



Croplife Europe Conference on Sustainable solutions to protect crops

Session 6: Trade and MRL setting

New developments on import tolerances in the light of Farm 2 Fork

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*Health and
Food Safety*

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS**

The European Green Deal

11 December 2019

“Imported food that does not comply with relevant EU
environmental standards is not allowed on EU markets.”



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Farm to Fork Strategy: overall goals



climate
footprint



global
transition



new
opportunities



resilience

Reduce the
**environmental
and climate
footprint** of the
food system

Lead a
global transition
towards competitive
sustainability from
farm to fork

Tap into
**new
opportunities**

Create a **robust
and resilient**
food system



Reduce dependency on pesticides

One aim of the Farm to Fork Strategy

Others:

reduce dependency on antimicrobials, reduce excess fertilisation, increase organic farming, improve animal welfare, reverse biodiversity loss, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, empower consumers, reduce food loss and waste, combat food fraud, ...

Pesticides in the F2F Strategy - internal dimension

- **Reduce the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50%** and reduce the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50% by 2030
- Facilitate the placing on the market of pesticides containing **biological active substances**
- **Reinforce the environmental risk assessment** of pesticides
- **Reduce the length of the pesticide authorisation process** by Member States

Pesticides in the F2F Strategy

- external dimension

- Imported food must continue to comply with relevant EU regulations and standards
=> Pesticide residues: MRLs in annexes to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005
- Take into account environmental aspects when assessing requests for import tolerances for pesticide substances no longer approved in the EU, while respecting WTO standards and obligations



Environmental effects and import tolerance requests

- Policy under development - policy will **remain WTO compliant**
- Certain environmental issues are **matters of global concern** that go far beyond national boundaries
- Examples:
 - the decline and threat of extinction of pollinators in many parts of the world
 - the accumulation in the environment of persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic substances



Extinction of pollinators

- Concern about adverse effects of certain pesticides on pollinators
- Some neonicotinoids are a genuine and substantial contributing factor to a significant decline in insect pollinators (together with other factors) – toxic effects on bees are independent of geographical location
- Different level of concern for substances => case by case
- EU considers lowering MRLs for clothianidin and thiamethoxam to LOQ – other substances may follow

Accumulation in the environment of PBT substances

- Concern about substances that are
 - persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (in combination: PBT), or
 - very persistent and very bio-accumulative (in combination: vPvB), or
 - persistent organic pollutants (POP)
- Stockholm Convention (UN) targets phase-out of POPs
- Problematic combination of properties => such substances affect future generations and are often transported over large geographical distances
- Concern that current quantitative risk assessment does not adequately reflect their complex behaviour

Environmental effects and import tolerance requests

- An **ambitious level of protection** is required that does not only look at EU territory and makes sure that environmental problems are **not simply shifted** over to other parts of the world
- **No prohibition** of use: trading partners are free to decide on the use of pesticides on their territory
- If harvested crop is destined to be **placed on the EU market**, it must comply with the MRLs in place in the EU



Promoting the global transition

- A more sustainable EU food system also requires **increasingly sustainable practices by our trading partners**
- A Legislative **framework for sustainable food systems** is planned, **Labelling** schemes
- **Outreach to third countries:**
 - Active engagement to assist the transition, development aid, technical assistance
 - International cooperation, international fora
 - Sustainability chapter in Trade agreements
- **Support from industry** to third countries is needed to assist them in this transition, too.





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THANK YOU !