



Commission study on the situation and options for invertebrate biocontrol agents - state of affairs -

**PLENARY MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH, 19 OCTOBER 2022**

Filippa Di Maria, Wolfgang Reinert

Invertebrate Biological Control Agents (IBCAs)

Commission study on the situation and options for the use in Plant Health and Plant protection

The Commission is going to submit a study, supported through information collected by a contractor, on the Union's situation and options regarding:

- the introduction, production, evaluation, marketing and use of IBCAs;
- the possibilities of harmonization of procedures in the EU;
- Submission deadline: 31 December 2022.

Invertebrate Biological Control Agents (IBCAs)

Stakeholders consultation

The key stakeholders have been consulted via structured questionnaires and targeted interviews

Type of stakeholders	Surveys	Interviews
27 Member State “national competent authorities”, e.g. contact points identified within each national authority in charge of IBCA in their respective country.	√ Additional and complementary questions were asked in the form of interviews and emails	Interviews were led with authorities from Belgium (Brussels region), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden
Intergovernmental organisations	√ EPPO	√ EPPO, IAEA-FAO, CABI Europe
Industry associations:	√ IBMA	√ IBMA,
Farmers’, forestry and home gardener’s associations:	All stakeholders opted for interviews	√ COPA-COGECA, EUSTAFOR IFOAM participation during the inception phase
Non-governmental organisations	EEB, IUCN were invited to participate	√ PAN Europe
Scientific organisations	√ IOBC-WPRS	√ EFSA
National competent authorities from third countries	√ New Zealand, the USA	√ New Zealand, the USA



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Validation workshop participation

- Validation workshop has been held from 30 to 31 August, the overall participation was high:
 - ✓ 60 and 56 participants, respectively
 - ✓ With one exemption, all stakeholder groups were represented by one or several organizations

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Validation workshop

- Purpose: give stakeholders the opportunity to validate that their input was well understood
- Points discussed:
 - ✓ the current situation of IBCAs use, the existing market and uses and regulatory frameworks in place in the Member States and the potential for future development.
 - ✓ problems identification and potential initiatives that can be implemented at European level

Invertebrate Biological Control Agents (IBCAAs)

Next steps

- Internal consultation of the study draft: from October to November
- Translation of executive summary: late November
- Adoption by the Commission: early December
- Transmission COM study to Council, EP, EESC, CoR: mid of December
- Publication of the Commission study and the underlying contractor report soon after.