POSITION PAPER
01/07/2026 – POS/26/OB/39752

Food and Feed Safety Omnibus Package: European Parliament's Draft Report

The European Parliament's draft report sends a positive signal that the Omnibus should support innovation, reduce unnecessary burden, and improve farmers' access to safe and effective solutions.

It strengthens key provisions by introducing an agronomic assessment, making mutual recognition mandatory across zones, and aligning unlimited active substance approvals with product authorisations. These changes could move the system closer to what farmers need in practice: less duplication, faster decisions and broader, more predictable access to innovation in both biological and conventional solutions.

Remaining gaps must still be addressed to protect competitiveness, including safeguarding regulatory data protection, preserving the risk-based Maximum Residue Level framework, and avoiding measures that would restrict safe imports, create legal uncertainty or disrupt trade.

On 19 June 2026, the European Parliament published its draft report on the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements, sending an important signal that simplification should not be a narrow administrative exercise. It is a practical opportunity to embrace innovation, reduce unnecessary burden and accelerate farmers' access to safe and effective biological and conventional solutions. This is particularly important as the crop protection toolbox continues to shrink, regulatory timelines remain long and farmers are facing increasing agronomic, climate and market pressures.

Regulatory data protection (Article 59 of Regulation 1107/2009)
Predictable and enforceable data protection is essential to sustain investment in the high-quality scientific studies required to meet the EU's stringent safety standards. The average cost of discovery and development of a new crop protection product increased to €276 million, an increase of nearly €19 million since 2014[1]. These studies require specialised expertise, time and substantial financial resources.

Maintaining the Commission's proposal to shift to an EU-wide clock starting from the first authorisation or renewal in a single Member State materially reduces effective protection in later-authorising Member States. This would weaken incentives to invest in new safety data - particularly for renewals, reviews, minor uses and smaller markets - and ultimately reduce product availability for farmers.

CropLife Europe therefore proposes to retain the existing data protection framework, with one targeted addition: a time limit on data protection in markets where the data owner is not active. This rewards investment and market commitment, while allowing other suppliers to bring products to farmers in markets that would otherwise be left behind.

Maximum Residue Levels (Article 14 & Recital 27a of Regulation 396/2005)
Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) are scientific, risk-based trading standards that ensure residues on food and feed are safe for consumers. They are subject to scientific assessment of residues and dietary exposure to ensure that consumer exposure does not pose an unacceptable risk.

[1] AgbioInvestor (2026) Time and Cost New Agrochemical Product Discover, Development and Registration. Available here

By maintaining the Commission proposal, the draft report does not yet address the core MRL concern: the possibility of reducing safe Codex- or third-country GAP-based MRLs to the limit of quantification. The new language on reciprocity in Recital 27a risks shifting the debate away from consumer safety and towards using MRLs to apply EU production standards to imports. This would create legal uncertainty, risk disrupting safe and compliant trade flows and add pressure on EU food and feed supply chains without delivering additional consumer safety benefits.

CropLife Europe proposes to maintain the risk-based logic in Article 14 of Regulation 396/2005 for Codex- and third-country GAP-based MRLs. Where consumer safety is confirmed, MRLs should be set or maintained, and any proposal to move to the limit of quantification under Article 18(1)(b) or Article 16 should require a separate, evidence-based and proportionate assessment of wider impacts, including trade, competitiveness, supply-chain resilience and international obligations.

Extend provisions to the full toolbox (Articles 3, 4(7), 11, 30, 37, 40 of 1107/2009)
CropLife Europe supports faster access to biocontrol solutions. The draft report builds on the Commission's proposal to provide a broad and forward-looking definition for biocontrol solutions under Article 3, supporting innovation and helping farmers access these tools more quickly. Biocontrol products are an important part of Integrated Pest Management and can help farmers diversify their crop protection strategies. However, conventional plant protection products will continue to play a vital role for farmers, offering important tools and innovation indispensable and complementary to biocontrol. Farmers need access to both, depending on crop, pest pressure, climatic conditions, resistance challenges and available agronomic practices. For instance, Article 11 and 37 should be respectively extended and clarified: dedicated lanes with additional resources should support biocontrol without delaying access to other new solutions. Similarly, provisional authorisations under Article 30 remain an important area for further improvement and should be available for all innovative plant protection products where safety requirements are met.

The draft report also makes important improvements that could help the system work better in practice. Introducing an agronomic assessment in Article 4(7) would ensure that decisions on the availability of alternatives reflect real farm-level conditions, including efficacy, availability of alternatives and resistance management. This is essential to ensure that crop protection decisions are not made in isolation from the practical realities farmers face.

Making mutual recognition mandatory across zones under Articles 40 and 42 would be a significant step towards reducing duplication and improving consistent access to solutions across Member States. Mutual recognition should help ensure that a product already assessed and authorised for comparable uses is not subject to unnecessary delays or divergent national requirements.

Simplification should accelerate both biological and conventional innovation, reducing duplication and avoiding new bottlenecks for conventional products.

Unlimited approvals and targeted reassessment (Articles 5, 18, 43 of Regulation 1107/2009)
CropLife Europe supports aligning unlimited approvals for active substances under Article 5 with product authorisations under Article 43. Replacing calendar-driven, resource-intensive renewals with science-based targeted reassessments, triggered only where a genuine need emerges, would free capacity in Member States and EFSA to focus on new active substances and innovative products.

This approach can maintain high safety standards while making the system more proportionate and responsive. When the regulatory pipeline is blocked, renewals do not always deliver timely safety oversight. Targeted reassessments under Article 18 and 18a, triggered by relevant new scientific or technical information, would help authorities focus faster on issues that may materially affect the risk assessment. Full reassessment should remain exceptional and justified, with the scope, data requirements and applicable guidance clearly and transparently defined from the outset, as highlighted in the draft report. This would support both simplification and a high level of protection for consumers, users and the environment.