

European farming sector with mixed views of new rules on plant protection

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The farmers and agri-cooperatives represented by Copa-Cogeca have mixed views of the outcome of the three-year discussion process about the legislation on plant protection. The authorisation and marketing of plant protection products and their sustainable use are now under a new legislation. Copa-Cogeca is relieved that the EU will continue to base its legislation on sound science and has not given in to the most extreme voices. Balancing product safety, agricultural and environmental sustainability and the availability of healthy, affordable products is the primary objective. After the vote, effective plant protection of this kind should generally remain possible.

But Copa-Cogeca note with great concern, however, that some cut-off criteria are not based on a sound, risk-based assessment. The decision will also mean the elimination of a number of active substances, which farmers rely on to prevent the build-up of resistance and to ensure a healthy crop. The Inspection of Sprayers has now become part of the directive of the sustainable use of plant production products. In the first time, sprayers have to be inspected every fifth year, from 2020 every third year. This means for farmers more costs and more bureaucracy. On the other hand, to achieve the balance, that consumers expect, the regular inspection of sprayers is a sign to get consumers confidence.

The experiences with inspections of sprayers made in some Member States should be taken into account, when establishing the rules. In an open EU market, farmers need harmonized procedures to avoid distortions of competition between EU farmers.

The implementation must be done in a way, as to meet the aims of protecting health and the environment as well as the competitiveness of the EU Agricultural sector. EU farmers must be provided with workable alternatives, which enable them to have the necessary tools to combat plant health diseases.

The full consequences of the agreement on the EU farming sector depend strongly on how it is implemented. Farmers, policy-makers and industry must continue working together to ensure that we can achieve the balance that consumers expect.



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Position of the European Farmers

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Who is Copa-Cogeca

copa*cogeca
agricultural cooperatives of the European community



- 6. September 1958, the first European representative organisation, COPA, was created.
- 24 September 1959, the agricultural cooperatives of the European Community created their European umbrella organisation, COGECA (General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives).
- COPA's Secretariat was established in Brussels on 1 April 1959, merging with that of COGECA on 1 December 1962.
- COPA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations) first started with 13 member organisations from the then six Member States.
- Today COPA is made up of **60 organisations** from the countries of the European Union and **36 partner** organisations from other European countries such as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.
- This broad membership allows COPA to represent both the general and specific interests of farmers in the European Union.
- Since its inception, COPA has been recognised by the Community authorities as the organisation speaking on behalf of the European agricultural sector as a whole

Who is the DBV



- The Deutscher Bauernverband (DBV) has been founded in 1949
- Member Organisations are the 17 local associations
- Represents more than 360.000 farmers and their families in Germany
- Headquarter in Berlin, second Büro in Brussels

Farmers Framework



- Economic aspects
- Ecologic aspects
- Consumers wishes
- Environmental aspects
- Sustainability aspects

The Pesticide Package



- First drafts with high Impacts on European Agricultural Sector
 - cut-off criteria without any scientific basis
 - no EU-Wide impact assesment on agricultural production
 - information for neighbours
 - data collecting and storing, everytime available for neighbours, consumers, water industries
 - Forbidden Aereal Spraying

The Pesticide Package – COPA Position



- Protect human health and the environment
- Protection of plant health whilst ensuring sustainable use of Plant Protection Products
- Secure the production of affordable food, financial viability for farmers, and long term sustainability of European Farmers
- Promote the Competitiveness of European farmers
- Non distorting safety measures

The Pesticide-Package – The Compromise



- Improvement of the first Packages
- Should continue to provide solutions to protect the crops and agricultural in the EU
- The Implementation must:
 - Meet the aims of protecting health and the environment as well as the competitiveness of the EU AG Sector
 - Farmers provide with workable alternatives, which enable them to have the necessary tools to combat plant health diseases
 - Ensure a monitoring:
 - To avoid distortion of competition between farmers

The Inspection of Sprayers



- Located in the directive for the sustainable use of Pesticides
- To avoid competition between EU-Farmers a unique, comparable system have to be established
- This contains:
 - Harmonized Procedures
 - Harmonized Testing Rhythms

The Inspection of Sprayers



- Need of a low cost inspection procedure
- Less bureaucratic as possible
- Some experiences in Germany:
 - Testing Procedure every second year for a sprayer
 - Costs for the Sector appr. 5.000.000 €/a
 - Almost 100 % of Sprayers are tested because of the connection to EU direct payments
 - An established procedure, but not loved by the farmers

Sprayers Inspection – the other side



- PPP are high innovative products
- Prices bring pressure on the production process
 - Less water used
 - Less ppp used
 - High degree of correct distribution is needed
 - We must avoid wrong overlapping, run off, etc
- Inspections are kind of self regulatory



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- Implementation of Inspection Procedures must be based on a EU-wide harmonized Procedure (Testing, Time)
 - Avoid Competition between Farmers
 - Low Cost Inspection Systems will reach broader acceptance
 - Less bureaucratic as possible