



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and feed safety, innovation
Director

Brussels,
SANTE/E4/SH/gb(2019)1623216

Dear Dr Url,

Subject: Mandate to EFSA to revise the Guidance on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees)

EFSA adopted in 2013 a Guidance Document on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Bees¹, which so far has not been fully implemented because of insufficient support by Member States represented in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed. Many Member States have requested a review of the guidance document before considering full implementation.

Since 2013, new evidence is expected to be available. Therefore, the Commission asks EFSA to review the Guidance on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on Bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees) considering, in particular:

- A review and summary of the evidence as regards bee background mortality, in particular considering realistic bee keeping management and natural background mortality.
- Review the different exposure routes in particular considering spray application and seed treatment or granular application.

¹ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), 2013. Guidance on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees). EFSA Journal 2013;11(7):3295, 268pp., doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3295

Dr Bernhard URL
Executive Director
European Food Safety Authority
Via Carlo Magno 1A
I - 43126 Parma

- Review the list of bee-attractive crops in particular considering presence of bees, guttation and agricultural practices.
- Review the methodology with regard to higher tier testing.

The Commission also intends to mandate ECHA to develop a methodology to assess the risk to bees from the use of biocides. As some active substances have a dual use in biocidal products and plant protection products there is a need to achieve consistency of the implementation of the regulatory frameworks for plant protection and biocidal products. In order to ensure this consistency and in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Chemicals Agency and EFSA, EFSA is kindly requested to closely cooperate with ECHA in the implementation of this mandate.

Given the sensitivity of the subject matter, we would recommend you consider consulting all relevant stakeholder groups and risk managers during the process, if needed in a reiterate way, and to take into account the contributions received when finalising the review of the guidance.

Procedural aspects including an outline of the timelines will be agreed between EFSA and the Commission within 3 months after the start of this mandate.

I would like to ask EFSA to complete this mandate within 24 months of receipt.

My services remain at your disposal for further information.

Yours sincerely,



Sabine Jülicher

Contact: Ms S. Hofkens, Mr M. Nagtzaam (SANTE.E4)
Ms M. Marini (SANTE.D1)

Cc: Mr. K. Berend, Ms K. Nienstedt (SANTE E4)
Ms A. Bolufer De Gea (SANT D), Mr P. Bokor, (SANTE D1)