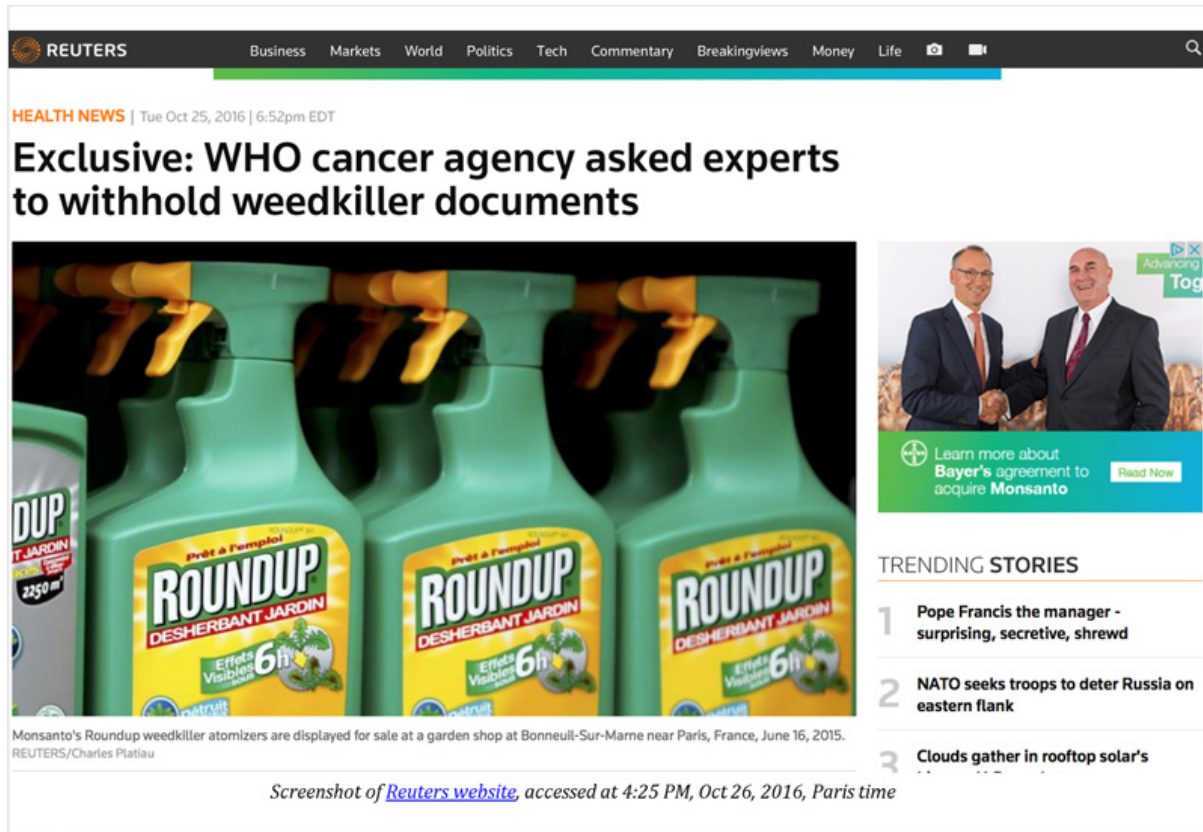


## IARC responds to Reuters article




The screenshot shows a Reuters news article. The main headline is "Exclusive: WHO cancer agency asked experts to withhold weedkiller documents". Below the headline is a photograph of several green plastic bottles of Roundup weedkiller. To the right of the main article is a sidebar with a "TRENDING STORIES" section. The first story in the list is "Pope Francis the manager - surprising, secretive, shrewd". Above the trending stories is a small image of two men shaking hands, with a caption that says "Learn more about Bayer's agreement to acquire Monsanto".

REUTERS Business Markets World Politics Tech Commentary Breakingviews Money Life

HEALTH NEWS | Tue Oct 25, 2016 | 6:52pm EDT

### Exclusive: WHO cancer agency asked experts to withhold weedkiller documents



Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller atomizers are displayed for sale at a garden shop at Bonneuil-Sur-Marne near Paris, France, June 16, 2015. REUTERS/Charles Platiau

Learn more about Bayer's agreement to acquire Monsanto [Read Now](#)

#### TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Pope Francis the manager - surprising, secretive, shrewd
- 2 NATO seeks troops to deter Russia on eastern flank
- 3 Clouds gather in rooftop solar's

*Screenshot of Reuters website, accessed at 4:25 PM, Oct 26, 2016, Paris time*

An article from Reuters (published on 25 October 2016) on the subject of access to documents concerning the IARC Monographs Programme severely distorts the motives of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). IARC wishes to make it clear that its motivation is to ensure that scientists are free to openly and critically debate the scientific evidence on whether an agent causes cancer in humans, in the best interests of public health worldwide.

IARC was approached for advice by United States-based scientists, who had been part of an IARC Monographs Working Group that evaluated glyphosate. The scientists and their institutes were subject to Freedom of Information or Open Records requests made by various interested parties, including lawyers representing Monsanto. Many of the scientists have also received broad subpoenas for documents and records relevant to IARC's evaluation of glyphosate. In light of the interests at stake, including ongoing lawsuits in the USA involving Monsanto, the scientists felt uncomfortable releasing these materials, and some felt that they were being intimidated. It was in this context that IARC was asked for advice.

## IARC responds to Reuters article

The position of IARC in consultation with the World Health Organization concerning the public release of deliberative documents, or records of deliberative scientific discussions, is consistent with national laws concerning the prevention of disclosure of draft and deliberative documents.

The article by Reuters follows a pattern of consistent but misleading reports about the IARC Monographs Programme in some sections of the media, beginning after glyphosate was classified as *probably carcinogenic to humans*.

For clarity, IARC is making available the full set of questions posed by Reuters on 21 October and the answers provided by IARC on 25 October.