SAN ZENONE DEGLI EZZELINI	Brenta-Bacchiglione	Alta Pianura Trevigiana	●
248	MASER	Bac. Scolante nella Laguna di VE	Piave sud Montello	●
265	BRENDOLA	Brenta-Bacchiglione	Alpone - Chiampo - Agno	●

LINEE GUIDA REGIONALI UTILIZZO PESTICIDI

(ALLEGATO “A” alla Dgr n. 1379 del 17.7.2012 pag. 10/23) (nuova DGR 1262/2016)

Art. 10 – Esecuzione del trattamento

Comma 8 c – Avvertire i residenti quando si tratta in prossimità di abitazioni (vedi sotto nota 10)

Comma 9 - Segnalare il trattamento ai bordi degli appezzamenti **con cartelli** riportando scritte e simboli di pericolo comprensibili

Nota 10 - **Quando si effettua il trattamento in prossimità di abitazioni** è opportuno avvertire i residenti affinché abbiano il tempo necessario per adottare le precauzioni del caso:

- **chiudere le porte e le finestre,**
 - **coprire l’orto con teli,**
 - **non sostare nelle vicinanze dell’appezzamento da trattare.**
- In ogni caso, qualora nonostante le misure precauzionali adottate si verificasse una immissione di prodotti fitosanitari in proprietà confinanti, il responsabile del trattamento deve segnalare immediatamente il fatto al proprietario, **comunicando il nome dei formulati commerciali impiegati, nonché la classe tossicologica ed i tempi di carenza degli stessi.**