



11th December 2018

PAN position on the EC proposal for the establishment of Harmonised Risk Indicators on pesticides as foreseen in the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides

The European Commission has published a proposal for a set of harmonised risk indicators to measure pesticide use in EU Member States as required by the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides. PAN Europe, PAN Germany and PAN UK welcome this first step, but are concerned that the proposals do not go far enough and without amendment, as described below, will not provide indicators that can both monitor use and drive policy for reducing pesticide dependence throughout the EU. The citizens of the EU are calling for a system that will deliver greater protection to their health and that of the environment from the harmful effects of pesticides. As this proposal currently stands it falls short of delivering that objective.

What Directive 128/2009/EC on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUD) says;

Article 15.2 of the SUD specifies that the following aspects need to be developed to measure compliance:

(a) calculate *harmonised risk indicators* as referred to in paragraph 1, by using statistical data collected in accordance with the Community legislation concerning statistics on plant protection products, together with other relevant data;

(b) identify *trends* in the use of certain active substances;

(c) identify *priority* items, such as active substances, crops, regions or practices, that require particular attention, or good practices that can be used as examples in order to achieve the objectives of this Directive to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment, and to encourage the development and introduction of integrated pest management and of alternative approaches or techniques in order to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides.

Article 15.4 of the SUD specifies that the Commission shall calculate risk indicators at Community level, and that this these data and this information shall be used *'to assess progress in achieving the objectives of other Community policies aimed at reducing the impact of pesticides on human health and on the environment.'*

Given that the development of Annex IV is long overdue any progress is to be applauded. PAN Europe, PAN Germany and PAN UK welcome the European Commission's attempt to propose a first set of Harmonised Risk Indicators at EU-level including:

- One indicator measuring the use of sale data (quantities of active substances placed on the market in plant protection products in kg or tonnes) accumulated as one weighted average, and
- One indicator measuring the number of essential use derogations given in the same period.

PAN Europe, PAN Germany and PAN UK call on Member States to support the current proposal but with the understanding that additions and amendments will need to be introduced in due course.

1) Proposed improvements to the currently proposed HRIs

The proposal fails to take environmental risks into account. We call for the cut-off criteria PBT (persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic) and vPvB (very persistent and very bioaccumulative) to be included in criteria I and II in the draft annex IV, the consideration of the criteria for the substitution of active substances, and classification as highly toxic for bees.

Whilst we welcome the European Commission's proposal to include emergency authorizations under Article 53 we believe that this improves transparency on Art 53 procedures, and leads to improved transparency as to how Member States deal with the provisions, and how they keep emergency authorizations to a minimum. However, to provide accurate data this must include also include quantities of active substances used, information on which crops these are used on, frequency of application of actives, etc.

Finally, we propose regular reporting on the development of individual indicators under annex IV - in general and on a country-by-country basis. A regular update should be carried out every 2 years to ensure that Member States can evaluate their measures for the sustainable use of pesticides in a reasonable time, and adjust them if necessary.

2) Other Harmonized Risk Indicators need to be developed

The current harmonized risk indicator being proposed is extremely limited and therefore does not correspond to the scope and objective of Article 15 of the Framework Directive: ignoring '*other relevant data*' and '*use data*'.

The proposal states that '*To date, no harmonised approach at Union level for collecting statistics on the use of plant protection products has been achieved under Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 and therefore no such data is available*'. However, the EC is obliged to take measures to implement the Statistic Regulation successfully and article 67 of the Regulation (EC) no 1107/2007 on the authorization of pesticides foresees this as happening, as farmers need to register their use.

The EU must continue to press Member States to collect accurate pesticide usage statistics '. These need to be collected without delay and the data made publicly available, allowing the European Commission to develop Annex IV by improving the harmonised collection of use data.

REGULATION (EC) No 1185/2009 concerning statistics on pesticides recalls in recital 6 that '*statistics need to be detailed up to the level of the active substances*' while recital 7 says '*mandatory data collection was recommended as the best option because it would allow the development of accurate and reliable data on the placing on the market and use of pesticides quickly and cost-efficiently*'.

