IBMA and Copa-Cogeca
Common action for sustainable plant protection

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Biocontrol Products

- Sourced from nature
- Have a low impact on human health and the environment
- Effective for management of plant pests and diseases
What “innovative green tools” are currently available from the Biocontrol industry?

- **Microbials**: Viruses, Bacteria & Fungal Pathogens. Found naturally in soil, used in food, feed & and unregulated uses.
- **Macrobials**: Predators, parasites & nematodes. Living organisms found to naturally protect crops.
- **Semiochemicals**: Pheromones, Plant volatiles. Communication tools found in nature with no killing effect.
- **Natural & Biochemical Products**: Botanicals & Other Natural substances. Products derived from nature.

Not usually regulated as PPPs
Regulated as PPPs
IBMA - Who are we?

International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association aisbl

• Established in 1995
• Headquarters in Brussel, in rue Trèves 61
• Over 250 members including > 160 companies developing, manufacturing, placing on the market Biocontrol solutions,
• High proportion of SMEs, also large multinational organisations
• → IBMA Members Directory 2019
• Eight National groups: BE, CH, DE/AT, ES, FR, IT, NL, UK
IBMA - Partner in a wide international network

• Recognised by **EU institutions and authorities:**
  EU Commission, EP, EFSA, ECHA and EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility as well as by EU Member State authorities

• Active in **intergovernmental organisations:**
  OECD WG on Pesticides and its EGs (e.g. Biopesticides), FAO (Joint Meetings )…

• Member of **BioProtection Global** (see more)
  a worldwide federation of eight biocontrol and biopesticides industry associations, in Europe, USA/Canada, Brazil, Columbia, India, Japan, South Africa

• Partnerships with Stakeholder Organisations, in particular **COPA COGECA**
Copa-Cogeca – IBMA
Common Roadmap for collaboration 2018-2025

- EU farmers have been deprived of numerous PP solutions
- Biocontrol manufacturer are facing important obstacles to get their products authorised in the EU

→ Copa-Cogeca and IBMA agreed on

Roadmap for Collaboration and coordinated action to ensure that sustainable and effective biocontrol solutions are made available for the IPM-toolbox of EU farmers → see text

Four Platforms

1 - Cooperation on EU Minor Uses and Specialty Crops
2 - Information exchange and targeted solutions
3 - Low-risk active substances and products
4 - Regulation of biocontrol solutions proportionate to the risk they pose
Roadmap Platform 1
Cooperation on EU Minor Uses and Specialty Crops

EU Minor Use Coordination Facility
• Participation in Commodity EGs, Horizontal EG and Stakeholder Advisory Forum
• Information exchange to be aligned with Copa-Cogeca
• IBMA-internal call for solutions: seed production and seed treatments
• IBMA support of request for sustainable funding of the MUCF

Member States
• Example France: WG on Biocontrol in CTOP of Commission Usages Orphelins

OECD
• Participation in EG Minor Uses

International
• Participation in Global Minor Use Summits
Roadmap Platform 2
Information exchange and targeted solutions

• Copa-Cogeca and IBMA must exchange on needs identified by farmers and solutions available in biocontrol industry
• WG on Phytosanitary questions can provide list of key needs to IBMA
• IBMA can encourage development, applications for new authorisations or extensions

• Link to actions in platform 1 (minor uses and specialty crops)
• Needs a lot of attention at national and European level, to be strengthened
EP Resolution on low-risk pesticides of biological origin

Resolution voted in European Parliament on 15th Feb 2017 → see text

- Stresses that farmers need a bigger toolbox at hand to protect their crops and to decide which measure will be best and most sustainably to protect them

- Calls for immediate action and stresses the need to revise current PPP legislation

- Calls on Commission to submit a specific legislative proposal [...] establishing a fast-track evaluation, authorisation and registration process for low-risk pesticides of biological origin
Roadmap Platform 3
Low-risk active substances and products

In European Parliament

- Resolution of 15th Feb 2017 on low-risk pesticides of biological origin
- COPA COGECA – IBMA Luncheon Symposium on Sustainable plant protection co-hosted by MEPs on 16th Feb 2019 and related joint press release

