



PRESS RELEASE

ENVI VOTES 59-1 IN FAVOUR OF RESOLUTION PROVIDING FASTER ACCESS FOR LOW-RISK PESTICIDES IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET

Friday, 3 February 2017, Brussels. After a series of consultations IBMA had with the European Parliament and representatives of DG SANTE of the European Commission, on 31 January 2017 the Parliament's ENVI Committee (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) voted with 59 to 1 in favour of a Resolution that calls on the Commission "to submit a specific legislative proposal amending Regulation 1107/2009 with a view to a fast-track evaluation, authorisation and registration process of low-risk pesticides of biological origin before the end of 2018, outside of the general revision in connection with the REFIT initiative". In the past decade efforts of innovative smaller enterprises producing low-risk pesticides to find easier access to the European market failed. Only 7 of such products currently compete in an overwhelmingly chemical products oriented market. During a formal meeting on 15 July 2015 between key representatives of the European Parliament, the growing group of low-risk pesticides producers and Europe's largest farmers' associations represented in COPA-COGECA it was concluded that Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 required limited adaptation. Early signals of European Commissioner Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis indicated the possibility of such an adaptation. This adaptation would fully reflect all concerns regarding safety and efficacy. This development was welcomed by experts and strongly supported by the widest possible range of NGOs focused at both human health and the environment.

This unique democratic support for the earliest possible introduction of low-risk pesticides into the European market is in line with a crucial statement of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker: "Jobs, growth and investment will only return to Europe if we create the right regulatory environment and promote a climate of entrepreneurship and job creation. We must not stifle innovation and competitiveness with too prescriptive and too detailed regulations, notably when it comes to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of our economy, creating more than 85% of new jobs in Europe and we have to free them from burdensome regulation."

Without this resolution adaptation of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 would only be realised within the framework of a total review both of this Regulation and of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. This resolution calls for specific action within two years in place of a 'REFIT' procedure which could take close to 10 years and could end without any decision taken. This would neither benefit the farmers whose pesticides toolbox is essentially empty, nor the consumers who are entitled to consume food products with the lowest possible risk.

European Commissioner Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis is invited to comment on these developments through an Oral Question during a plenary session of the European Parliament in the week of 13 February 2017 in Strasbourg, followed by a vote.

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