



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and feed safety, innovation
Pesticides and Biocides

Brussels
SANTE E4/MGP/gb(2021)4791004

Dear Ms. Roynel and Mr. Muilerman,

Subject: Your letters of 14 June 2021 concerning the Farm to Fork objectives and the substitution principle

Thank you for your above-mentioned letters to Commissioner Kyriakides and Executive Vice-President Timmermans, who asked me to respond on their behalves.

In your letters you urge the Commission to exclude any incorporation of the new EPPO standard PP 1/271 (3) ‘Guidance on efficacy aspects of comparative assessment’ from the envisaged revision of the principles for comparative assessment to be conducted for plant protection products containing active substances that are candidates for substitution.

As you are aware, DG Health and Food Safety is currently assessing options for *‘improving the effectiveness of comparative assessments of products containing candidates for substitution’* as announced in the report on the REFIT evaluation of the pesticides legislation. For that purpose, we have set up an ad-hoc Working Group of the Standing Committee for Plants, Animals Food and Feed. In the first meeting of the Working Group, held on 27 May 2021, 44 governmental experts with different profiles of expertise participated. DG Health and Food Safety invited participants to submit suggestions how, based on the experience made so far since the PPP Regulation entered into force, the comparative assessment can be improved. In this process we will also consider updating the EU Guidance document on Comparative Assessment and Substitution of PPP (SANCO/11507/2013 rev. 12, of 10 October 2014).

The proposal from PAN for amending Annex IV of the PPP Regulation has been made available to the ad-hoc Working Group and we will also make available your above-mentioned letters.

Stakeholders will be consulted on the draft updated documents once these will be available.

Yours sincerely,

Klaus Berend
Head of Unit

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