The [REPORT](#) FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 says '*The Commission considers it equally important to adapt further the legislation on pesticides use statistics to ensure a more consistent approach and coverage across the Member States. This could include specified common reference periods and clear coverage requirements for the crops to be surveyed. The coverage rules could be based on the crop production statistics (a certain percentage of arable and permanent crops could be covered) and on analyses of the potential risks to the environment and human health, based on the sales of active substances.*'

This report also estimates the cost and administrative burden to the farmer regarding delivery of pesticide use statistics saying: '*Under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, professional users (farmers or entrepreneurs) must keep accounts of their use of pesticides. This means that the information should be readily at hand when the farmer has to answer the interviewer or fill in the questionnaire. This is mirrored in the quality reports, which in many cases show that limited time — from 15 minutes to about 2 hours per survey (every 5 years) — is needed on farms to complete the surveys.*

As mentioned in the [report](#) from the European Commission evaluating the SUD published in October 2017: '*Integrated Pest Management is a cornerstone of the Directive, and it is therefore of particular concern that Member States have not yet set clear targets and ensured their implementation, including for the more widespread use of land management techniques such as crop rotation.*

PAN Europe, PAN Germany and PAN UK believe that a serious set of harmonized risk indicators able to measure trends in pesticide use should at a minimum look as follows:

Indicator	SUD reference	Measuring
Indicator 1		
Pesticide use reduction	Compliance with second paragraph of article 4 and in article 15	Volume of active substances sold x weighting of these substances based on their categorisation
Indicator 2		
Monitoring quantitative targets, time table and measures proposed for specific topics (biodiversity, water, human health/victims of pesticides..)	Compliance articles 5-13 Baseline indicator the Commission report; with improvements/failures charted by ongoing implantation	Point 1-100 Each article max points 10 (compliance and quality) Extra 10 points for overall completion taking account of the national situation
Indicator 3		
Progress on IPM	Compliance with article 14 and 8 principles of IPM (IPM triangle!) – giving due weight to the parameters therein	MS could say: we are xx% of the way to achieving IPM in our vineyards, or in arable farming, we have now rotations y% of our farms.

3) From indicators to the development of quantifiable targets and timetables being set

The thematic strategy proposes in point 4.3 points to be examined again at a later stage, for instance under the review mechanism foreseen in the draft Framework Directive, as being:

- *Definition of quantitative use reduction targets.*
- *Setting-up of a system of taxes/levies to influence qualitatively pesticide use.*

Request 3 in the European Citizens Initiative 'Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides', which was signed by 1.3 million EU citizens, called on the Commission to propose to EU Member States 'To set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use, with a view to achieving a pesticide-free future'.

Taking into account the European Commission reply: *EU policy is already directed towards reducing dependency on pesticides and achieving a pesticide-free future as requested by the European Citizens' Initiative.... The Commission will re-evaluate the situation on the basis of the resulting data and assess the need for EU-wide mandatory targets for pesticides.*

We call on the European Commission to seriously consider introducing quantitative use reductions and timetables in the revision process of the SUD foreseen in article 4.4, and expected to happen in 2019.

To reiterate we believe that this is a positive start to developing the much needed harmonized risk indicators throughout the EU but it does not go far enough to deliver the required objectives as foreseen in the SUD. We urge the Commission and Member States to adopt these proposals and to further amend and enhance them over time in order to provide the highest level of protection for human health and the environment across the EU.

Note to editors:

The draft Commission Directive to establish harmonised risk indicators estimating trends in risk from pesticide use has been published as part of the [Feedback Mechanism](#), [here](#)

Contact:

PAN Europe: Henriette Christensen, + 32 2 318 62 55, henriette@pan-europe.info

PAN Germany: Susanne Smolka, +49 40 399 19 10-24, susanne.smolka@pan-germany.org

PAN UK: Nick Mole, +44 (0)127 964 230, nick@pan-uk.org