



SPS - pesticides

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

Participating organisation(s) & representative(s)
 [Art. 4.1b] - [Art. 4.1b] - Bayer - CropScience Division [Art.4.1b]
 [Art.4.1b] - [Art.4.1b] - DTB Associates LLP [Art. 4.1b]

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.

OUT OF SCOPE

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

[Art. 4.1b]	D/3	[Art. 4.1b]	Requested for
[Art. 4.1b]	D/3	[Art. 4.1b]	Notetaker

Author(s) of minutes
 [Art. 4.1b]

Validator and validation date
 [Art.4.1b] validated the minutes on 15/11/2017