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PRESS RELEASE

Reaction of VALHOR, the French horticulture, floristry and landscape inter-branch organization, following the publication of the UFC-Que Choisir study.

Following the publication of a study by UFC-Que Choisir concerning the presence of phytosanitary products on bouquets of cut flowers, VALHOR, the French the French horticulture, floristry and landscape inter-branch organization, would like to provide some clarifications.

"We are a responsible sector that has been committed to continuous improvement for a long time. Valentine's Day remains one of the essential annual events between the French and flower professionals. The inter-branch organization and all of its member professional organizations remain committed to preserving this bond of trust," says Florent Moreau, President of VALHOR and artisan florist in the Vendée region.

While it is impossible for VALHOR to comment on the study itself, as it is not aware of the protocol used by UFC-Que Choisir, it is nevertheless necessary to remember that:

The entire sector complies with the regulations in force and is transparent.

French and imported flowers are complementary. Regarding European, and particularly French, flower production, the professionals in the sector comply with a strict and demanding legislative and regulatory framework for the use of phytosanitary products. The substances are subject to authorization by the public authorities, and their use is monitored and regularly re-evaluated. Concerning production outside the European Union, the professionals in the sector are putting in place tools to better trace the origin and production methods of imported products. These include, for example, the display of the country of origin of flowers on invoices as well as in-store display solutions for florists.

In addition, in 2023, VALHOR joined FSI - Floriculture Sustainability Initiative (launched in 2013), an international consortium promoting sustainable plant production standards (respect for the environment, fair working conditions, ...).

A reference study on the subject does not show any particular risk for consumers.

A recent reference study on the subject ("Assessment of health risks from pesticide residues on cut flowers"), carried out by Germany's BfR institute (Federal Institute

for Risk Assessment) in 2021, concluded that **there is no risk to consumers who purchase cut flowers.**

Attentiveness to protection and risk prevention for its professionals.

The professional organizations that are members of VALHOR promote regular reminders of good occupational safety and health practices, which make it possible to limit their exposure to plant protection products. For artisan florists, for example, simple gestures, such as wearing suitable gloves and aprons, provide real protection. This is also the case for other professionals in daily contact with flowers and plants.

VALHOR is already working with the public authorities and all stakeholders to continue its research and innovation efforts. In this sense, in the autumn of 2024, it launched a voluntary technical study that is both qualitative and quantitative, aiming to assess the presence of residues of certain phytosanitary products on plants sold. This study will be complementary to that of ANSES (the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) announced in early January 2025. "This study will allow us to draw recommendations and possible adaptations to uses," says Florent Moreau.

Giving flowers is a habit rooted in our traditions and should remain a pleasure. They are the messengers of our emotions and accompany us at every important moment in our lives. Preserving the safety and health of professionals and consumers remains the priority of our sector.

ABOUT VALHOR

VALHOR has been officially acknowledged by French public authorities as the French horticulture, floristry and landscape inter-branch organization. It represents 45,885 specialist businesses and 202,440 professionals, generating €15.3 billion in revenues. It is the umbrella body for 10 French professional organizations representing the production (VERDIR, Felcoop, UFS, CR), sales (FFAF, JAF, FGFP, Floralisa) and landscaping (Unep, FFP) sectors.

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