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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Report on the sustainable use of pesticides
- *Presentation from the Commission and exchange of views*

With a view to the exchange of views on the above-mentioned subject at the session of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 6 November 2017, delegations will find in [Annex](#) a note from the Presidency. The Presidency suggests structuring the discussion around the questions set out in this note.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENCY

On the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Member States' National Action Plans and on Progress in the Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides

Introduction

1. The EU benefits from a stringent system for the authorisation and control of pesticide use. This system provides for a range of actions to achieve sustainable pesticide use in the EU by reducing the risks to human health and the environment and by promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management and other alternative approaches.
2. In accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive, Member States adopted National Action Plans to establish quantitative objectives, targets and timetables to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use.
3. The report as presented meets the reporting obligations contained in Article 4(3) (in relation to the National Action Plans) and Article 16 (in relation to progress in the implementation of the Directive) of the Sustainable Use Directive.
4. In order to prepare this report, the Commission carried out an assessment of the National Action Plans, sent a questionnaire to all Member States, conducted a number of fact-finding missions to Member States and held discussions with the Sustainable Use Directive Working Group.

5. The Commission report identifies that Member States have made substantial progress, particularly with regard to training pesticide users, controlling aerial spraying, controlling the handling and storage of pesticides and reducing pesticide use in specific areas. Some examples of good practice have also been identified and are described in more detail in a separate overview report.
6. The Commission report also identifies significant gaps in some areas of the National Action Plans and in their implementation, notably with regard to the assessment of Integrated Pest Management use and the gathering and use of information on pesticide poisoning. Member States are called upon to improve the quality of their National Action Plans to include specific and measurable targets.
7. The Commission intends to support the implementation of this Directive by disseminating good practices, conducting further audits in Member States, holding discussions with Working Groups, organising training events, specifically on Integrated Pest Management, and developing the new web portal for Member State SUD information.

Questions

8. Which measures do Ministers consider to be the most important and effective for achieving the objectives of the Directive?
9. Which (additional) measures do Ministers consider essential to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of IPM principles?