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Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2006/0258(COD)

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OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
concerning statistics on plant protection products
(COM(2006)0778 – C6-0457/2006 – 2006/0258(COD))

Draftsman: Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission's proposal for a regulation concerning statistics on plant protection products is directly linked to the Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, which was presented a few months earlier. The aim of the proposal is Europe-wide harmonisation of national statistics on the sale and use of plant protection products, to a degree that would enable meaningful data on the use of plant protection products to be collected and, in the medium term, allow the risks posed by the use of such products to, and their impact on, the environment and human health to be reduced.

In your draftsman's view, it is necessary to avoid duplication of surveys and data collection that would add to the burden on, in particular, agricultural holdings. Legislative proposals relating to the Thematic Strategy currently pending lay down specific provisions on the keeping of data giving information on the use of plant protection products as well as on the furnishing of sales data by producers (see, in particular, Article 64 of the proposed regulation on authorisation, COM(2006)0388). Reference should be expressly made to these provisions in connection with the collection of statistical data provided for in this Regulation.

Moreover, similar provisions on record keeping are at the heart of integrated plant protection and of private quality assurance systems such as EurepGAP. For the purpose of statistical surveys, priority should be given to using data already available for businesses which operate according to these standards, bearing in mind, however, that this group does not form a representative cross-section of agricultural holdings as a whole.

Data on plant protection products produced and placed on the market, to be furnished by producers and distributors to the competent authorities, should form the basis for surveys. With a view to harmonising European data collection as fully as possible, it is not enough to define the reporting obligations of those concerned in implementing provisions (as provided for in Article 64 of the regulation on authorisation). The reporting obligations should be defined as precisely as possible in this regulation, as they produce the basic data required in order to compile data on the use of such products (see Annex II, section 1).

In your draftsman's view, there is no justification for excluding the use of plant protection products for non-agricultural purposes from the scope of this Regulation. Whilst private use, for example in private gardens and allotments, can only be covered by sales data, professional and large-scale users (such as communal services and transport companies) should be subject to the same requirements as regards obligations to keep data and statistical surveys as agricultural users.

Data collected should be exploited in such a way at national and Community level as to be as useful as possible in implementing the Thematic Strategy. Your draftsman is therefore proposing that an expert group evaluate the data collected and assess it in terms of impact on human health and the environment. The expert group should be set up under the responsibility of the authorities responsible for national action plans and form a network at European level.

The data on plant protection products produced and sold should also be used in such a way as to not only furnish the basis for statistical surveys of pesticide use, but at the same time to provide the authorities with a basis for recording product flows. It would suffice, in this connection, to provide transparency in terms of trade flows up to the level of major customers

or the local farm supplies trade. Particularly in the face of the significantly growing problem - according to the industry - of illegal imported products, the recording of substance flows in the plant protection products sector could be a useful tool for the competent authorities, giving significant added value to the proposed collection of data.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission ¹	Amendments by Parliament
Amendment 1 Article 1, title	
Subject matter <i>and</i> scope	Subject matter, scope <i>and objectives</i>
Amendment 2 Article 1, paragraph 2, indent 2	
– the annual <i>agricultural use</i> amounts of plant protection products according to Annex II.	– the annual amounts of plant protection products <i>used</i> according to Annex II.
Amendment 3 Article 1, paragraph 2 a (new)	
	<p><i>2a. The statistics shall, in particular, serve the following purposes:</i></p> <p><i>- implementation and evaluation of the Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides,</i></p> <p><i>- development of harmonised national and Community risk indicators, identification of trends in the use of plant protection products and assessment of the</i></p>

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

effectiveness of national action plans in accordance with the Directive XXX establishing a framework for Community action to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides (COM(2006)0373),

- recording of substance flows at the stages of the production of, trade in, and use of plant protection products.

Justification

The statistics are to serve specific objectives laid down in Community law. In addition, the data available should be used to enable plant protection product substance flows to be traced back and to help identify use of illegal products.

Amendment 4

Article 3, paragraph 1, indents 1 to 3

–surveys,

– reporting obligations applicable to suppliers concerning the plant protection products placed on the market; distinct authorizations for professional and non-professional uses can be used,

– reporting obligations applicable to professional users based on records kept on the use of plant protection products,

– reporting obligations applicable to suppliers concerning the plant protection products placed on the market; distinct authorizations for professional and non-professional uses can be used; ***in particular, obligations pursuant to Article 64(2) of Regulation XXX concerning the placing of plant production products on the market (COM(2006)0388),***

– reporting obligations applicable to professional users based on records kept on the use of plant protection products; ***in particular, obligations pursuant to Article 64(1) of Regulation XXX concerning the placing of plant production products on the market (COM(2006)0388),***

–surveys,

Justification

It is necessary to avoid duplicating obligations on farmers to record and collect data, adding to the burden on them; where appropriate, priority should be given to using other sources. Member States should ensure that the conducting of surveys is monitored by suitably qualified persons.