With European Commission

- IBMA Board and secretariat meetings with DG SANTE Pesticides Unit

In Member States

- Actions at national level to gain support in SC PAFF and in the Council for low-risk solutions including biologicals
Roadmap Platform 4
Regulation of biocontrol solutions proportionate to the risk they pose

Legislation fit for purpose: protect human health and environment and ensure that efficient tools, especially biological and low-risk tools, are available to all farmers

In the EU

• **EP Resolution** of 15th Feb 2017 on low-risk pesticides of biological origin
• **Revised criteria for low-risk** active substances [Reg. (EU) 2017/1432 → see text]
• Proportionate data requirements [DRs]: Stressed in **REFIT process**
• IBMA discusses UPs and DRs with DG SANTE and MSs, participates in EU WG on BioPesticides
• **Very recent signals from that DG SANTE**: Amendments for DRs possible …
• IBMA demand: Microbials first but also specific DRs for semiochemicals and natural substances

In OECD

• In WG on Pesticides & EGs: action to harmonise regulations & DRs and development of appropriate guidance
• In seminars: contribution to dissemination of information

IBMA is also contributes to FAO work, where possible

**COPA COGECA** can support IBMA in EP, in Council / Member States, with COM
Copa-Cogeca – IBMA Luncheon Symposium on sustainable plant protection

High level symposium to discuss the necessity of expanding farmers’ toolbox
• 7th Feb 2019 in European Parliament
• Co-hosted by 3 MEPs          3 parties          2 committees
  Annie Schreijer-Pierik      EPP             AGRI & ENVI
  Ivan Jakovčić               ALDE            AGRI
  Pavel Poc                   S&D             ENVI

• Presentations by MEPs top experts, COPA COGECA, IBMA, DG SANTE
• Attendance included parliamentary assistants and different stakeholders
  → see press release
EP Symposium - Key statements of speakers

• **Pekka Pesonsen** warned that the current system for authorisation is not safeguarding the competitiveness of EU agriculture.

• **Jan-Kees Goet** (Min Ag / NL) spoke in favour of the use of LR biological pesticides.

• **Dr Werner Christie** (former Min of Health / Norway) highlighted the striking difference between Norway’s policy and the apparent inactivity of the EU in promoting LR products.

• **Luc Peeters** - observed that new tools developed in the EU are often exported outside the EU because of the lengthy and costly EU authorisation system.
  - deplored that the EU MUCF has been left without funding by the EU COM.
EP Symposium - Key statements of speakers (2)

- **MEP Ivan Jakovcic** stressed the need for a *rapid change in ag policy* in favour of tools for EU farmers.

- **MEP Annie Shreijer-Pierik** stated that *biological LR PPPs are an important part* of the farmers tool box.

- In a statement delivered, **MEP Pavel Poc** declared that EU COM should better acknowledge the *broadly supported call for action*.

- **David Cary** (IBMA) regretted the **EP Resolution** in favour of fast-track authorisations for LR PPP including biologicals has not been implemented and pointed at proposals in the **IBMA White Paper**

- **Klaus Berend** (DG SANTE, Head Pesticides Unit)
  - shared the frustration that authorisation procedures take too long.
  - pointed at EU **MSs** and their responsibility in dysfunctions.
  - disagreed with the need for a separate **fast-track procedure** for low-risk PPPs including biologicals.
EP Symposium - Conclusions

- Consensus on the urgent need to expand the EU farmers’ IPM toolbox with LR PPPs including those of biological origin: farmers need more safe and efficient solutions and choices.

- Current EU legislative framework is not functioning, not properly supporting the development and placing on the market of innovative sustainable tools on the market.

- Need for improvement of the current authorisation procedure, by introducing a fast-track for LR PPPs including biologicals.

Importance of communication with farmers with regard to their needs.
IBMA pursues partnership with Copa-Cogeca, will strengthen collaboration and improve communication with farmers.
Thank you for your attention!