

PESTICIDES PACKAGE

Copa - Cogeca Statement for 2nd reading plenary vote - Strasbourg January 2009

On 18 December 2008, MEPs and Council reached a compromise agreement on new EU pesticides legislation. The full Parliament will vote on this compromise at second-reading in Strasbourg on 13 January 2009. This agreement dealt with two pieces of legislation ¹.

Analysing the result of this compromise **Copa - Cogeca note in particular that :**



- **cut-off criteria** will not only be introduced based on hazard rather than risk but also on definitions lacking scientific assessment - ie: definition of endocrine disrupters;
- no **EU wide impact assessment** on agriculture has been issued. Issues such as the reduction in agricultural productivity, the potential effects on price and availability of food, and the implications for the trade in imported foodstuffs treated with pesticides banned under these regulations should be taken into account;
- the **derogation system** should allow to keep the substances necessary to avoid unprovided uses;
- **zonal authorization and mutual recognition** are to be included. This should help to reach a single market for the placing on the market of Plant Protection Products.
- provisions for **minor use** as funding or extended data protection have been introduced and should contribute to help maintain authorizations of products vital to some sectors.

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- **Report: Christa Kläß Framework directive on the sustainable use of pesticides** on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides
- **Report: Hiltrud Breyer - The placing of plant protection products on the market** on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products.

Considering that the European Farmers and European Agri cooperatives seek a EU Pesticides legislation that:



- protects **human health and the environment**;
- contributes **to the protection of plant health whilst ensuring a sustainable use of Plant Protection Products**;
- is **based on sound science and risk analysis**;
- **secures the production of affordable food, the financial viability for farmers and the long term sustainability of European agriculture.**
- creates a **single market** for placing on the EU market of Plant Protection Products through a mutual recognition system;
- **promotes the competitiveness of European farmers** by avoiding further layers of unnecessary bureaucracy;
- ensures **non distorting safety measures** between food imported into and food produced in the EU;
- provides solutions to protect the crops and agricultural products without accelerating disease and pest resistance problems by limiting the **availability** of suitable substances required to prevent development of pest resistance;
- addresses the current problem of **minor uses** of Plant Protection Products.

Copa - Cogeca conclude that :

considering the aim of the EU farmers and European Agri-cooperative's to place on the market safe products, whilst ensuring the protection of the health and the environment and maintaining the competitiveness of the European agriculture sector , in particular through the implementation of Integrated pest management

The Compromise agreement:

- is an improvement on the package supported by the Environment Committee in November, although the definition of Endocrine Disruptors is lacking sound science ;
- should continue to provide solutions to protect the crops and agricultural products in the EU.

This is why it will be essential to ensure that the implementation is done in such a way:

- as to meet the aims of protecting health and the environment as well as the competitiveness of the EU Agricultural sector;
- that EU farmers are provided with workable alternatives which enable them to have the necessary tools to combat plant health diseases;
- that a proper monitoring of some elements should be ensured ;
 - in particular to avoid distortion of competition between EU farmers (ie: opt-out clauses);
 - whilst awaiting for the scientific definition of the cut-off criteria.