



# Authorisation of Plant Protection Products: Outlook for the Political Framework

## Estonian Agriculture: Future Outlook and Environmental Challenges, Tallin, 22 Oct. 2019

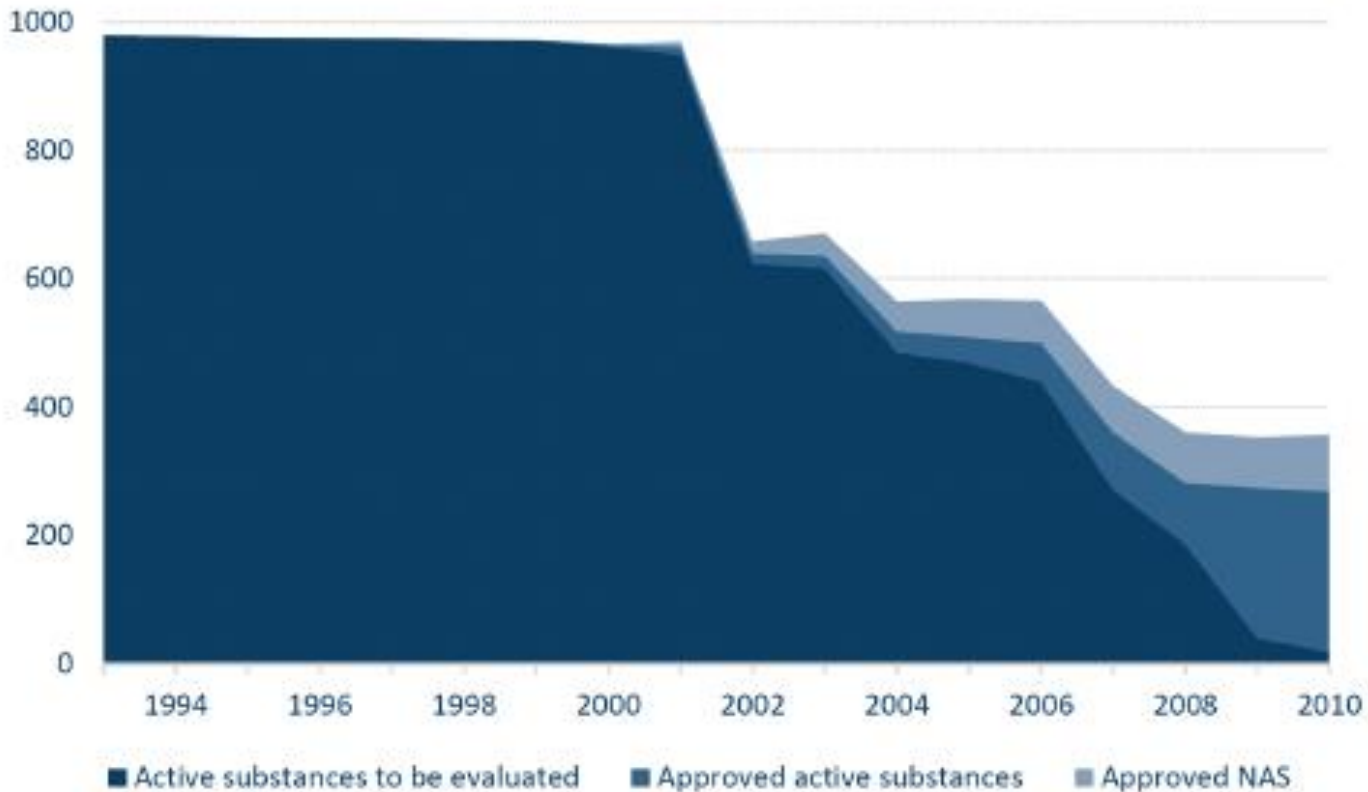
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DG Health and Food Safety  
European Commission



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# Availability of active substances

Development of the number of available active substances in the EU between 1993 and 2010

