

Subject: Meeting SANTE E – Bayer AG

Place and date: DG SANTE premises, Brussels. 28 April 2022, 16:15-17:15.

Participants:

DG SANTE E: [REDACTED]

Bayer AG: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] EMEA); [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

Summary:

The meeting took place on request of the visitors.

Bayer AG raised the following topics:

1. Impacts/lessons learnt from Covid pandemic and Ukraine war

These crises have shown the effects on supply chains for companies like Bayer with a high number of manufacturing sites around the world.

2. Chemicals Strategy for sustainability (CSS): CLP revision and PFAs

Bayer is concerned about the impact of these initiatives in sectoral legislation, as they will affect both the pharma and agri-chem sectors.

2/3 of their active substances could be affected by the forthcoming PFAs ban. In the context of the current on-going IA, the impacts on specific sectors (like PPPs) should be looked at also for the revision of the CLP Regulation.

Bayer suggested that the PFAs initiative could imply double regulation of active substances under REACH and the PPP Regulation.

3. SUR proposal and innovation on alternatives to pesticides

Bayer raised the need to get support from MSs (e.g. via CAP instruments) for the use of innovative tools contributing to reducing the use of chemical pesticides (NGTs, biopesticides, precision farming). Bayer indicated their interest to adapt its business model from “sales” to (integrate) “service” (e.g. the company has the objective of 30% income from services by 2030). Bayer confirmed that they are not working on NGTs linked to herbicide tolerant traits and that some NGT bacteria could significantly contribute to reducing fertiliser use.

4. MRLs/Import tolerances

Bayer referred to the letter sent by CropLife International on the Commission’s draft Regulation lowering MRLs for clothianidin and thiamethoxam, which they would like to be shared with MSs.

SANTE E:

- Agreed that there is a clear lesson learnt from Covid and the Ukraine War for re-shoring production capacities back to EU and that this is part of the Pharmaceutical strategy. Referred to the discussions with MSs on MRLs, GMOs and food labelling to address shortages in feed supply. Confirmed that while the adoption of the SUR proposal was postponed (adoption now foreseen in June 2022), the overall ambition and objectives of the Green Deal and F2F remain valid and necessary in the mid/long-term remain.
- invited Bayer to closely monitor the ongoing revision of the CLP Regulation and the PFAs restriction proposal under REACH and contribute, when appropriate, in public consultations, in contacts with Member States preparing the restrictions, etc.
- welcomed innovation in all areas to more sustainable food systems, including through the adaptation of business models. Referred to the on-going initiative on NGTs, informing that the public consultation will be launched on 29 April and the recent actions to facilitate the placing on the market of micro-organisms, the biggest group of biopesticides.
- confirmed that the letter from CropLife International had been shared with MSs and explained the rationale for the Commission’s proposal.