



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Towards an accelerated greening of Sustainable Plant Protection
- information from the Netherlands delegations

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Netherlands delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 22 October 2015.

Towards an accelerated greening of Sustainable Plant Protection

1. Introduction

At the AGRIFISH Council of 13 July, the Netherlands suggested to join efforts at the EU-level on accelerating sustainable plant protection.

While good progress has been made in the area of sustainability of plant protection – both in the legislative framework, as well as stimulating IPM practices - by all Member States and the Commission, the Netherlands believe it necessary to accelerate the promotion of Integrated Pest Management in the EU. To achieve this, the Netherlands believes that, together, the EU should promote a broader, greener range of measures and authorised substances, including alternative lower-risk plant protection methods and techniques, basic substances and low-risk substances and products.

During the AGRIFISH Council of 13 July, several Member States agreed that efforts in this area can be accelerated and more emphasis should be placed on the promotion of plant protection alternatives, with fewer risks to human and animal health and the environment.

2. Proposal

In order to bring the issue of sustainable plant protection further, the Netherlands proposes setting up a temporary expert group with all interested Member States. The aim of the proposed expert group will be to identify concrete short-term and long-term actions that contribute to (speeding up) “greening” the farmers toolbox of plant protection.

The Netherlands proposes to organise this temporary group for the duration of 6 months, preferably under the supervision of the European Commission. The outcome (to be delivered in Q2 of 2016 at the latest) should present an overview of actions, a timeline, actors and the leading organization for implementation.

At least the following elements or actions should be taken up by the expert group:

- acceleration of authorisation and approval procedures for “low-risk” PPP’s;
- finalising EU-criteria for low-risk substances;
- promotion of IPM-research, and bringing suggestions in this area to the attention of DG RESEARCH/COM;
- improving IPM-communication by means of an EU-website.

The Netherlands asks the Commission to establish such an expert group and is interested in the opinion of Member States whether more elements or actions should be taken up by the expert group and their willingness to participate in this process.
