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34. Notes that European agriculture is characterised by a wide variety of production conditions, with marginal rural areas lying alongside flourishing production areas, a situation which results in major disparities between regions which should be addressed by promoting the countryside and securing a degree of diversification of the activities in rural areas in order to enhance their appeal;
35. Considers it advisable not to hold a joint debate on the mid-term review of the Agenda and the enlargement negotiations;
36. Considers it advisable, with a view to the forthcoming enlargement, to continue to pursue a policy on rural areas, which should be stepped up, further developed and amply financed, for the whole EU, with sufficient decentralised responsibilities;
37. Notes that, two and a half years after Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 was first implemented, procedures are still as lengthy and complex as before, and that this acts as an unwanted brake on the new impetus provided by many projects put forward by local actors; notes furthermore that this situation makes it more difficult for rural development to take on greater importance within the CAP; calls accordingly for appropriate action in the form of a clarification of the rules governing the implementation of the rural regulation and a simplification of procedures;
38. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.
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P5_TA(2002)0276

Plant protection products

European Parliament resolution on the Commission report entitled: 'Evaluation of the active substances of plant protection products (submitted in accordance with Article 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC on the placing of plant protection products on the market)' (COM(2001) 444 – C5-0011/2002 – 2002/2015(COS))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission report (COM(2001) 444 – C5-0011/2002),
- having regard to Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market⁽¹⁾, and having regard to Council Directives 76/895/EEC⁽²⁾, 86/362/EEC⁽³⁾, 86/363/EEC⁽⁴⁾ and 90/642/EEC⁽⁵⁾ on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables, cereals, and foodstuffs of animal origin,
- having regard to Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy⁽⁶⁾,
- having regard to Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption⁽⁷⁾,
- having regard to the Commission's White Paper entitled: 'Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy' (COM(2001) 88),
- having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2001 on the Commission's White Paper entitled: 'Strategy for a future Chemicals Policy'⁽⁸⁾,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 340, 9.12.1976, p. 26.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 221, 7.8.1986, p. 37.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 221, 7.8.1986, p. 43.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 350, 14.12.1990, p. 71.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, p. 32.

⁽⁸⁾ 'Text Adopted', Item 9.

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- having regard to Directive 96/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 September 1996 amending Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to Directive 1999/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 amending for the 17th time Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to its position of 17 January 2002 on the Council common position for a European Parliament and Council Decision laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme (11076/1/2001 – C5 – 0434/2001 – 2001/0029 (COD))⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to the international treaties signed by the European Union (OSPAR, etc.),
 - having regard to the 'Draft Guidance document on relevant metabolites'⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the opinions delivered by the Scientific Committee on Plants in the course of the evaluation of active substances,
 - having regard to Rule 47(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A5-0155/2002),
- A. whereas, 10 years after the adoption of Directive 91/414/EEC, no more than 31 of the 834 existing active substances to be evaluated have completed the full procedure, whereas it will not be possible to evaluate the remaining substances by July 2003, and whereas, unless there is a change in policy, there can be no guarantee of compliance with the new timetable proposed by the Commission,
- B. whereas the application to new and existing substances of totally similar procedures, evaluation standards and decision-making criteria has led to 'pointless' evaluations of existing active substances, given that, with regard to some of them, the extensive scientific literature already available would have led to the conclusion, long before any evaluation had been carried out, that they would not satisfy the requirements of Directive 91/414/EEC, and whereas the existence of unfavourable scientific information should be sufficient grounds for not including an active substance without carrying out an evaluation process, unless the notifier has submitted research which adequately rebuts that information,
- C. having regard to the late publication of the various implementing regulations connected with Directive 91/414/EEC and to the excessive flexibility introduced into the procedure for the evaluation of active substances on the first list,
- D. whereas certain important events involving the problems caused by pesticides should have prompted a change in priorities as regards evaluation and/or an acceleration of that procedure,
- E. whereas the pesticides listed in Annex I may not be genuinely regarded as 'safe', because of
- the restrictions accompanying the inclusion of an active substance in Annex I,
 - the absence of any clear criteria for the inclusion of an active substance in Annex I and of any data relating to the actual usage of existing active substances,
 - the definition given to the concept of 'relevant metabolite',
 - the absence of any evaluation based on the criterion of 'drinking water produced from surface water',

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 236, 18.9.1996, p. 35.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 166, 1.7.1999, p. 87.

