

The Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides

Pesticide Reduction Programmes in Germany and the UK

Experiences and Contributions within a Europe wide Approach

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Pesticides Action Network (PAN) Europe

Historical background and PAN Europe actions (1)

- * 5th Environmental Action Programme "to achieve a substantial reduction of pesticide use per unit of land under production". No action was taken but there were 7 studies made during the 1990's to prepare a Directive. One stakeholders consultation meeting in 1998 **with PAN Europe participation**;
- * 6th EAP (2001-2010) "reduce the impact of pesticides on human health and the environment... As well as a significant overall reduction in risks and of the use of pesticides" and decision about measures for a TS on pesticides **(PAN E lobby work)**
- * **May 2002: PAN Europe's "Suggested text for a Directive on Pesticides Use Reduction in Europe (PURE)". The PURE campaign is supported by 92 organisations and European federations of organisations in 30 European countries**
- * Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides being prepared by DG Environment in coordination with the revision of Directive 91/414/EEC by DG Health and Consumer Protection;
- * As a first step: Commission Communication on the sustainable use of pesticides : 4 July 2002;

Historical background and PAN Europe actions (2)

- * ***PAN E participation at Commission Stakeholders meeting concerning this Commission Communication + position paper: 4 November 2002;***
- * ***Environment Council Conclusions: 9 December 2002 with PAN E lobby input;***
- * ***European Parliament Resolution: 27 March 2003 (very critical) with PAN E lobby input;***
- * ***PAN E conference "Reducing pesticide dependency in Europe to protect health, environment and biodiversity" addressed mainly MS civil servants of ad hoc ministeries: 20 November 2003***
- * ***Several technical meetings during 2003 and 2004 (on compliance, aerial spraying, sprayers, indicators and collection of empty packaging);***
Extended Impact Assessment finalised in October 2004 with PAN E input to consultants during its elaboration and writing of severe critique when published
- * ***PAN E participation in interactive Policy Making internet consultation from March-12 May 2005.***
- * ***PAN E face to face lobby meetings at Commission and EP levels: 2003-2004-2005***

Historical background and PAN Europe actions (3)

For more informations:

- 1) <http://www.pan-europe.info>
- 2) <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ppps/home.htm>

Agenda

- * Official interservice consultation (with various relevant DGs) is imminent
- * Adoption by the Commission: September 2005 but probably later (as review of Directive 91/414 might be further delayed and is part of the TS)
- * Discussion and vote by the European Parliament (1st reading, 2nd reading and Plenary: 2006/2007)
- * Discussion and vote by the Council: 2nd half of 2006 (Finnish Presidency);
- * Conciliation procedure and final version by 2007.



Opportunity for further amendments and lobby work by NGOs at the EP Commission and Council levels

The Thematic Strategy components

- 1) A Commission Communication
- 2) Modifications in existing legislations
(as for example modification of PPP autorisation Directive)
- 3) A Framework Directive

Possible content of the Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides (1)

A) Mandatory national action plans to reduce hazards, risks and dependence on pesticides with the following minimal requirements:

- 1) Public participation in a Steering group to develop, implement, monitor and review action plan;
- 2) Reduction targets measured by risk indicators, possibly at crop and a.s. levels;
- 3) Awareness raising campaigns for non professional users;
- 4) Measures for safe handling of preparations including ready-to-use products for amateurs;
- 5) Training requirements for distributors, advisors, users + certification
- 6) System for certification and monitoring of spraying equipment;
- 7) Set up of a structure for independent advice for professionals and amateurs + pest forecasting systems;

Possible content of the Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides (2)

- 8) Specific requirements for aerial spraying;
- 9) Possible measures for protection of the aquatic environment
- 10) Designation of areas where use of pesticides has to be reduced
- 11) System for collection of packaging and obsolete pesticides
- 12) Monitoring and reporting of poisoning incidents
- 13) Promotion of organic farming , ICM (mainly based on Regulation on support to Rural development, EU action plan on organic farming)
- 14) Promotion of research to reduce pesticide use
- 15) Taxes to finance measures might be considered
- 16) Report on the action plan and its publication

Possible content of the Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides (3)

B) Commission steering group on the Thematic Strategy

Composed of various stakeholders including NGOs, academics and experts

To be created to assist Commission to:

- facilitate exchange of information between MS
- to prepare guidelines towards more harmonisation to be eventually considered for future revision of the Directive

Key missing point: Pesticide use data and indicators calculation

Eurostat will propose a separate Regulation on the collection and reporting of data on the sales and use of pesticides (additional meeting to be held in September /October 2005)

- MS will have to report use data to Eurostat
(spraying record keeping for farmers mandatory from 1st January 2006 according to food tracability Regulation)
- Eurostat to publish a report within 5 years on the indicators calculated and sales/use data

but:

- worries concerning the degree of aggregation of use data for publication and on how these data could be used to refine ICM definitions to be included in the authorisation Regulation
- we are far from access to geographical mapping for (each) pesticide use

Key missing point: sound IPM/ICM definition

Tendency of the Commission :

- to limit cross compliance requirements under CAP and therefore to keep a weak definition of general IPM in the new authorisation Regulation and consequently to leave the door open for voluntary approach by MS to go beyond these general IPM requirements (agri-environmental measures)
- to leave for future revisions of pesticide authorisation Regulation, crop specific minimum ICM requirements , pending on comparison of crop specific use data from various MS with comparable crop cultivation conditions and scientific progress.

As a consequence, no concrete steps towards precautionary pesticide dependency reduction: rather use reduction of unwanted pesticides (pesticide optimisation according to industry ICM definition) than pesticide dependency reduction as requested by environmental NGOs and other allied stakeholders

Conclusions

1) Much lobby needed from NGOs and allied stakeholders

Now, at Commission level (DGs Env't, Eurostat, SANCO, Agri):

- to ensure real incentives for farmers to convert to IPM/ICM aimed at pesticide dependency reduction and to organic farming
- to ensure public access to detailed use data, pesticides use geographical mapping and indicators calculations
- to reinforce proposed measures and their compulsory character

After publication by the Commission, at EP and MS levels (Council) to reinforce the text

2) *Now and in future* need for active NGOs participation in national as well as in the Commission Steering groups