A serious implementation of the EU Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUD), ways forward

Feeding Europe with Fewer Pesticides Symposium
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Who is PAN Europe

- PAN Europe is one of the 5 centres of PAN International
- 34 not-for-profit members in 24 European countries
- Bring together health, environmental & women associations
- Working to replace use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives
- Brussels based with 4 part time employees

Slogan from the PURE campaign:

Rather than wasting more years to agree on standard risk indicators, it is time to take action to protect environment, health and biodiversity.
Why pesticides?

“The more I learned about the use of pesticides, the more appalled I became… What I discovered was that everything which meant most to me as a naturalist was being threatened, and that nothing I could do would be more important.”

Rachel Carson, 1962
The SUD did not fall from the sky in 2009

- First **governments** introduced **reduction targets** in the 80s, more recently 2008 France introduced Grenelle environment

- Many governments offer **financial support** to farmers for **integrated production** (IP)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM) though rural development policy and/or the environmental policy of the fruit and vegetable schemes

- Many **supermarkets** have specific pesticide rules, and since 2009 IPM is mandatory (‘major must’) for delivery to Globalgap accredited supermarkets
PAN Europe’s assessment shows sad picture
A few MS do not even propose to respect EU law…

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DE and CY: reduce exceedance of the maximum residue values (MRLs) to below 1 % by 2021 (DE) and 3% by 2017 (CY)

HU: IPM = stop use of illegal pesticides

... and the majority is lacking ambition

26 out of 28 MS do not fix quantitative reduction targets and timetables

No MS are clear about the mandatory and voluntary requirements within the CAP reform, as a result no update of the relevant support measures
So, what should the European Parliament do to get the SUD back on track?

• The European Commission needs to report to EP and Council on the implementation of the SUD by 26 November 2014 (and again in 26 November 2018, with proposal to change SUD)

• Member States need to revise their so-called National Action Plans every 5 years, first time in 2017
1. MEPs should ask questions, to find out if the European Commission is encouraging/measuring progress:

- How many staff working on the issue/which priority has pesticides reduction with other issues in DG SANCO?
- Are there any infringement proceedings pending?
- How is DG AGRI and DG ENVI assisting DG SANCO in encouraging MS? Are other stakeholders involved in discussions with MS to stimulate change?
- Is an inter-service group on pesticide use established between DGs?
2. MEPs to obtain transparency and full insight into EC analysis:

- Ask joint publication of both EU Commission Report and the Background Analysis (FVO report)
- Ask accompanying analyses of the link between SUD and CAP (Cross compliance, Greening, Rural Development, Fruit and Vegetables programmes) – illustrating how these CAP schemes have been updated to comply with the SUD
3. EP should prepare an own initiative report in 2015, to stimulate progress at MS level:

- Bad situation but good progress
- Bad situation and bad progress
- Reasonable situation and poor progress
- Good situation but poor progress etc.

Evaluating MS against own baseline..

D did not fall from the sky
A European wide study from 2010 shows:

‘Of the 13 components of intensification measured, the use of insecticides and fungicides had consistent negative effects on biodiversity. ..‘If biodiversity is to be restored in Europe ... there must be a Europe-wide shift towards farming with minimal use of pesticides over large areas’.

Geiger, F. et al. 2010

Thank you for your attention