⁽³⁾ P5_TA(2002)0007.

⁽⁴⁾ Doc. Sanco/221/2000 rev. 2.

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- the aspects not covered by evaluation (endocrine disrupters, synergistic additives, the additive and synergistic effects of several pesticides, etc.),
 - the absence of any decision not to include a pesticide on the list on grounds connected with human health,
- F. whereas the procedure for the application of the Directive is highly complex and requires the involvement of scientists, specialists and interested parties with a thorough knowledge of the various substances under evaluation,
- G. whereas the cost involved in the evaluation procedure is such that some low-toxicity active substances which account for no more than a small percentage of the market will not be defended by the manufacturers and may well, therefore, not be listed in Annex I to the Directive,
- H. whereas active substances are in general being withdrawn from the market not because of their intrinsic properties but because of low profitability and/or according to the ability of producers to meet the costs of evaluation,
- I. whereas, with regard to 'essential uses', Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 451/2000 has made possible the submission of a large number of applications for derogations,
- J. whereas, in July 2003, more than 300 active substances will be withdrawn from the EU market, and whereas the short-term result of the withdrawal of so many active substances should be investigated and measures taken with regard to certain substances which have been shown to be indispensable,
- K. whereas Commission reports on the evaluation of the control systems relating to the placing on the market and use of plant protection products and to residues in foodstuffs of plant origin have revealed severe shortcomings in the control systems of the Member States,
- L. whereas the WTO rules currently in force (for example, the Codex alimentarius) may well totally nullify the efforts being made under European legislation with a view to securing a high level of protection of human health and of the environment,
- M. whereas a study by the European Environment Agency in 1995 showed that concentrations of pesticides in groundwater exceeded the limit of 0,5 µg/l in 75% of agricultural areas, and whereas the Commission recognises that the problem of the pollution of groundwater by pesticides is still increasing,
- N. whereas, with regard to plant protection products, it will not be possible to attain a high level of protection of human and animal health and of the environment simply by the application of Directive 91/414/EEC, particularly as that Directive is not capable of curbing the constant rise in the use of and dependence on pesticides, and whereas, since 1996, there has been a general increase in pesticide use in most of the Member States,
- O. whereas the implementation of the fifth Environmental Action Programme was a complete failure as regards the aim of significantly reducing the use of pesticides, and whereas publication of the Commission communication on sustainable pesticide use has constantly been postponed, despite the fact that, after a very extensive study in 1998, the Commission reached the general consensus that there was a need for additional European risk-reduction measures,
- P. whereas Parliament has not been duly informed of cases where industry has failed to meet deadlines or where the information provided by industry has been inadequate,
1. Agrees to an extension of the evaluation deadlines, subject to the following conditions:
- (i) no extension is to be granted in respect of the evaluation of the active substances set out in List 1,
 - (ii) the active substances set out in List 2 are to be evaluated no later than July 2005, those set out in Lists 3 and 4 no later than July 2008,

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- (iii) extensions of authorisations beyond 2003 with regard to the active substances set out in Lists 2 to 4 will be granted solely for substances in respect of which complete dossiers have been submitted by the prescribed date and of which a preliminary evaluation has shown that the requirements of the Directive may be satisfied, unless they are covered by the procedure under Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 451/2000 and subject to at least the strict criteria laid down in the technical annex to the Commission report COM(2001) 444 or by the proposals put forward by the Commission pursuant to this resolution on active substances with low toxicity levels on priority Lists 3 and 4,
- (iv) substances deemed to cause problems for health, the environment and drinking water sources are to be evaluated as a matter of priority in each list,
- (v) the Commission is to report, before the end of December 2003, on the stage reached in the implementation of the review programme and the probable impact thereof and to include a list of fruit and vegetable crops, specifying for each one the pests and the diseases which affect it and the number of maximum Community residue limits established in respect of the use of plant protection products,
- (vi) the Commission is to submit, before the end of June 2006, an update of the above report and an estimate of the number of substances included in Annex I to the Directive at the end of the programme, specifying how each one is used and whether its use is new or revised,
- (vii) the Commission is to submit a proposal for the revision of the Directive before the end of 2002;

2. Notes that the technical annex to the Commission report clearly indicates a number of shortcomings in the current measures to implement Directive 91/414/EEC, including:

