

**Meeting of CAB WOJCIECHOWSKI, Ms J. Stawowy and Personal data with Agriculture & Progress, Personal data to discuss developments on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) on 21/10/2022 at 11.30 AM**

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- The Agriculture & Progress Platform brings together sugar beet growers, maize growers and sugar manufacturers at European level, practicing and striving to further improve sustainable agricultural production. They work on endorsement of the necessity of keeping food production in the EU in order to ensure sufficient food security.
- The main topic of the meeting were Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation and productivity lose in the sector.
- Personal data mentioned that since 2018, the sector marked 4% loss of productivity on EU level. As there is a need for a more evolved farming, the farmers are aware of it and are already making changes in their production. Personal data added that it is necessary to allow farmers to adapt, so they could save time for choosing best new solutions – they are acquainted with regulations and know that they cannot use some of the substances, yet now they do not have alternatives and neither the time for adaptation. This way, the proposal is impossible to follow in reality.
- Stawowy explained that legally these are not the tasks of DG AGRI, but DG SANTE and therefore Cabinet of Commissioner Kyriakides is in the lead. At this stage of the process, the debate takes place between the Parliament and the Council.
- Besides, there is no good data to show progress already done by farmers. With access to information, DG could analyse it, show the results and simply be more reliable or targeted on the topic of pesticides. Achievements of the sector must be shown by real-time data and then new schemes can be made, when there is a proof that the sector is working hard on limiting the use of pesticides. Administrative burden is, of course, a problem, but the tools are there and could work in a benefit of the farmers.
- The Agriculture & Progress Platform fear who will have the access to data, who will manage it and analyse. Farmers worry that it would be used against them. The proposal is there, but no alternatives and tools – farmers agree on using fewer pesticides, but what to do with crop failures and protection of the crops? They feel the need to address their objections to the Cabinet.
- Stawowy had no remedy to all the difficulties. The best way to inform others is to discuss and talk, engage the NGOs in the discussion.