

# STAKEHOLDER EVENT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES DIRECTIVE 2009/128/ EC AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ITS PLANNED REVISION

LA BATIDORA  
by ATREVIA

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## Session 1: Welcome, introduction of the initiative and wider food sustainability context

### Panel 1: Introduction of the initiative Claire Bury Deputy Director General DG SANTE

- High number of responses to the consultations. Polarized views in some respects.
- Considerable interest in the Commission: 19 units involve in the USP.
- Society is demanding that the way food is produced is more sustainable.
- DG SANTE is working together with DG TRADE to increment the standards worldwide.
- European Economic and Social Committee will deliver an opinion on this issue.
- Timeline:





## Panel 2: Framing pesticide use within the wider context of sustainable food systems Prof. Carina Keskitalo, European Commission Group of Chief Scientific Advisers

To achieve a sustainable food system for the EU, the central goal of all relevant policy development and assessment must be to ensure food sustainability in all its aspects:

- Ensure a truly integrated approach to bring about a sustainable food system.
- Approached focusing on single issues, marginal efficiency gains and incremental improvements to the current system will not be sufficient and thus will not make the food system sustainable.
- A transformation of the food system requires clear high-level goals and incentives, with a balanced focus on all three sustainability pillars (economic, social and environmental), with joined-up, complementing policies.

"The use and over-use of pesticides is not just a cause of the unsustainability of our food system but is also a symptom of the unsustainable food system".

Need to bring together all EU policies related to the food-chain and the environment upon which it depends and include broad consideration of costs and benefits to society, with due regard to trade-offs between ecosystem services.

Take into account affordability of food for consumers, income and long-term viability of foodproducers, as well as risks to health and the environment associated with different scenarios for the use of pesticides including a zero-use scenario.

The wide-spread and prophylactic use of PPPs and the effects thereof on the environment require greater consideration in the EU PPP system, especially with regard to post-market vigilance.

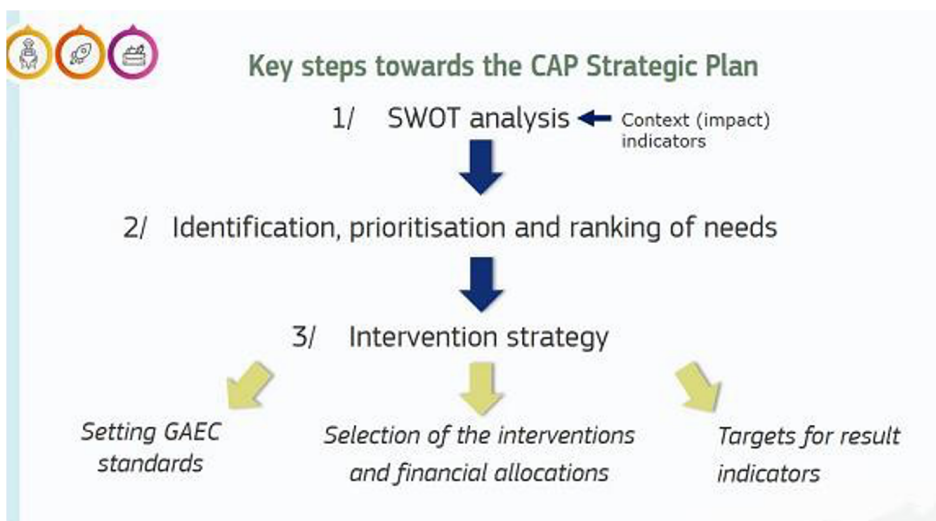
### Three recommendations:

1. Ensure a truly integrated approach to sustainable food
2. Address asymmetries and "choice architecture" in the food system
3. Utilize a complete policy mix



## Panel 3: Links between review of sustainable use of pesticides Directive, the Farm to Fork strategy and Common Agricultural Policy Niall Gerlitz DG AGRI

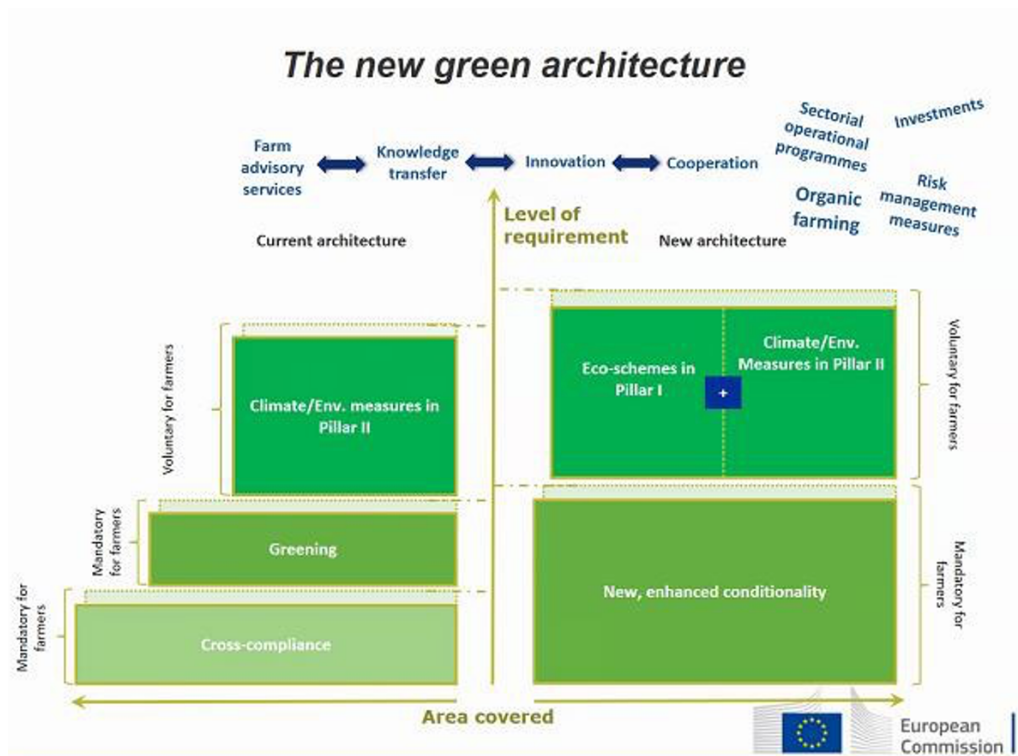
What is proposed for the future CAP?





