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Graeme Taylor  
Public Affairs Director

graeme.taylor@ecpa.eu

Dear MEP Andrieu

### **Establishment of the PEST Committee**

As the Association representing the 23 companies which manufacture crop protection products in Europe we welcome the establishment of the Special Committee on the Union's Authorisation Procedure for Pesticides (PEST). We hope that the Committee's analysis will show how rigorous and stringent the pesticide approval process is and will bring much needed objectivity to what has become a very emotional, polarised debate, particularly on the issue of the quality, transparency and independence of science. To achieve this, we trust the Special Committee will rely on evidence from all sides of the debate, including from our industry.

Science is not static, and we recognise that although we have arguably the most rigorous regulatory system for approval of crop protection products in the world, there are areas where the current system could be better implemented as well as where it could be improved. No system is perfect, and we can and should always strive to do things better. It's right we keep the process under review and respond to the demands of the European citizen.

We are ready to fully cooperate with the Special Committee and look forward to receiving an invitation to give the industry's perspective as part of the Committee's deliberations. We would of course be very happy to meet with you, and any other Member of the Committee, at any time, to discuss the approval system.

We also understand that, like other Committees, you may undertake certain fact-finding missions. As part of this we would be very happy to arrange for you to visit one of our member company facilities, to see our industry-wide stewardship projects in action (such as the TOPPS water project or the Pesticide Container Management System), or to see demonstrations of how systems like Integrated Pest Management are applied on the farm.

We look forward to contributing to the important work of your Committee.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Taylor  
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