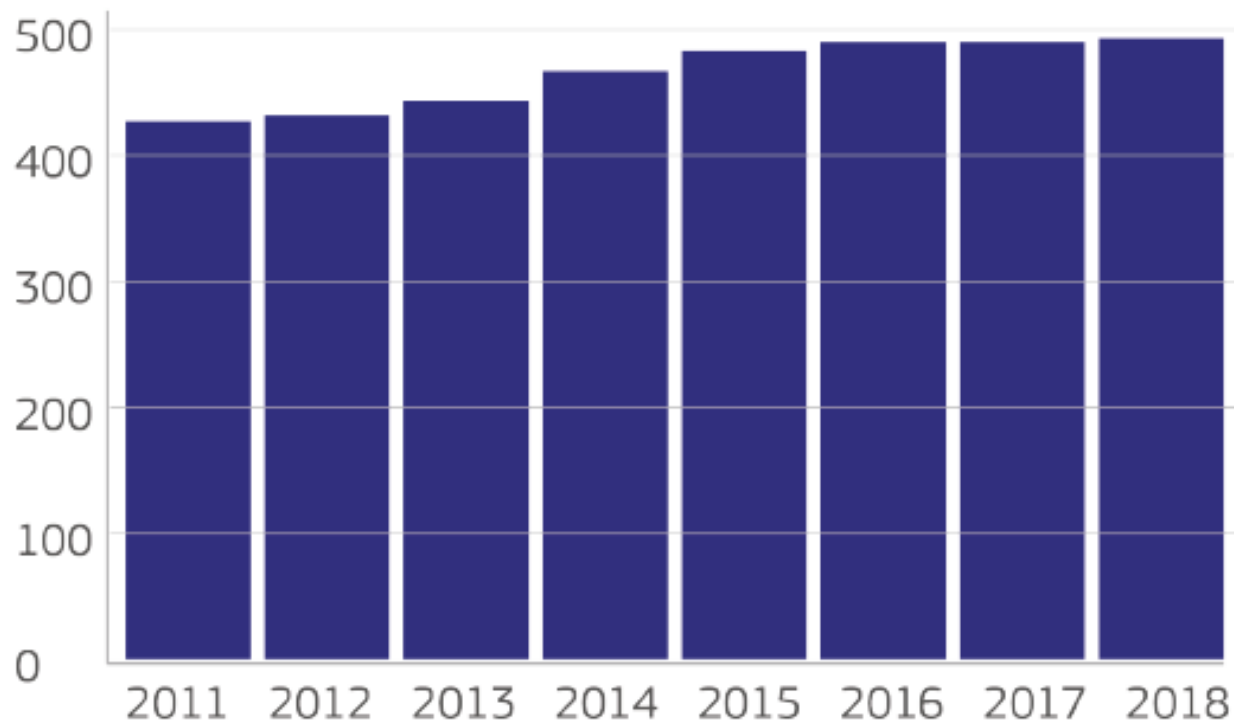




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# Availability of active substances

Total number of approved active substances per year





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# Applications for new active substances