There has been already an analysis of the objectives of where MS are currently in the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) and the implementation of integrated pest management. The ambition

that the Commission expect is that the targets propose are met.





## Panel 4: Public feedback received on evaluation roadmap/ inception impact assessment Andrew Owen Griffiths DG SANTE

Feedback from these countries:

Identified country of origin of individual feedback comments:		
France 118	Lithuania 6	Ireland 1
Austria 42	Croatia 2	Portugal 1
Italy 38	Latvia 2	Romania 1
Belgium 37	Poland 2	Slovakia 1
Greece 31	Sweden 2	<b>Non-EU countries</b>
Germany 25	Cyprus 1	Canada 2
Spain 22	Denmark 1	Ecuador 1
The Netherlands 12	Finland 1	Switzerland 1
Czech Republic 8	Hungary 1	UK 1

Main issues:

### 1. Organic farming

- + All production should be organic and VAT on organic products should be reduced
- Organic production is unjustifiably glorified and would increase greenhouse gas emissions

### 2. Use of new technologies

- + new technologies, novel breeding/genomic techniques, GMOs, digitalization, precision farming...need to be promoted
- More precise pesticide technology is not the answer to reducing associated risks

### 3. Use of pesticides

- + Pesticides are essential for food yields and quality
- All pesticides should be phased out and banned

### 4. 3rd country imports

Agreement on stricter rules to prevent unfair competition from 3rd countries using pesticides not authorized in the EU.





## Session 2: Stakeholder perspectives on the current use of pesticides in the EU and expectations from the evaluation and possible revision of the sustainable use of pesticides Directive

### Panel 1: A Member State perspective: Miriam Cavaco Food and Veterinary Directorate General Portugal

- Some Member States are dealing with different realities and insights, and therefore have high demand of pesticides due to a bigger number of pests and climatic conditions. Other MS have a higher number of emergency authorisation.
- Climate change and globalisation → new pests every year
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is one of the cornerstones of the SUD and will be the biggest challenge that Member States have to face.
- The presidency of Portugal feels that in order to achieve this plant protection measures must be strengthened, mainly those related to biological control agents.
- Before the SUD we need an impact assessment because all 27 MS have different realities related with crops, pests, climatic conditions... Different baselines and different starting points.
- Important to do this impact assessment.

### Panel 2: A farmers' organisation perspective: Pedro Gallardo COPA-COGECA

- COPA-COGECA represents 22 million European farmers and 22,000 European agricultural cooperatives.
- Challenges of the European Green Deal: adaptation of farms, farmers should have a bigger budget for those changes. Gallardo points out that they have not been in the centre of the debate and the commissions impact assessment.



- The achievement of ambitious goals requires synergies between sectors in the supply chain.
- The European farmer community has identified several ways of giving into the demands of society, such as reducing carbon footprint.
- COPA-COGECA's position on sustainable crop protection and the SUD:
  - Safeguarding plant and crops' health. A proper use of PPPs is an important tool in maximising yields whereby resources are used in the best and most efficient possible way.
- PPPs support high-quality agricultural production. Without a safe and effective toolbox at hand, especially where farmers already use low levels of pesticides. It is scientifically proven that yields will be reduced, and food security will be threatened.
- Farmers are the most interested in having safe production conditions that respect environment, animal welfare...
- COPA-COGECA is an advocate of a scientific risk assessment approach.
- New plant breeding technologies have a role to play in reducing the need for the application of conventional pesticides.

### Panel 3: An NGO's perspective: David Cary Pesticide Action Network Europe

- 3 things to focus on as an NGO from the SUD:
  - Need for an ambitious vision
  - Focusing the judgment of success
  - How they organise activities
- Vision needs:
  - Alignment with other instruments: F2F, Green Deal, other policy instruments. Need for the updating we are going through.
- Enforcement: infringements need to happen.
- Above all, it needs to be ambitious: we need to be looking at pesticide use being unnecessary and that in the future we rely on other tools.
- PAN is supporting the ECI to save the bees and farmers.



- The judgement of success SUD indicators must include all chemical PPPs used and should be penalising the use of candidates for substitution not allowing their use to be undetected and unrecorded.
- Indicators must encourage, reward and record the implementation and use of alternative systems and tools at all levels.
- Indicators should move downward and encourage the use of robust tools as the basis of an approach.
- Other areas they are looking at: data ownership
  - All data is needed to be under farmer or public ownership
  - Needs to be available to enable implementation of better decision-making and monitor indicators
- Barriers to implementation of alternative systems and tools should be eliminated
- Impact assessments must look at the long-term system and not at transitional modifications. They must include all external costs and benefits and must use all data and studies present in MS.
- If one does not look at the long-term effects, like the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, one would not be looking at an industry today that is not needing chemical pesticides.
- Approach suggested: sector specific, transparent, committed and with no undue influence.