



biopesticides as broadband chemicals need several biological replacements. They highlighted the need for concrete innovations as the farmers' toolbox cannot be depleted. ECPA asked how 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. They ask for a joint impact assessment on all targets, 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**, ECPA enquired if and how a new policy would be introduced by the Commission taking environmental considerations into account for MRLs. 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.