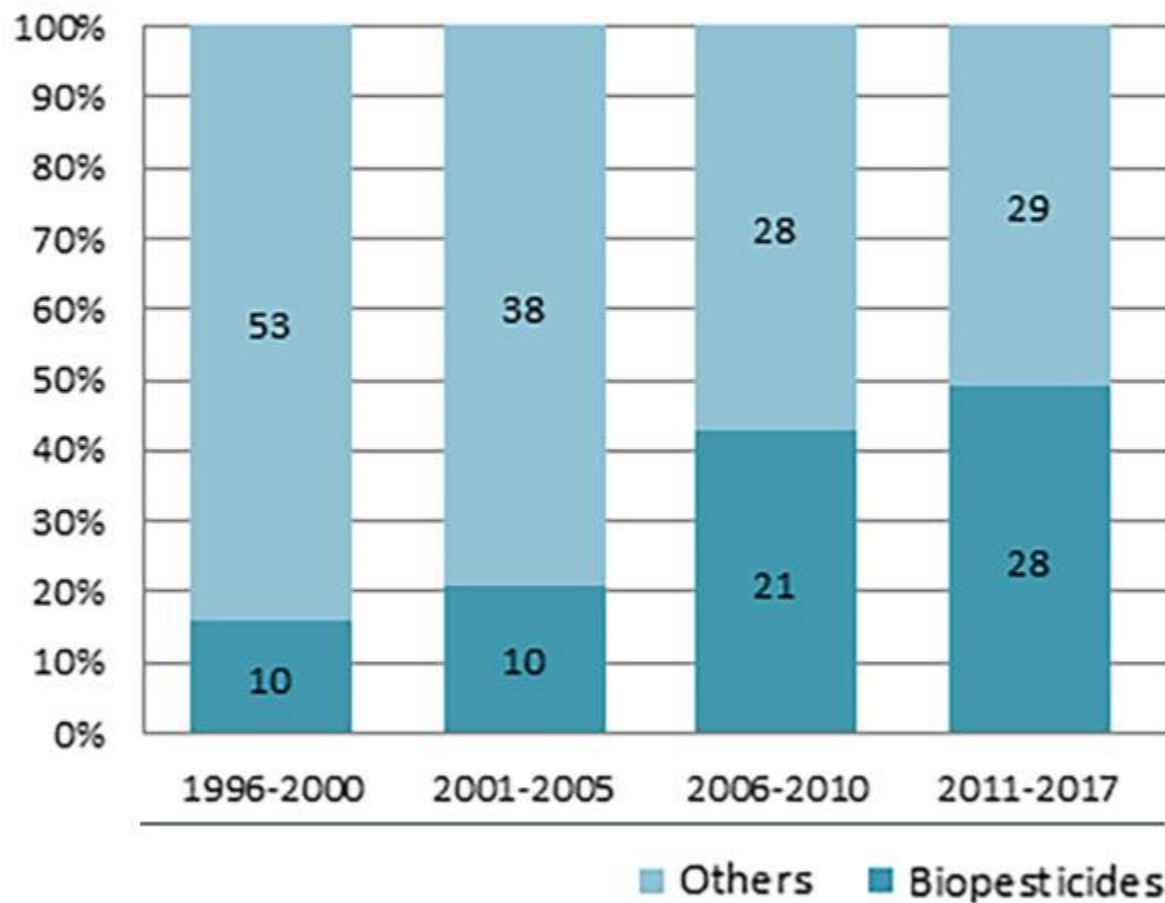
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New active substance applications	4	8	12	6	15	10	4	10

Information from the summary reports from the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.



