



Burson·Marsteller

## Pesticides Update

Last updated in October 2013

### Latest Developments

#### **Overall assessment of Pesticide developments and impact on golf in Q3 2013:**

By Q3 2013 the majority of National Action Plans for the sustainable use of pesticides have been published on the European Commission's website. There is no common approach to how member states will measure pesticide use and limited targets for reducing pesticide use.

The European Commission website now includes the National Action Plans (NAP) for the sustainable use of pesticides. Most Member States have submitted their national plans to the Commission. Only Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and Croatia are still pending. 26 November 2012 was the official deadline in the Directive for Member States to communicate NAPs to the Commission.

Please find below a top line assessment of the NAPs:

There are huge differences in national policies:

- Each Member State has specific measures in place (training, check of equipment, sale)
- Many have problems to respect EU law (WFD, MRLs) ...
- Few have overall reduction targets and real plans (ex FR, DK)

Huge differences in how the NAPs are written:

- 1 member states (DK) mentions only new measures
- Majority of Member States give an overview of all they do (to fulfil different pieces of EU legislation)
- Some MS (CZ) include a nice background evaluation of environmental and public health problems
- One MS (AU) has regional action plans rather than a NAP

Quantitative targets in the NAPs:

Only one MS had included an overall target in the plan:

- DK: 40% reduction in pesticide use from 2011 to 2015

Few MSs included part targets:

- CZ: 10% reduction in residues from domestic production from 2010 to 2020
- LT: 2 % reduction in overall MRLs levels from 2010 to 2017, and land use for organic to increase by up to 2% in 2017, as compared to the average in 2008–2011
- LT: 5 new authorised biocontrol products as from 2013

[Member State National Action Plans- NAPs](#)

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled on 8 October that the European Commission should have

disclosed to NGOs information on the precise composition of an EU approved herbicide – glyphosate – including on its impurities and additives. This came after the Commission refused to give Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) and Greenpeace Netherlands parts of an assessment report detailing the composition of glyphosate because it feared the information was commercially sensitive. This ruling sets a precedent, allowing NGOs to gain access to more information on pesticides, and it is expected that they will invoke this right more actively in the coming months.

[ECJ Ruling](#)

On 25 July 2013, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) launched a public consultation on a draft Guidance for evaluating studies that measure the time required for 50% of pesticides to disappear from soil or water due to degradation alone. The Guidance Document is intended to assist applicants and authorities in the context of the review of active substances of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) under Regulation (EC) 1107/2009. The deadline for comments was 19 September 2013.

[Press Release](#)

[Consultation webpage](#)

### Impact for golf management

- Affect the range of pesticides available, but also ensure that all pesticides on the EU market will be compatible for environment and health as well as that the ones conditionally applied will be used only in exceptional cases.

### Background

#### Last updated in July 2013:

#### Overall assessment of Pesticide developments and impact on golf in Q2 2013:

Discussions in Q2 still focused on neonicotinoids, as the Commission went ahead with a restriction of four pesticides; a decision which raised a lot of questions by MEPs. Around the same time, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) published a report on 'Environment and Human Health' which suggests that there is a growing concern about 'endocrine disrupting chemicals' found in a wide range of products, including pesticides.

On 24 May 2013 the European Commission adopted a restriction on the use of three pesticides belonging to the neonicotinoid family (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam) which had been identified as being harmful to Europe's honeybee population. The restriction will enter into force in 1 December 2013 and will be review within two years at the latest. The Greens/EFA welcomed the decision, which they saw as an important first step in efforts to address the decline of bee populations. The group stated that a complete ban of all neonicotinoids is needed. On 16 July, the European Commission widened the ban to include fipronil, after the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that the insecticide poses a high acute risk to honeybees when used as a seed treatment for maize.

[EFSA Assessment of fipronil](#)

On 4 July 2013, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published guidance for assessing the potential risks to honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees from the use of pesticides. The guidance proposes a new method for assessing whether the potential harm posed to bees is acceptable and provides up-to-date advice to those involved in the evaluation of pesticides, including industry and public authorities.

[EFSA Guidance Document](#)

A report on 'Environment and Human Health' that was produced jointly by the European Environment

Agency (EEA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) on 30 May suggests that there is a growing concern about 'endocrine disrupting chemicals' found in a wide range of products, including pesticides. Effects are not yet fully understood, but the chemicals may contribute to declining sperm count, genital malformation, impaired neural development, obesity and cancer. A few days before the report was released, 89 public health scientists from around the world published the 2013 Berlaymont Declaration on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). The declaration says that proposals for the regulation of endocrine disrupting pesticides from certain EU Member States do not follow scientifically sound principles and are not sufficiently protective. The scientists call for action for controlling the chemicals and for a targeted research programme on EDCs.

