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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 14 July 2025 : Urgent need for action in the area of plant protection products - Call for a swift and effective approach <i>- Information from Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Romania</i>

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Czechia together with Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Romania express their appreciation and full support for the overall simplification initiative presented by the Commission. We should build on the so far presented proposals of simplification and extend our focus on other areas, such as chemical plant protection products which still do not have sufficient alternatives. These Member States emphasize that the currently diminishing range of active substances available for the efficient treatment of agricultural crops against harmful organisms is a matter of concern at the EU level, rather than at the national level.

In accordance with the principles of sustainable and responsible use of plant protection products, it is imperative to uphold the highest quality and safety standards for European food production. However, it is noteworthy that many traditional chemicals, which have demonstrated high efficacy, have been phased out in recent years. The most significant challenges are associated with specific groups of active substances, such as insecticides, acaricides, and desiccants. Currently, substances are approved based on expert documentation, evaluation and compliance with expert criteria. Regulation 1107/2009 also establishes fixed deadlines for the withdrawal of plant protection products containing these substances. The supporting delegations are fully cognizant that these deadlines are binding for all Member States. It is essential to provide for a procedure that, as part of the process of banning substances, allows for a longer transition period including products in stock.

Given the current challenging situation in agriculture and the need to ensure the required production, undersigned Member States urge the European Commission to fully consider new evidence and risk mitigation measures to avoid the termination of use of some irreplaceable active substances. For example, by limiting their approval to strict and controlled use only.

The signatory Member States call upon the Commission to utilize or update existing tools, particularly the broader application of Article 4(7) of Regulation 1107/2009, which permits the temporary approval of a substance in the absence of alternative means of protection in the EU.

Alternatively, urge the Commission to explore the possibility of reintroduction of so-called essential uses procedure, which was practised under Council Directive 91/414, and which entailed defining the use and area where no sufficient substitutes exist in some Member States, thereby allowing those Member States the placing on the market and use of such substances for a transitional period.

Co-signed Member States believe that the aforementioned simplification of the framework and additionally the announced packages that should be presented later this year, are the best feasible way how to address these concerns.

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