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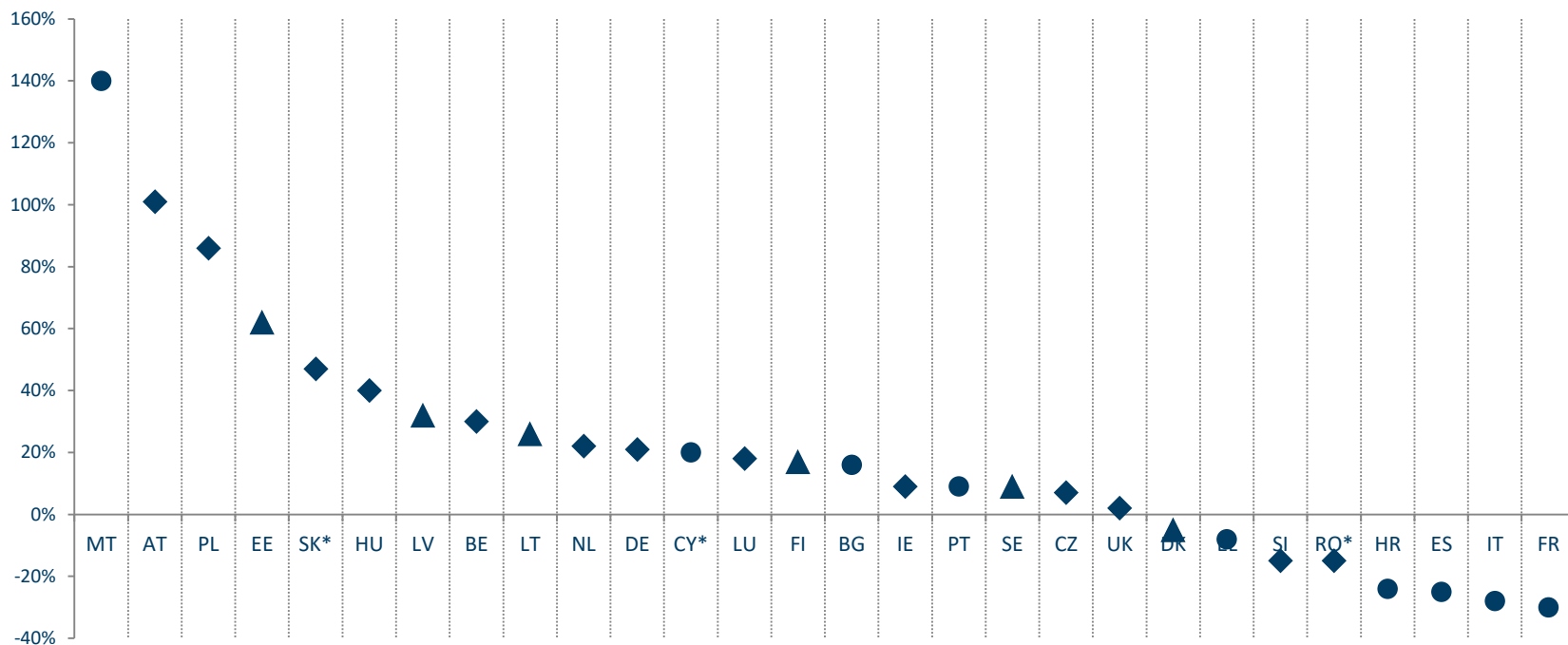
## APPLICATION FOR NEW ACTIVE SUBSTANCES SINCE 1996





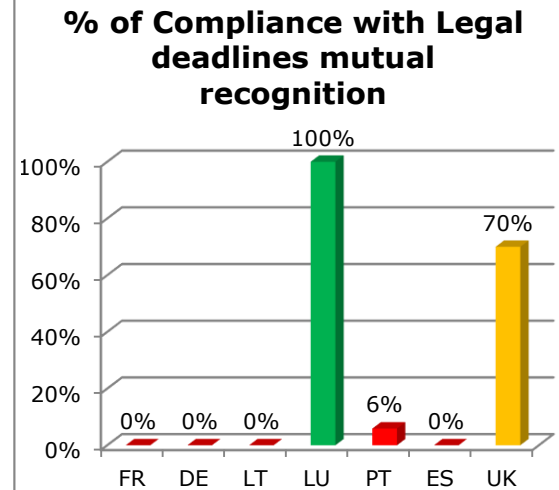
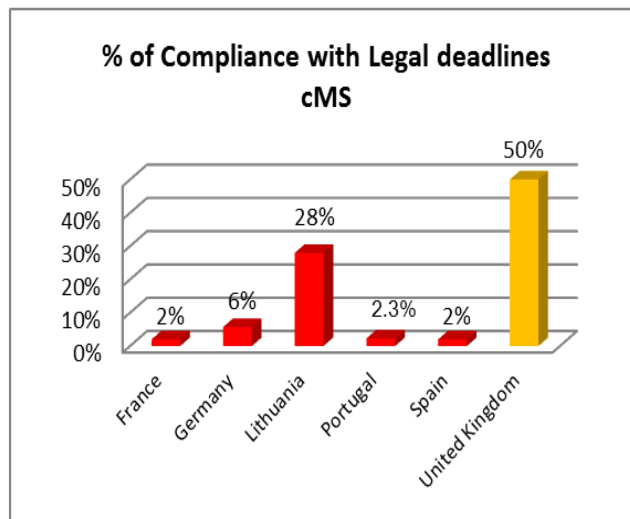
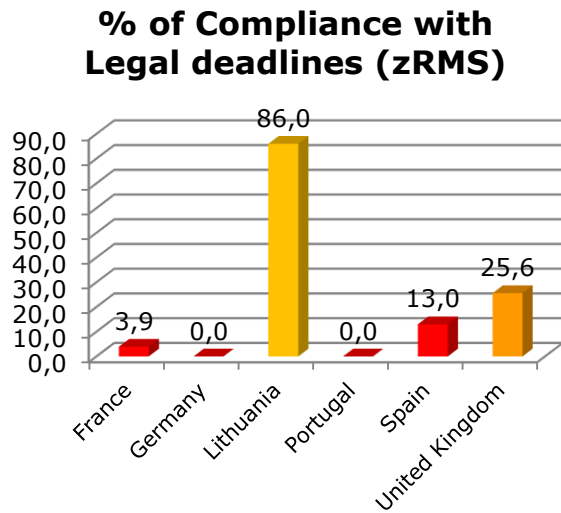
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# Availability of Plant Protection Products