[Environment and Human Health report](#)  
[The Berlaymont Declaration](#)

### **Last update in April 2013:**

#### **Overall assessment of Pesticide developments and impact on golf in Q1 2013:**

In the EU, the current discussions on pesticides are focused on three neonicotinoid insecticides, primarily used in agriculture products and their impact on bees. NGO groups have been very active on this debate in the last year and have successfully managed to convince regulators to restrict them. In addition, more reports have been published on moving away from traditional pesticides and looking into safer alternatives that also do not impact biodiversity loss.

In April 2013, the European Commission decided to restrict the use of three neonicotinoid insecticides, following a vote in the Appeal Committee on April 29 2013 where Member States failed to reach a qualifying majority in favour of the ban. The Commission's action is a response to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) [scientific report](#) which identified a number of risks posed to bees by the exposure to three neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethomax). The European Commission's proposal restricts the use of the three neonicotinoids from 1 December 2013 and proposes a review of the ban in 2 years' time.

In March 2013, 13 countries within the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) (including France, Italy, Spain, Poland, the Netherlands and Belgium to name a few) supported a temporary ban.

[European Commission Press Release](#)  
[Draft text for appeals committee vote](#)

In Q1 2013, several MEPs tabled questions on the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on bee health. On 14 March, Spanish MEP Raul Romeva i Rueda (Greens/EFA) asked the Commission if it was planning to incorporate beekeeping as a priority field in the EU environmental policy and urged it to encourage Member States to adopt bee protection measures. Polish MEP Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska and Belgian MEP Anne Delvaux from the EPP, Belgian MEP Marc Tarabella from S&D, as well as Belgian MEP Bart Staes and Dutch MEP Bas Eickhout from the Greens also submitted questions enquiring about the Commission's intended action on neonicotinoid pesticides.

[Raul Romeva i Rueda's question](#)  
[Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska's question](#) and [answer by the Commission](#)  
[Anne Delvaux's question](#) and [answer by the Commission](#)  
[Marc Tarabella's question](#) and [answer by the Commission](#)  
[Bas Eickhout and Bart Staes' question](#) and [answer by the Commission](#)

On 23 April 2013, the environmental group Générations Futures published a report claiming that the French Ministry of Agriculture authorised more than 40 pesticides and herbicides which the health agency

ANSES suggests should either be banned or restricted.

[Report](#) (French)

A report on 'Pesticides and Biodiversity' published in April 2013 by the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) and the European Landowners' Organisation (ELO) examines measures in place and best practices for promoting harmony between agricultural productivity and preservation of biodiversity in Europe.

[Report](#)

On 27 March 2013, a cross party committee of senators in France launched a 'Charter for alternatives to pesticides' ([Chartre du Comité des élus pour les alternatives des pesticides](#)) to disseminate information on pesticides and promote alternatives. The Committee was initiated by three associations: Agir pour l'environnement, Générations Futures and the bee-keepers union (l' Union des apiculteurs UNAF),

[Article by Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#)

On 20 March 2013, the French NGO Générations Futures launched the results of the first part of an enquiry into everyday exposure to endocrine-disrupting pesticides. The enquiry forms part of a series of reports called EXPPERT (Exposition aux Pesticides PERTurbateurs endociniens). The results of EXPPERT 1 show daily exposure of humans to two families of endocrine disrupting insecticides, organophosphates and pyrethroids.

[Report](#) (in French) and [Press Release](#)

In March 2013 the Danish Environmental Protection Agency published a report that evaluates direct and indirect climatic change effects on pesticide-leaching to groundwater and the aquatic environment. The evaluation aims to describe the implications of future climatic factors on pesticide leaching to groundwater, based on realistic doses and parameters.

[Abstract](#) and [Report](#)

In February 2013, the UK Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published the '[UK National Action Plan \(NAP\) for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides \(Plant Protection Products\)](#)'. The NAP, which was communicated to the European Commission and other EU Member States, establishes a framework for community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

## Links

Link to the Environment Council press release announcing the adoption of the Council position on the Biocidal Products Regulation:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/118635.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/118635.pdf)

Link to the text of the political agreement on the Biocidal Products Regulation:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st17/st17474-ad01.en10.pdf>

Link to the website of the campaign Sick of Pesticides:

<http://www.pesticidescancer.eu/>