- a lack of monitoring and inspection measures to check that the Directive is being applied correctly: checks on the further use of banned substances and checks on the implementation of the required risk-reduction measures on which inclusion in Annex 1 was conditional,
- limitation of the evaluation to active substances, and no systematic evaluation of the other, inert substances contained in product formulae,

and calls for these aspects to be tackled when the Directive is revised;

3. Agrees with the proposals for the amendment of Directive 91/414/EEC submitted by the Commission in the technical annex which accompanies its report and supports in particular the introduction of comparative assessments and of the substitution principle; believes that

- these two elements should be implemented in a structured way in the future authorisation system, so that active substances that represent the lowest toxicity are chosen and no authorisation is given in respect of an active substance when other less harmful agricultural techniques, methods and practices are available,
- serious consideration must be given to issues such as resistance to plant protection products, integrated pest management and good viable alternative agricultural practice;

4. Calls, before an active substance is included in Annex I, for

- (i) the criteria for inclusion to be clarified and for them to constitute an integral part of the Directive and to be established in conformity with Community legislation, in particular the Water Framework Directive, and international treaties,
- (ii) the evaluation and authorisation procedure to consist of two stages:
 - exclusion of any active substance which presents — or of which the metabolites present — one of the following characteristics:
 - it is carcinogenic,
 - it is toxic for reproduction,
 - it is mutagenic,
 - it is an endocrine disrupter (except for pheromones used in a non-dispersive way),

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- it is persistent,
 - it is bioaccumulable,
 - it is on a priority list established under relevant international treaties ratified by the European Union, or on the list of priority hazardous substances for water policy annexed to Directive 2000/60/EC,
- in the case of active substances not excluded, evaluation must take account of their incidence on the health of children and foetuses as well as any possible additive and synergetic effects linked to total exposure to certain pesticide products;
5. Calls on the Commission to take all appropriate steps to ensure that only one file is submitted per substance to avoid duplicate testing;
6. Calls on the Commission not to authorise any active substances in connection with which strict but unenforceable conditions for use (risk-reduction measures) are required in order to comply with the uniform principles;
7. Calls for the granting of authorisation to be conditional upon the producer providing information on the appropriate method of detecting the substance in respect of which authorisation is requested;
8. Calls for the redefinition of the concept of 'relevant metabolites' and for the revision of the corresponding 'Guidance document', with a view to ensuring a complete toxicological evaluation of metabolites of active substances equivalent to the toxicological evaluation of the primary substances, as well as for the publication, at the earliest possible opportunity, of the Guidance document entitled 'Drinking Water produced from surface water';
9. Calls for the rapid creation, at European Union level, of a publicly accessible database relating to the quantities of all pesticides produced and sold, the volumes used and the way in which they are used (including a breakdown by type of crop and class of product), the toxicological (including ecotoxicological) characteristics of pesticides and non-chemical alternatives to pesticides;
10. Calls for the introduction of legally binding labelling requirements for produce treated with pesticides, so that the consumer is informed about all pesticides used during production, storage or marketing;
11. Calls for the evaluation and decision-making procedure under Directive 91/414/EEC to be made more transparent and more democratic, in particular by allowing representatives of interest groups (e.g. consumers, NGOs and water producers) to participate therein and by ensuring that they have access to information, in particular to evaluation documents relating to the active substances produced by the Member States;
12. Calls on the Commission, before the end of 2002, to propose a clear procedure for the essential use of certain active substances pursuant to Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 451/2000, which should ensure that this article is used as sparingly as possible and only
- temporarily,
 - when the business in question uses them under the conditions laid down for integrated crop management,
 - in cases which satisfy the restrictions laid down in the technical annex to the Commission proposal (COM(2001) 444),
 - in cases which do not involve substances known to be of concern and/or a clear priority in regard to international obligations or environmental programmes;
- requires the new procedure to be fully consistent with the principles laid down in the Directive and the protection of human health and the environment to take precedence over the requirements of agricultural production;
13. Calls for an end to the insecurity created by the differences which exist between the laws of the individual Member States relating to the maximum permitted pesticide residue limits and on the Commission to give priority to the harmonisation thereof in respect of all active substances which will continue to be placed on the market after 2003;