**Percentage change in PPP availability in 2014-2016 compared to 2008-2010, based on Member State survey. Triangles represent the northern zone, diamonds represents the central zone and circles represent the southern zone. \*Data incomplete for Romania, Slovakia and Cyprus**

## Significant Delays in Member States for PPP authorisation

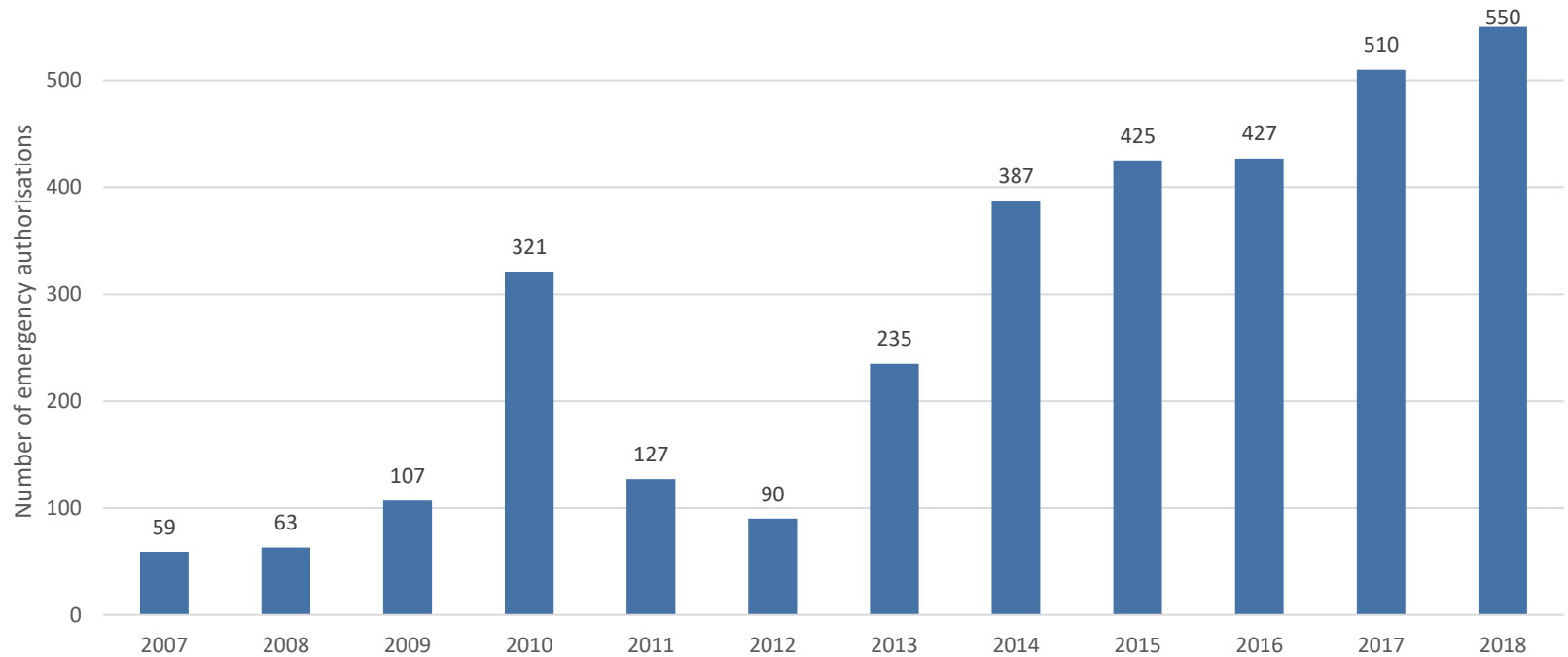


- Legal deadlines are hardly respected by any Member State, regardless of the process
- With the consequences of delaying market access of products and availability of appropriate tools for farmers



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## One way out – Emergency Authorisations





# Neonicotinoids – Emergency authorisations

- Several Member States grant since 2013 repeatedly authorisations under Article 53 of the PPP Regulation for the three restricted neonicotinoids for the same uses and covering large parts of their territories
- Regulation 1107/2009 allows so when there is a danger to plant health that cannot be controlled by other reasonable means (including non-chemical measures)
- Commission asked EFSA to assess whether the authorisations granted in 2017 fulfil the requirements in Article 53
- EFSA found this NOT to be the case for about 1/3
- Commissioner Andriukaitis asked the Ministers of the Member States to commit not to grant these again – two responded positively
- For the other two, the Commission has prepared legally binding Decisions preventing them from repeating the emergency authorisations

# European Citizens Initiative

- Submission of European Citizens Initiative '*Ban glyphosate and Protect People and the Environment from Toxic Pesticides*' on 6 October 2017 with 3 aims:
  - Ban glyphosate
  - Increase transparency in the assessment procedures for pesticides
  - EU-wide reduction targets for pesticide use in view of a pesticide-free future
- Commission met the organisers on 23 October 2017
- Hearing in the European Parliament on 20 November 2017
- Commission response adopted on 12 December 2017
- Announcement of amendments of General Food Law to increase transparency by May 2018



# Amendment of GFL on Transparency

- Improves and clarifies **the rules on transparency** (in particular as regards scientific studies supporting risk assessment)
