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To: SG INPUT ROADMAPS FEEDBACK

Subject: Roadmap: Feedback received for REFIT Evaluation of the EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005) - DG:SANTE - Register ID :

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Your Voice In Europe: ROADMAP feedback for REFIT Evaluation of the EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005)

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Related document: REFIT Evaluation of the EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005)

Feedback:

The REFIT evaluation of EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues is a welcome and much needed action. As acknowledged in the Roadmap, both pieces of legislation have given rise to several concerns in their implementation and functioning compared to their initial policy objectives.

The REFIT evaluation will be an opportunity to highlight these issues, assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the legislation, and improve the regulatory framework.

Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are essential to secure safe and sustainable yields for food and feed production in Europe. Farmers and advisers need PPPs to remain available to continue to produce safe, affordable and wholesome produce.

The setting of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) should follow a transparent process for the industry to adapt and avoid critical trade crisis, especially when the trend is to lower the levels below CODEX and Third Countries requirements. This is in part driven by the ability of laboratories to detect increasingly smaller quantities of PPP

residues rather than any sound scientific basis.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 had the objective to harmonise rules with centralised, simplified and coherent procedures for active substances approval and MRLs setting, mutual recognition of PPPs and shorten approval times.

These objectives, among others, have not been met and several improvements are required for a fit regulatory framework.

In this respect, the following principles need to be taken into account in the evaluation of the current legislative framework:

- 1. Committing to a transparent and predictable science-based risk management process, so that approvals of PPPs are based on the actual risks presented in use rather than any intrinsic properties of the active substance.*
- 2. Committing to a risk-based approach with efficient risk assessment and management so that approvals of PPPs are based on the actual risks presented in use rather than any intrinsic properties of the active substance. The EU needs to move away from a hazard-based approach that does not consider actual risks for human health and the environment*
- 3. Ensuring workable MRLs being set in coherence with CODEX and international rules to limit the negative impact of MRLs set at default level on trade, and improving the application procedure for setting an Import Tolerance with simplified data requirements*
- 4. Ensuring harmonised application and implementation of EU legislation and guidance by Member States, without excessive national restrictions not based on sound science*
- 5. Facilitating mutual recognition of the authorisations of PPPs and improving the current zonal system for a proper inter-zonal cooperation.*
- 6. Ensuring workable timelines for stakeholders to give their input and data, and aligning procedures and timelines between both regulations*
- 7. Strengthening the European Commission administrative capacities on pesticides legislation and increase efforts for a more efficient collaboration between national competent authorities.*

These principles are key objectives of both Regulations as stated in the Roadmap. The REFIT evaluation is the perfect opportunity to address what has not been working and ensure a more efficient and effective functioning legislative framework on pesticides.

Feedback file: