

IBMA, Copa and Cogeca - Press Release

IBMA, COPA and COGECA WELCOME EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FASTER ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN MARKET FOR LOW-RISK PESTICIDES

Friday, 17 February 2017, Brussels. The European farmers and agri-cooperatives organisation COPA and COGECA and the Low Risk Pesticides Manufacturers Association IBMA support the European Parliament's adoption of a Resolution on faster access to the European market for biological low-risk pesticides.

The Resolution was adopted during Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg on 15 February 2017. IBMA and Copa and Cogeca believe that the Parliament has responded to the needs and requirements of both European citizens and farmers while ensuring that innovative enterprises producing low risk pesticides can bring their innovative products in a timely manner to the market. The European Parliament calls on Commissioner for Health Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis to submit a specific legislative proposal amending Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 by enabling a fast-track evaluation, approval and authorisation procedure for low-risk pesticides of biological origin before the end of 2018.

COPA, COGECA and IBMA are relieved and enthusiastic about the detailed content of the call. COPA and COGECA Secretary General Pekka Pesonen said: "Our toolboxes to effectively fight pests are getting empty. We need the low-risk pesticides also to respond to consumer demands." IBMA President Dr Willem Ravensberg: "After decades of very lengthy registrations procedures, the European Parliament has practically unanimously supported us in our proposal for an accelerated process. We are grateful to the 8 Co-Sponsors of the Resolution and notably to Mr Poc (S&D), Mr Dorfmann (PPE), Ms Ries (ALDE) and Mr Staes (Greens/EFA)."

Having noted the safety of correctly tested low-risk biopesticides a senior expert of the UN FAO said: " There always needs to be a risk assessment, but tiered approaches and use of cumulative knowledge can help to accelerate evaluations....". "Biopesticides need incentives to generate greater uptake among users. This does not necessarily mean financial incentives...". A faster approval process as required by the European Parliament will surely increase availability of biopesticides to the farmer.

The draft Resolution text was first adopted in the Environment Committee on 31 January 2017 with an overwhelming 59-1 vote. During the Plenary debate, 21 MEPs supported the Resolution and 1 MEP was against. An alternative amendment not focusing on low-risk pesticides only was voted against with 580 votes. This confirmed a near unanimity among all major Groups as was confirmed by PPE, S&D and ALDE. The European Commission cannot receive a clearer signal of the only democratically elected institution of the European Union. COPA-COGECA and IBMA and indeed all consumers in the European Union can thus be confident that the Commission will adapt Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 within 2 years. We hope that the Commission will execute the Resolution soon.

To read the Motion for Resolution please click [here](#).

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