- Increased **reliability, objectivity and independence of studies used by EFSA** in its risk assessment (mainly **authorisation dossiers**).

In particular, the new rules will:

- Involve more public authorities and stakeholders in the process of deciding which studies need to be conducted;
- Enhance auditing of compliance with GLP principles;
- Require publication of full study reports to increase transparency while respecting confidential business information;
- Empower EFSA to exceptionally commission ad-hoc studies in specific cases.

# Latest developments

- Increasing resistance to extensions of approvals when the renewal process cannot be completed (Art. 17 of the PPP Regulation)
  - Votes against or abstentions in the Standing Committee – although all Member States are systematically delayed
  - Objections in the European Parliament (non-binding)
- Objection in the European Parliament against the change of the Uniform Principles that would allow implementation of a part of the EFSA Bee Guidance
- Objections in the European Parliament against setting Import Tolerances (MRLs) for no longer approved active substances



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# Outlook for the new Commission

- Pesticides will be concerned by several of the key priorities of the new Commission
  - European Green Deal
  - Farm to Fork Strategy on Sustainable Food
  - Zero Pollution Ambition
- Pressure on chemical active substances will remain
- However, the mission letter for Commissioner-designate Kyriakides specifically recognises:
  - The need for protecting plant health
  - Reducing dependency on pesticides
  - Stimulating the take up of low-risk and non-chemical alternatives

# ***Thank you for your attention!***

## **For further information:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/refit\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/refit_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/approval\\_active\\_substances/approval\\_renewal/neonicotinoids\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/approval_active_substances/approval_renewal/neonicotinoids_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/sustainable\\_use\\_pesticides\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/sustainable_use_pesticides_en)

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