



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 17 MAY 2017 - 18 MAY 2017  
(Section Phytopharmaceuticals - Pesticides Residues)**

*CIRCABC Link:* <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/6f979946-8b46-4b33-b9ae-0a6f34cafb36>

**A.01 Discussion with a view to the extension, amendment or abrogation of the emergency measure notified by France according to Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 concerning the Decree of 24 April 2017 on the ban of the import and placing on the market of cherries originating from EU Member States or Third countries where the use of phytosanitary products containing the active substance dimethoate is authorised for the treatment of cherry trees.**

A discussion took place on the follow-up to the emergency measure notified by France on 3 May 2017 according to Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 concerning the Decree of 24 April 2017 on the ban of the import and placing on the market of cherries originating from EU Member States or third countries where the use of phytosanitary products containing the active substance dimethoate is authorised for the treatment of cherry trees. France motivated this request on the basis of lacking data for certain metabolites.

The Commission informed that the data on the toxicology of the dimethoate metabolites have been submitted under the process for renewal of the active substance and that the Renewal Assessment Report (RAR) has been submitted mid-May 2017 by the Rapporteur Member State Italy to European Food Safety Authority. Furthermore on 17 February 2017 a Regulation has been voted by the Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Committee (PAFF), section Pesticides Residues, implementing safe Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for dimethoate and its metabolite omethoate, following the recommendations of the EFSA prioritised MRL review.

The Commission presented its view on the matter and re-confirmed its previous position that this new information should be dealt with under the regular procedure for the renewal of the active substance. The Commission considers that this data gap is not a valid reason for an emergency measure and is committed to carry out the renewal process in an accelerated manner in order to ensure a decision on the renewal as soon as possible. If the outcome of this process would be that additional

metabolites would need to be included in the residue definition, an MRL review could be prioritised.

The measure issued by France is considered disproportionate as it is based on the authorisation status of dimethoate in the country of origin and it would not enable those producers willing to comply with the French measures to retain access to the French market. Therefore France was asked to withdraw the measure or at least to amend it by restricting it only to cherries, originating from third countries or Member States that have authorisations in place for dimethoate on cherries, in which the presence of dimethoate residues has been demonstrated.

Although France acknowledged the advancements in the renewal process, it pointed to the fact that the new MRLs for dimethoate and omethoate will only become applicable at the end of 2017 and it stressed the temporary nature of the measure (until 31 December 2017).

The Commission clarified that the MRLs of 0.02 mg/kg for dimethoate and 0.2 mg/kg for omethoate, which will become applicable at the end of 2017, are not lower than the current MRL of 0.2 mg/kg for the sum of omethoate and dimethoate.

As regards the French safeguard measure 13 Member States took the floor:

12 Member States indicated that the French emergency measure was not justified and supported the conclusion of the Commission to wait for the outcome of the renewal process.

1 Member State supported the French emergency measure.

Several Member States informed that they don't have authorisations in place for the use of dimethoate on cherry trees, 1 Member State confirmed it has an authorisation in place.

The Commission concluded that a majority of the Member States supported an accelerated renewal process and a subsequent prioritised MRL review, if needed.