Time for a serious revision of the National Action Plans (NAP)

4th SUD Symposium:
Feeding Europe while reducing pesticide dependency
European Parliament, Brussels, 19 November 2015

Henriette Christensen, PAN Europe
www.pan-europe.info
This presentation

• Who is PAN Europe
• Why pesticides
• The concept of IPM is neither new to farmers nor to EU policies
• How are Member States engaging?
• MEPs engagement
Who is PAN Europe

- PAN Europe is one of the 5 centres of PAN International
- 33 not-for-profit members in 23 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 (then)?

“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
Why pesticides (now)?

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

20. Some forms of pollution are part of people’s daily experience. Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths. People take sick, for example, from breathing high levels of smoke from fuels used in cooking or heating. There is also pollution that affects everyone, caused by transport, industrial fumes, substances which contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrotoxins in general. Technology, which, linked to business interests, is presented as the only way of solving these problems, in fact proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others.

Pope Francis, Encyclical letter, June 2015
Pesticides sale in the EU

Eurostat, 2011=100
Pesticides sale in the EU

Eurostat, Tons
PAN Europe’s assessments from 2014 shows sad picture

MSs are lacking ambition, f.ex:

- 26 out of 28 MS do not fix quantitative reduction targets and timetables
- Many MS are just recycling measures already done under under policies (ex. Water)
- No MS are clear about the mandatory and voluntary requirements within the CAP reform, as a result no update of the relevant support measures
A non-published FVO report from 2014 confirms our assessment:


• National Action Plans are inconsistent in terms of establishing quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables.

• SUD and NAPs are new terms. But in many ways they are new terms for existing principles and practices. Farmers have implemented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for centuries through practices such as suitable rotations and cultivation methods.”
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, eg. Italy from 1996

• **Many supermarkets** have specific pesticide rules, and since 2009 IPM is mandatory (‘major must’) for delivery to Globalgap accredited supermarkets
Food Veterinary Office (FVO) reports in 2014-15 looked into Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

MS analysed: RO, SK, FI, SW, DK, IT, AT:

Majority of MS: forecast and warning system on pest outbreaks in place and regular bulletins in place

Many MS: organises conferences and training on IPM,

No MS: define binding IPM measures for farmers to comply with SUD, the majority of the FVO reports conclude:

‘There is no system to verify that all professional users implement the general principles of IPM as required by Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC’
Also, EFSA studied IPM and concludes:

**MS analysed: LT, BE, NL, PL, UK, GR, IT, ES:**

**Widely used:** selection of PPPs to minimise risk to beneficial parasites & predators” is widely used in most of the countries (especially in ES, IT, NL, PL and UK).

**Used:** the “use of predictive models/early warning system” (especially in BE, IT and NL), the “use of monitoring traps” (especially in GR), crop rotation (especially in BE, LT and NL) and the selection of resistant varieties (especially in NL).

**Missing:** use of biological control agents is not common with the exception of ES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Same EFSA report also have case studies</th>
<th>LT barley, oilseed rape, wheat</th>
<th>UK barley, oilseed rape, sugar beet, wheat</th>
<th>GR peaches and wine grapes</th>
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Conclusion: Member States are still not engaging in the SUD

The SUD is clear: Member States taking all necessary measures to promote low pesticide-input pest management, giving wherever possible priority to the non-chemical methods.
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 keep on asking questions on SUD implementation:

- Commission reply on aerial spraying (E-000056-15): ‘The Commission is currently preparing the report on the National Action Plans and it is expected that it will be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Council in the first half of 2015.’

So where is this report?

- When will the ‘Background Analysis on the SUD evaluation (FVO report)’ be published?

- Any infringements procedure started, especially as a follow up to the FVO reports from 2014 and 2015
2. MEPs to obtain transparency and full insight into EC analysis:

- When will the European Commission publish an easy to read **overview of derogations** giving within the the Standing Committee?
- Will the European Commission undertake accompanying analyses showing how Member States will ensure compliance with both **mandatory and voluntary** **Integrated Pest Management requirements** of the SUD
- What are European Commission doing to make SUD become part of cross compliance measures of the **Common Agricultural Policy** (as foreseen in the June 2013 CAP reform)
3. EP should prepare an own initiative report 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...

SUD did not fall from the sky
Time to stop fiddling with pesticides while plants, insects and animals die.

Time that we all engage to achieve sustainable use.

Thank you for your attention.