

Bentazone herbicide: MEPs object to Commission plans to renew EU authorisation

The EU authorisation for Bentazone herbicide, which expires on 30 June 2017, should not be renewed as its safety has yet to be confirmed, says a non-binding resolution voted on Wednesday. MEPs point out that Bentazone can easily leak directly into groundwater and is suspected of interfering with human reproduction.

The EU Commission has nonetheless proposed to renew Bentazone's EU authorisation until 31 January 2032, the maximum period possible, while simultaneously requesting data confirming its safety.

MEPs point out that Bentazone's consumer risk assessment has not been finalised and that data are missing, particularly on its potential for groundwater exposure. Moreover, a European Food Safety Authority peer review proposes classifying Bentazone as having suspected reproductive toxicity potential for humans (category 2).

The non-binding resolution therefore calls on the Commission to request and assess the relevant missing information before deciding on renewal of the authorisation.

The resolution was approved by 361 votes to 289, with 28 abstentions.

Note to editors

The active substance Bentazone acts as a selective post-emergent herbicide against broadleaved weeds in a wide range of crops, and is commonly used in agriculture.

Procedure: Non-legislative resolution

Further information

[Adopted text will be available here \(23.11.2016\)](#)

[EbS+ \(23.11.2016\)](#)

[Press release on committee vote \(08.11.2016\)](#)

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Contacts

Baptiste CHATAIN

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 28 40992 (BXL)

☎ (+33) 3 881 74151 (STR)

📱 (+32) 498 98 13 37

🐦 [@EP_Environment](#)

✉ baptiste.chatain@europarl.europa.eu
