



**Pesticide
Action
Network**
Europe

MRL harmonisation

Legal Summary

Request for an Internal Review

On 10 April 2008, Natuur en Milieu and PAN Europe wrote to the European Commissioner for Health to submit a formal request for an internal review (under Regulation 1367/2006 on the Aarhus Convention)¹ of Commission Regulation 149/2008 which sets Maximum Residue Levels for food products. The letter set out the NGOs' view that Regulation 149/2008 is fundamentally flawed on several grounds and should be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Request deemed 'Inadmissible'

On 1 July 2008, DG SANCO replied on behalf of the Commissioner for Health arguing that PAN Europe's request was inadmissible on a legal technicality.

The Court of First Instance

On 11 August 2008, Natuur en Milieu and PAN Europe lodged an appeal with the Court of First Instance challenging the Commission's decision to deny an internal review.

What happens next?

Natuur en Milieu and PAN Europe now await the Commission which is expected to provide the Court with a copy of its formal position in the next three months. The Court could then give an opinion early in 2009.

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¹ The Aarhus Convention grants the right that environmental Non Governmental Organisations can demand the reconsideration of acts adopted by a Community institution