

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
COPA-COGECA AND IBMA HIGH-LEVEL
LUNCHEON SYMPOSIUM
**SUSTAINABLE PLANT PROTECTION:
EXPANDING THE FARMERS'
TOOLBOX**
7TH FEBRUARY 2019

*Address by Mr
David Cary,
Executive Director
of IBMA Global*





IBMA thank the European Parliament for their interest and engagement in our topic of bringing safe biocontrol tools to the market more quickly particularly the strong call in the Motion for a Resolution of February 2017 supported on many occasions most recently in Mr Pavel Poc's Own Initiative Report on the implementation of 1107/2009 and the PEST Committee Report.



IBMA are overjoyed by the widespread enthusiasm for our aims across civil society and business.



IBMA are particularly encouraged by the support from Copa-Cogeca and EU farmers.



IBMA delight in having Members, many of which are SMEs that produce innovative alternative solutions as per the SUD for the speciality and arable crops that European farmers produce for European consumers' diets.



IBMA are proud to have been told by Hans Dreyer the FAO Director of Plant Production and Protection at ABIM last October that biocontrol contributes to meeting no fewer than 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.



IBMA are encouraged that within the EU there are examples where we can and do get it right in regulating and managing to encourage innovation, small and medium enterprises and supply niche markets.



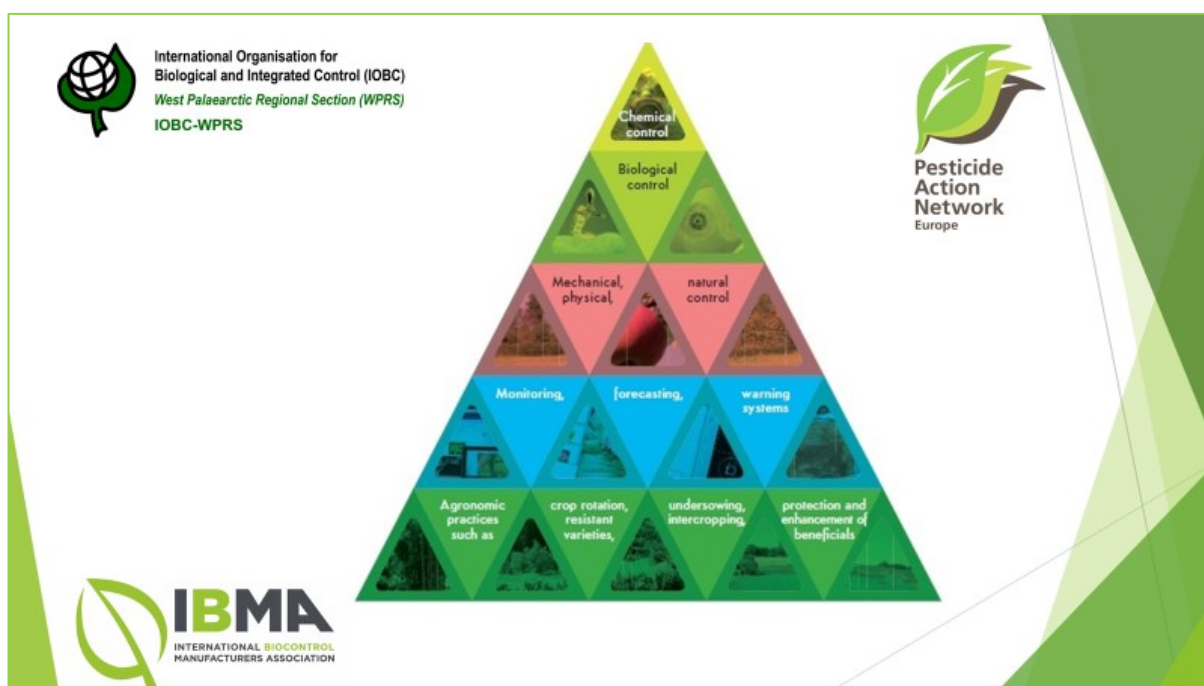
IBMA see the signs that European agriculture can be even more productive whilst embracing society and the environment with a choice of effective safe tools with minimal impact on the environment.



IBMA welcome the support from Member States that we are going to hear today. We have heard supporting comments from the individual Member States in National Parliaments and in press interviews. We also have learnt that there was considerable discussion in the November AGRIFISH Council Meeting on the need to bring new sustainable plant protection inputs to the market quickly within the EU.



BUT: IBMA are baffled why we have to wait for a cumbersome REFIT process and cannot find a way to amend the PPP regulation or even dare I say separately regulate the tools we bring to the market. They even now represent over 50% of new active substance applications and have done so since the beginning of 2016 so it is no small issue.



IBMA believe we do not have to choose between productivity and a healthy population and environment. Tools are available and being developed that mutually satisfy these needs and give farmers choice. However, we do need them to come to the market in a predictable and reasonable timeline.



We know it is difficult to change but we need to work with others to make that change.

IBMA launch
EU
Ombudsman
complaint



That said, sometimes you have to take some hard choices and stand up for what you believe, especially when you have repeatedly reached out and offered to constructively engage in arriving at joint solutions to simply rectify a widely recognised unacceptable injustice. The issue of bringing low-risk biological products to the market in a timely and reasonable fashion with appropriate process, speed and data requirements has culminated yesterday in one of those hard choices being taken. IBMA, through the hand of our President Sylvia Plak, supported strongly by our previous President and Board and current Board, have lodged a complaint of maladministration by the EU Commission with the EU Ombudsman.



We however continue to need to advance the consensus we have, which is why we produced our White Paper which is available here today. There is a better way and we as IBMA remain more than ever committed to work with all EU institutions to make it happen – This means the Council and Member States, the European Parliament and its committees, the European Commission and its Expert Groups, stakeholders including farmers across the board and any others that can make truly sustainable agriculture a reality and not a dream. Let's all work together to bring needed solutions to the market to support innovation, job creation, human health, the environment, farmers, society and our consumers. The vision expressed in the White Paper aims to explore new regulatory approaches whilst ensuring we have an interim arrangement in line with the European Parliament Motion for Resolution.

