



APPEAL COMMITTEE

Plant Protection Products - Legislation

15 November 2022

SUMMARY REPORT

Chair: Claire BURY

The meeting took place in person and via web conference (hybrid meeting).

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) .../... amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval period of the active substance glyphosate

(PLAN/2022/1620)

Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 - Article 17

Procedure: Examination procedure

The Commission explained that the draft Implementing Regulation as regards the extension of the approval period of the active substance glyphosate would be discussed and the vote on it taken during the meeting.

The Commission presented the draft Regulation and the outcome of the voting procedure in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) held on 14 October 2022, where no opinion was reached. The Commission recalled that following that vote in the PAFF Committee, the draft had been referred to the Appeal Committee for further deliberation.

The Commission recalled that the proposal to extend the approval period of glyphosate for 1 year (i.e. until 15 December 2023) is required following the announcement on 10 May 2022, by EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) and ECHA (European Chemicals Agency), that the conclusion of EFSA on the reassessment of glyphosate will become available only in July 2023.

The Commission stressed that the delay is due to the need for additional time by the Assessment Group on Glyphosate to ensure that all comments and information provided during the public consultation, and requested from the applicants by EFSA, were fully examined during the peer-review procedure. In addition, time is needed to enable experts from EFSA and Member States to discuss all relevant scientific aspects, thereby ensuring that all information is fully discussed and taken into account in the final EFSA Conclusion.

So far neither the AGG, ECHA nor EFSA have identified evidence demonstrating that glyphosate no longer fulfils the approval criteria laid down in the Plant Protection Products Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009). Therefore, the draft Regulation extending the approval of glyphosate is needed to allow for the completion of the evaluation, as required by Article 17 of the Plant Protection Products Regulation.

The Commission noted that the decision to extend the approval period is without prejudice to the future decision on renewal of approval which will be taken once the scientific evaluation has been completed.

The Commission asked the Member States if they had any comments or questions on the draft Regulation or if there was a change in their position since the vote taken in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants Animals, Food and Feed on 14 October 2022.

One Member State expressed its view that although it supported the extension, this was without prejudice to a final position on the renewal of approval of glyphosate which would be taken once the scientific review was completed.

The Netherlands provided a protocol declaration:

The Netherlands agree with the extension of approval of glyphosate. However, The Netherlands deem it of great importance to call upon the European Commission that no further delay in evaluating the substance will occur, and a decision on (non)approval must be made as soon as possible. Furthermore, we believe and like to emphasize again that all available scientific information should be taken into account, before a final proposal on the renewal of glyphosate is presented to the Member States.

The Commission agreed that the assessment must proceed without any additional delays and be carried out to the highest standard. The Commission also called on the members of the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG), EFSA and the other Member States involved in the peer review process to ensure that all information is robustly examined and that the renewal process is completed as soon as possible. Finally the Commission stated that once the EFSA Conclusion will be available, the Commission will proceed to submit to the Member States as soon as possible a proposal on whether the approval of glyphosate can be renewed or not.

No Member State indicated a change in position compared to the vote taken in the meeting of the Standing Committee on 14 October 2022.

Vote taken: no opinion.

The Commission informed that it is now bound to take a decision before 15 December 2022.

Claire BURY
Deputy Director General
e-signed