

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES (CCPR53)

European Union Comments on

AGENDA ITEM 11

Request for comments on the management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review (proposal for a management proposal and options to support data management)

(CX/PR 22/53/13 and CL 2022/39-PR)

European Union Competence European Union Vote

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Electronic Working Group (eWG) on management of unsupported compounds without public health concerns scheduled for periodic review by JMPR chaired by Chile and co-chaired by Australia, India and Kenya for the preparation of the discussion paper on the management of unsupported compounds without public health concerns scheduled for periodic review with reference CX/PR 22/53/13.

I. GENERAL COMMENTS:

The EU notes that the title of the current document and the eWG might be misleading as it includes the term “without public health concern” that could be confused with the same term used in the context of agenda item 9. Therefore, the EU proposes to add the following explanation to the document. “In the context of this document/eWG the term “unsupported compounds without public health concern” describes compounds, for which no public health concern form has been lodged by a Member or where JMPR has not indicated any public health concern. These compounds are waiting for a periodic review after 15 years without a sponsor stating his willingness to support the compound”.

The EU notes that the current proposal aims to find a solution for the management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review. The EU is fully supportive of this aim and of the actions proposed in the discussion paper. It also welcomes recent discussions on increasing the capacity of JMPR to ensure improvements in the medium/long term.

However, while the EU acknowledges that actions proposed in the discussion paper can contribute to a certain improvement of the current situation, the EU believes that the current proposal will not be sufficient to reduce the heavy and growing backlog of evaluations for substances for which the periodic review is overdue (see EU position on CX/PR 22/53/15 – agenda item 13). Concrete action is urgently needed to address this problem.

The EU is strongly in favour of a stringent approach for deleting compounds from the system that are no longer supported by a manufacturer. Consequent withdrawal of the corresponding CXLs will contribute to reducing the number of substances for which a periodic review is overdue.

II. SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

The EU supports the collaboration activities suggested in the discussion paper for unsupported compounds.

Additionally, as already indicated in its comments on Circular Letter CL 2021/44 PR the EU would also welcome further discussions/reflections on how to support Codex Members, in particular developing countries, in moving gradually towards the use of lower risk substances. These discussions/reflections could take place within a future mandate of this or a new working group.

III. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EWG ON MANAGEMENT OF UNSUPPORTED COMPOUND:

The EU supports the establishment and the management of an eWG on Management of Unsupported Compound as proposed in the discussion paper. This eWG should work in close collaboration with the eWGs on Priorities and National Registrations of Pesticides in order to achieve the best possible outcome.