



Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS

Member of the European Commission

Berl 08/369
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels - Belgium
Tel. 00.32.2.295.41.59
e-mail: vytenis.andriukaitis@ec.europa.eu

**Mr François Veillerette, President
PAN Europe
Rue de la Pacification 67
B-1000 Brussels**

Brussels, **15. 06. 2018**
ARES(2018)

Dear Mr Veillerette,

Thank you for your letter of 3 May 2018, in which you highlight the need to integrate the objectives of the sustainable use of pesticides Directive in the proposal for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Thank you also for your comments regarding our webpages for the Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, which we will consider during the next update of the pages.

The new CAP proposal was published on 1 June 2018. With this new proposal, the CAP will be modernised providing for a targeted, flexible and effective approach. According to the proposal, Member States would draw up their CAP Strategic Plans in line with nine specific objectives. One of these objectives focuses on societal demands related to food and health. Member States and farmers would be required, in particular, to improve the response of EU agriculture to societal expectations on food and health, including sustainable agricultural production and sustainable use of pesticides.

As regards pesticides, I am pleased to inform you that the proposal for the CAP puts an increased emphasis on a more sustainable use of pesticides, also contributing to a greater ambition regarding the environmental performance of the CAP. As part of this increased emphasis, certain aspects of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) are listed in the new CAP proposal under the rules of conditionality. Crop rotation, also mentioned in your letter, is now also part of conditionality, replacing current crop diversification. Accompanying these amendments, all provisions of the SUD

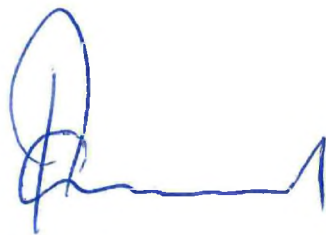


(including those on Integrated Pest Management) would be covered by the Farm Advisory Services (FAS). The independent nature of the FAS is now enshrined in Article 13(3) of the draft proposal and it is now integrated within the interrelated services of farm advisors, researchers, farmer organisations and other relevant stakeholders that form the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) in order to enhance its impact. Furthermore, an impact indicator and a result indicator are proposed to be set on the sustainable use of pesticides, and Member States' CAP Strategic Plans would be evaluated with regard to these indicators.

If accepted by co-legislators, all these provisions together will allow Member States to work towards the use of agricultural practices and products with the lowest possible risk to human health and the environment, including better implementation of Integrated Pest Management and increasing the use of low-risk chemical pesticides as well as micro-organisms.

In summary, I strongly believe that the new CAP proposed by the Commission has high environmental ambitions and puts sustainable agriculture at the heart of the European society. I also trust you would agree with me that we are moving in the right direction towards more sustainability and a better protection of human health and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'H' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that ends in a small upward tick.