SPS - pesticides

Meeting date and place
Meeting held on 15/11/2017 in Charlemagne

Participating organisation(s) & representative(s)
- Bayer - CropScience Division
- DTB Associates LLP

Main issues discussed
Bayer and DTB Associates consulting requested a meeting to discuss their concerns over COM approach on how to handle import tolerance (IT) requests for active substances falling under hazard-based criteria. They shared with TRADE a recent study prepared by the European Crop Protection Association on "Estimation of potentially affected imports due to EU hazard-based regulation of plant protection products". According to this study, EU agricultural imports with a total value of €69 billion might be adversely affected due to rejection of maximum residue levels (MRLs) resulting from the non-approval of 58 active substances with hazard-based criteria (carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic and endocrine disruptors) within the next four years. The potentially affected commodities would be: fruits, nuts, oilseeds, groundnuts, coffee, tea, spices, animal feed, and therefore commodities not produced in the EU but exported from third countries.

Bayer noted that a possible negative trade impact could be avoided by applying Regulation 396/2005 for MRLs setting with a risk assessment approach and would also ensure WTO-compatibility. It also briefly explained the work being done by Bayer R&D aiming to find alternatives to active substances with cut-off criteria.

The ongoing evaluation of the EU's legislative framework on pesticides (REFIT) has also been raised by Bayer, who stressed that the outcome of REFIT should not lead to a hazard-based approach for MRLs setting.

Directorate or unit
TRADE D/3

Internal participants

Author(s) of minutes

Validator and validation date
validated the minutes on 15/11/2017