

EN
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Answer given by Ms Thyssen
on behalf of the European Commission
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To protect workers exposed to chemicals, such as pesticides, there is a comprehensive EU legal framework on Occupational Safety and Health, laying down minimum requirements. Framework Directive 89/391/EEC¹ and Directive 98/24/EC² on the protection of workers from risks related to chemicals apply. If the substance is classified as carcinogen or mutagen, Directive 2004/37/EC³ also applies.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 lays down the system for approving active substances for the use in plant protection products (PPPs, pesticides) and Member States authorisation of each PPP use. Only PPPs with no negative effects on human health are allowed to be used. The risk assessment takes into account various groups of the population, including operators, workers and residents. Carcinogen and/or toxic for reproduction active substances can only be placed on the EU market under very restricted conditions. Labels on PPPs include safety instructions for their handling.

Directive 2009/128/EC requires professional users of pesticides to be trained on their correct handling, reducing risks to themselves and bystanders. Member States also must ensure that pesticide use does not endanger human or ecosystem health. The Commission conducts audits to verify the appropriate implementation of the EU legislation by Member States.

The EU legal framework, when properly enforced and implemented by Member States, ensures high protection of farmers exposed to pesticides and their children.

The Commission also supports research on alternatives to pesticides and their assessment on human and ecosystem health, including exposure of farmers, and the rural population, with an overall of EUR 30 million earmarked within relevant calls under Horizon 2020.

¹ EU Framework Directive on Safety and Health at Work, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A31989L0391>

² Chemical Agents Directive, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31998L0024>

³ [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32004L0037R\(01\)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32004L0037R(01))