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Subject:	BTO of the meeting between Cor	nmissioner Kyriakid	les and the European (Crop Protection Association on 11
	June 2020 (BASIS CAB/193)			
Date:	lundi 15 juin 2020 09:33:26			

<u>BTO – Farm to Fork meeting between Commissioner Kyriakides and the European Crop</u> <u>Protection Association on 11 June 2020</u>

Participants

European Crop Protection Association (ECPA):									
SANTE)									
	, (CAB-Kyriak	ides);						(DG	i
Commission:	Commissioner	Stella	Kyriakides,	Giorgios	Rossides,	Annukka	Ojala,		

Commissioner Kyriakides presented the Farm to Fork Strategy and referred to the broader picture notably that it has to be seen together with the Biodiversity Strategy. She recalled the key role of Members States in the implementation of the Strategy via the CAP national strategic plans. Input and support from the industry is crucial, especially in relation to reaching the pesticide targets and to developing low risk pesticides.

The Commissioner invited ECPA to actively participate in the consultations on the evaluation of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. She specifically highlighted the need for data from the industry on the use of PPPs in Member States. [*Note: ECPA did not react to this call from the Commissioner during the meeting. However it is worth to note that the day before the meeting (on 10 June) ECPA sent an email to the Commission explaining that they are not in a position to provide data on the uses of the most common active substances supplied by their members in different Member States (Ref. Ares(2020)2764399).]*

The Commissioner mentioned that the PPP and MRL regulations function in general but admitted that there was a margin of improvement, in particular with Member States failing to respect timelines. The Commission will follow up on that. In relation to facilitating the placing on the market of non-chemical alternatives, the Commission will work on updating the data requirements and assessment methodologies. She underlined that this new era of pesticide policy has a broad support from many stakeholders, society, the European Parliament etc. The crucial role of farmers was also underlined.

ECPA thanked the Commissioner for her work on dealing with the COVID-19 crisis and on keeping the supply chain flow. <u>ECPA overall supports the ambitions of the F2F Strategy</u> and shares the same goal to create a more sustainable agriculture. ECPA is ready to help finding sustainable solutions but <u>they pointed to **innovation** as a key element</u>. They are aware of the high hopes for the use of more natural substances (e.g. biopesticides). ECPA appreciates the opportunity and is fully involved in this work. They will announce in September a commitment to invest billions of euros in developing biological active substances.

ECPA asked whether the list of micro-organisms allowed in **organic production** would be reviewed and whether a harmonised risk indicator would also be developed for organic agriculture. ECPA stressed that there was no one to one replacement between conventional and

biopesticides as broadband chemicals need several biological replacements. They highlighted the need for concrete innovations as the farmers' toolbox cannot be depleted. ECPA asked <u>how</u> the Commission was to support innovation (i.e. Will the Commission adopt new rules?)

Out of scope

On the **targets**, ECPA asked the Commission to conduct an impact assessment first. <u>They ask for</u> <u>a joint impact assessment on all targets</u>, including the targets of the Biodiversity Strategy. ECPA is ready to accept science-based targets. The Commissioner confirmed that there would be an impact assessment before any legislative proposals. She also highlighted the importance of innovation and mentioned the Horizon programmes as a tool for support.

Out of scope

ECPA asked when the Commission intended to take a decision on **gene editing**. The Commissioner referred to the on-going study on new genomic techniques and that any decision would only be taken after its finalisation foreseen for 2021. ECPA stressed that innovation takes time (e.g. it takes more than 11 years to place a new substance on the market), therefore they need information on the foreseen timelines as soon as possible.

On the **global dimension**, <u>ECPA enquired if and how a new policy would be introduced by the</u> <u>Commission taking environmental considerations into account for MRLs</u>. The Commissioner mentioned the objective of moving towards more sustainable food systems at global level. The EU will be engaging with trade partners both bilaterally (via trade agreements) and at multilateral fora. She mentioned that the Commission would take into account environmental issues of global concern when assessing import tolerance applications, while respecting WTO rules.

ECPA asked what this would mean in practise. Will the Commission revise the guidance documents? The Commissioner underlined that we wanted to avoid any trade disruption and she referred to other legitimate factors. We will engage with our trade partners in particular with developing countries. She has underlined the EU's commitment to respect international agreements, in particular the WTO SPS Agreement. The Commissioner also referred to pollinator decline, which is a global concern and to Persistent Bioaccumulating and Toxic substances. We also need to protect our farmers.

Out of scope			

Commissioner Kyriakides and her Cabinet stressed the Commission's willingness to continue working together towards the implementation of the Farm to Fork Strategy and invited ECPA to contribute to the consultation in the context of the evaluation of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, which has recently been launched.