



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2019)5908014

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Phytopharmaceuticals – Residues*

(subsection of Phytopharmaceuticals-Legislation Committee meeting of 16-17/07/2019)

17 July 2019

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/c46bc996-9f82-4f11-831d-13b6d80994db>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Discussion on the follow up to the request of France to restrict the placing on the market of products of animal origin containing residues of chlordecone originating from EU Member States or Third countries in the EU according to Article 35 of Regulation 396/2005 in conjunction with Article 53 of Regulation 178/2002.

On 12 July 2019, the French competent authorities notified to the European Commission two emergency measures^{1,2}, which had been taken at national level pursuant to Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. Following the opinions^{3,4} of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), France had fixed national maximum residue limits (MRLs) for chlordecone in bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and poultry matrices at lower values than the ones currently applicable under Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 to ensure the protection of consumers in Guadeloupe and Martinique. France requested the Commission to amend the MRLs in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 accordingly.

The French delegation explained that France had authorised uses of the active substance in Guadeloupe and Martinique until 1993. Residues of chlordecone still occur in products of animal origin due to the persistence of the substance in soil. Specific MRLs had been set in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 to address such occurrences.

¹ Arrêté du 25 janvier 2019 modifiant l'arrêté du 30 juin 2008 relatif aux limites maximales applicables aux résidus de chlordécone que ne doivent pas dépasser certaines denrées alimentaires d'origine végétale et animale pour être reconnues propres à la consommation humaine (NOR: AGRG1901040A).

² Arrêté du 23 mai 2019 modifiant l'arrêté du 25 janvier 2019 relatif aux limites maximales applicables aux résidus de chlordécone que ne doivent pas dépasser certaines denrées alimentaires d'origine végétale et animale pour être reconnues propres à la consommation humaine (NOR : AGRG1913466A).

³ Note d'appui scientifique et technique de l'Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail relative à la fixation d'une limite maximale de résidus de chlordécone dans la graisse pour les denrées carnées (2018-SA-0202).

⁴ Avis de l'Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail relatif à la fixation d'une limite maximale de résidus de chlordécone dans les muscles et dans la graisse pour les denrées carnées (2018-SA-0265).

France asked the European Commission to take measures to revise the MRLs for chlordecone set out in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. It clarified that in view of the results of the controls carried out at national level, the MRLs proposed by the French authorities have no impact on internal trade and imports and that only local products in Guadeloupe and Martinique are concerned.

A Member State enquired on whether producers in Guadeloupe and Martinique will be able to comply with the proposed limits. France replied that through mapping of pollution levels and by applying best feeding practices it is possible to minimise occurrences of chlordecone in products of animal origin.

The Commission indicated that it intends to amend the current MRLs in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 as proposed by France and invited Member States to provide comments and/or to raise concerns on the measures taken by France by 6 September 2019. The topic will be further discussed at the next meeting of the relevant Standing Committee scheduled on 26-27 September 2019.