Amendment 5
Article 3, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. Member States shall ensure that:

*- producers of plant protection products
and*

*- those responsible for placing plant
protection products on the market or
importing them*

*report annually to the competent authority
on:*

*- the quantities in which a given active
substance or a given plant protection
product is produced,*

*- the quantities in which a given active
substance or a given plant protection
product is supplied to processing firms or
wholesalers in the European Union,*

*- the quantities in which a given active
substance or a given plant protection
product is exported.*

*This information shall be assessed by the
competent authorities and, where
appropriate after editing to preserve the
confidentiality of certain information,
published.*

Justification

The obligation on producers and market operators responsible for placing products on the market to declare quantities placed on the market or exported is essential to data collection and should therefore be expressly mentioned in the basic text of this Regulation.

Amendment 6
Article 6, paragraph 1

The Commission shall submit a report on the implementation of the Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council every five years. This report shall evaluate in particular the quality of data transmitted, the burden on businesses and the usefulness of these statistics in the context of the Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of

The Commission shall submit a report on the implementation of the Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council every five years. This report shall evaluate in particular the quality **and comparability** of data transmitted, the burden on **agricultural holdings, horticultural holdings and other** businesses and the usefulness of these statistics in the context of the Thematic

Pesticides.

Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, *in particular with regard to the objectives set out in Article 1. It shall, if appropriate, contain proposals designed to further improve data quality and reduce the burden on agricultural holdings and businesses.*

Amendment 7
Annex I, title

Statistics on placing of plant protection products *on the market*

Statistics on *the production and* placing *on the market* of plant protection products

Justification

The collection of data on amounts produced should be included.

Amendment 8
Annex I, section 2 a (new)

SECTION 2a

Reporting obligations

Producers of plant protection products and those responsible for placing plant protection products on the market or importing them shall report annually to the competent authority on

- the quantities in which a given active substance or a given plant protection product is produced,

- the quantities in which a given active substance or a given plant protection product is supplied to processing firms or wholesalers in the European Union,

- the quantities in which a given active substance or a given plant protection product is exported.

Amendment 9
Annex I, section 6, paragraph 3

The report concerning the second reference year shall contain a raw estimate of the proportions of the total quantity of substances in each major group listed in Annex III contained in plant protection products placed on the market for **both** agricultural and non-agricultural use. These estimates shall be renewed every five years.

The report concerning the second reference year shall contain a raw estimate of the proportions of the total quantity of substances in each major group listed in Annex III contained in plant protection products placed on the market for agricultural, **horticultural** and non-agricultural use, ***in particular in transport, communal green spaces and for private use***. These estimates shall be renewed every five years.

Amendment 10
Annex II, section 1, paragraph 1

1. Statistics shall cover the agricultural use of plant protection products in each Member State.

1. Statistics shall cover the agricultural, ***horticultural and professional non-agricultural*** use of plant protection products in each Member State.

Amendment 11
Annex II, section 6, indent 5a (new)

- the estimated average costs entailed by data collection for agricultural and horticultural holdings and any ways of reducing these costs.

PROCEDURE

Title	Statistics on plant protection products	
References	COM(2006)0778 - C6-0457/2006 - 2006/0258(COD)	
Committee responsible	ENVI	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AGRI 14.12.2006	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf 19.12.2006	
Discussed in committee	11.9.2007	9.10.2007
Date adopted	9.10.2007	
Result of final vote	+: 32 -: 0 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Bernadette Bourzai, Niels Busk, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Giuseppe Castiglione, Albert Deß, Gintaras Didžiokas, Michl Ebner, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Ioannis Gklavakis, Lutz Goepel, Esther Herranz García, Lily Jacobs, Elisabeth Jeggle, Heinz Kindermann, Jean-Claude Martinez, Véronique Mathieu, Mairead McGuinness, Rosa Miguélez Ramos, Neil Parish, Radu Podgorean, María Isabel Salinas García, Agnes Schierhuber, Willem Schuth, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Alyn Smith, Janusz Wojciechowski, Andrzej Tomasz Zapałowski	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Esther De Lange, Gábor Harangozó, Jan Mulder, Catherine Neris, Markus Pieper	