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14. Calls on the Commission to devote special attention to the financing of research into alternative products;
15. Calls on the Commission to notify Parliament, before the end of the year, of the measures which it intends to take to ensure that useful substances which have low toxicity levels and appear on priority Lists 3 and 4, but which have not been notified because of a limited commercial interest or of high evaluation costs, may be evaluated with the help of an appropriate restricted data package that does not compromise their safety, so that they may continue to be marketed;
16. Calls for the publication, before July 2003, of a new proposal for a directive establishing a programme for a reduction in the use of pesticides, similar to the one introduced in some Member States, which lays down quantitative reduction targets, a time schedule and measures and means to achieve these targets; that directive should devote special attention to
- compulsory training in integrated crop management methods and certification of farmers and professional users of pesticides,
 - national action plans for reducing the use of and dependence on pesticides, with specific objectives and target dates,
 - extra financial assistance for research into and application of non-chemical pest-control methods, integrated crop management and organic farming,
 - coordinated monitoring of and gathering of data concerning the impact of pesticide use on the environment and health,
 - the creation of a link to agricultural environmental programmes (both existing and new), so that the payment of subsidies is made conditional on the implementation of environmental measures;
17. Calls for the drawing up of a proposal for a directive regulating the establishment of a 'Code of Best Practice' for each crop with regard to the use of authorised pesticides, as is already customary in some Member States, to be based on integrated crop management methods, with priority assigned to non-chemical agricultural methods; this Code should also establish:
- a system of spraying licences,
 - a system for the recording of the products used and their quantities,
 - a system of cultivation-free zones along watersides,
 - a system of application of the best available techniques;
18. Calls, further, on the Commission to give priority to the strict enforcement and monitoring of residue levels in food products; each year, the European Food Safety Authority should carry out representative checks on all agricultural products produced in the various Member States and on agricultural products from third countries which are sold on the European market; reports on the checks carried out by the food authority should take the EU rules on food-product residue levels as a benchmark;
19. Calls on the Commission, before the end of 2003, to report on possible ways of promoting mutual recognition of product registration between Member States and introducing zones within which the requirements for mutual recognition of product authorisation should be met, provided that the system:
- is used only in those Member States with similar agri-environmental characteristics, including climate,
 - is not used in the case of active substances which are registered in a Member State for essential use;
20. Calls on the European Union to work within the WTO to ensure that WTO rules do not weaken standards at European level in the field of public health and environmental protection;

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21. Emphasises that maximum residue levels (MRLs) will in principle be set at an extremely low level (analytical determination limit) unless the notifier can prove that even the best available techniques (treatment frequency, dosage, waiting period before harvesting, etc.) cannot prevent a certain residue level;
 22. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the plant-protection product evaluation criteria explicitly include assessment of the impact which the active substances have on domestic bee populations and the views of professional beekeepers organisations regarding those substances;
 23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and to the Commission.
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P5_TA(2002)0277

Shipbuilding

European Parliament resolution on the situation of the shipbuilding industry

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its position of 15 November 2001 ⁽¹⁾ and its resolution of 14 December 2000 ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the fifth report from the Commission to the Council on the situation in world shipbuilding of 30 April 2002 (COM(2002) 205),
 - having regard to the proposal for a Council regulation concerning a temporary defensive mechanism for shipbuilding (COM(2001) 401) and Council Regulation (EC) No 1540/98 establishing new rules on aid to shipbuilding,
 - having regard to Rule 42(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the world market in container ships, product and chemical tankers and natural gas tankers remains in crisis and market shares have altered in favour of Korea and to the detriment of the EU and other States,
 - B. whereas, following a recent inquiry into the situation in the Republic of Korea, the Commission concluded that international competition in this sector is still being distorted by dumping and that this unfair competition is seriously endangering the European shipbuilding industry,
 - C. having regard to the seriousness of the situation in the shipbuilding industry following the closure of many industrial sites and the loss of a great many jobs,
 - D. whereas the European shipbuilding industry has been kept in a situation of uncertainty since 31 December 2000 and has an urgent need for equal terms of competition to be established as quickly as possible,
 - E. whereas the negotiations begun by the Commission with South Korea did not succeed in reestablishing conditions of fair and transparent competition on the world market,
 - F. whereas on 14 May 2001 the Council authorised the Commission to initiate WTO proceedings against the Republic of Korea,
 - G. whereas the Council has not taken a decision on the adoption of the defensive trade measures proposed by the Commission and approved by Parliament, and whereas a further inquiry has been requested,

⁽¹⁾ 'Texts Adopted', Item 4.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 232, 17.8.2001, p. 362.