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| |  | | --- | | **FRUCOM NEWSLETTER 20/11/2023**   * FRUCOM ACTIVITIES   + [FRUCOM meeting in Hamburg on 16 November: power point presentation](javascript:void(0);)   + [Official controls: FRUCOM meeting on recent developments on 22 November](javascript:void(0);) * ALL PRODUCTS   + [Pests: update on anti-coagulant rodenticides](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: third country discussions on SUR and MRLs, including import tolerances](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: the Commission states it will renew glyphosate](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: Commission's SUR brieffing](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: non-renewal of triflusulfuron-methyl](javascript:void(0);)   + [Organics: upcoming initiative on the amendment of the list of products and substances authorised in organic production](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pests: regulation proposal on non-quarantine pests](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: EFSA assessment of grape seed extract as a basic substance](javascript:void(0);)   + [RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2023/46 (13/11/2023 - 19/11/2023)](javascript:void(0);) | |  | |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **FRUCOM ACTIVITIES**  [**FRUCOM MEETING IN HAMBURG ON 16 NOVEMBER: POWER POINT PRESENTATION**](javascript:void(0);)  The FRUCOM team would like to thank the members for their participation in the meeting on November 16th.  Here is the power point presentation:[joint PPP](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2209)  [**OFFICIAL CONTROLS: FRUCOM MEETING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON 22 NOVEMBER**](javascript:void(0);)  The meeting regarding recent developments in national official controls (including the destruction of goods) will be organized on Wednesday 22 November at 16:30 CET. The meeting link is below.  Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87539911210?pwd=Mmx6ZmtZSGJLT2J5N0Q2S01CVSsvZz09>  Meeting ID: 875 3991 1210  Passcode: 364194  More information: <https://frucom.eu/circulars/4350:official-controls-call-for-a-meeting-on-recent-developments.html>  In case you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact Katri Saari (ksaari@frucom.eu).  **ALL PRODUCTS**  [**PESTS: UPDATE ON ANTI-COAGULANT RODENTICIDES**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM received information regarding the possible ban of anti-coagulant (AVK) rodenticides (background information here: <https://frucom.eu/circulars/4306:anti-coagulant-rodenticides-status-quo-october-2023.html>). According to FRUCOM information the Commission is presenting a draft Commission Decision on the AVK Rodenticides for indoor control of mice for approval by the EU27 member states during the 5-8 December meetings of the Standing Committee for Biocidal Products (BPC). It seems that only one country supports a general ban. Another one has an ambiguous position. The 7 or 8 other member states that commented oppose an AVK ban based on the EU-BPC Opinion. Therefore, as already indicated by the Commission, it is likely that the draft Decision will not propose any ban at this time. It would leave it to individual Member States to determine whether to take the EU-BPC Opinion into account in making product approvals at the national level.  [**PESTICIDES: THIRD COUNTRY DISCUSSIONS ON SUR AND MRLS, INCLUDING IMPORT TOLERANCES**](javascript:void(0);)  The Mission of Brazil to the European Union organized a meeting to update on Maximum Residue Levels, Sustainable Use Regulation, and pesticide export ban on 17 November. FRUCOM participated in the meeting among other food industry and third countries' missions representatives.  Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) - (M. Kicinski, CropLife Europe)  AGRI committee’s opinion on SUR was voted by a clear majority on the 9th of October. ENVI committee report was adopted on 24 October. The Plenary vote is expected on 22 November.  Currently, the European Parliament is discussing whether there will be legally binding reduction targets; if there will be a ban on the use of plant protection products in sensitive areas; and whether there will be crop-specific Integrated pest management tools or guidelines.  Spanish presidency aims to present compromise wording on an entire proposal by the end of November 2023.  MRLs - update (M.Richter/W.Meyer/ L.Wozniacki, CropLife Europe)  According to CropLife Europe environmental concerns are highlighted in the current MRL discussion. Quinoxyfen and lufenuron are next to be evaluated. For these substances environmental issues are going to be taken into account in the MRL. Currently, there is no concrete timeline.  Import tolerances: Some Member States have stated that they would no longer support import tolerances for substances not approved in the EU. This is currently the discussion point for tricyclazole. It is being discussed in the European Parliament. According to CropLife Europe, there is now an increased lack of predictability for setting import tolerances in the EU.  [**PESTICIDES: THE COMMISSION STATES IT WILL RENEW GLYPHOSATE**](javascript:void(0);)  On 16th of November the Member States did not reach the required qualified majority to renew or reject the approval of glyphosate during a vote at the Appeal Committee. This follows a previous vote at the Standing Committee on 13 October, in which Member States did not reach the required majority to renew or reject the proposal either.  In line with EU legislation and in the absence of the required majority in either direction, the Commission is now obliged to adopt a decision before 15 December 2023 when the current approval period expires. The Commission - based on comprehensive safety assessments carried out by the [European Food Safety Authority](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en) (EFSA) and the [European Chemicals Agency](https://echa.europa.eu/) (ECHA), together with EU Member States - will now proceed with the renewal of the approval of glyphosate for a period of 10 years, subject to certain new conditions and restrictions. These restrictions include a prohibition of pre-harvest use as a desiccant and the need for certain measures to protect non-target organisms.  Member States are responsible for national authorisation of plant protection products containing glyphosate and continue to be able to restrict their use at national and regional level if they consider this necessary based on the outcome of risk assessments, particularly factoring in the need to protect biodiversity.  The Commission implementing regulation will be published in the European Official Journal before the expiry of the current glyphosate approval on 15 December 2023. The regulation will include certain new conditions and restrictions for the use of glyphosate.  More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_5792>  [**PESTICIDES: COMMISSION'S SUR BRIEFFING**](javascript:void(0);)  The Sustainable Use Regulation is currently discussed in the EU and it is expected to be finalized during this Commission. The Commission published a briefing on the Sustainable use of plant protection products to better explain the recent developments.  Under the farm-to-fork strategy, part of the European Green Deal, the EU has set itself a double target: a 50 % reduction in the overall use of and risk from chemical plant protection products, and a 50 % reduction in the use of more hazardous ones by 2030. The proposal for a regulation tabled by the European Commission on 22 June 2022, which would replace the 2009 sustainable use directive, would require Member States to contribute collectively to achieving these EU-wide targets through the adoption and attainment of binding national targets. To protect biodiversity and citizens' health, the use of all plant protection products would be banned in specific, sensitive areas, with limited derogations. Monitoring and reporting obligations would be strengthened.  Stakeholders are strongly divided on the proposal. While environmental organisations are pushing for more ambition, the farming community is concerned about the lack of alternatives for farmers, the broad coverage of sensitive areas, and consequences for business continuity. Indicators used to track progress towards the targets are also subject to criticisms from various sides.  In Parliament, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), responsible for the file, adopted its report on 24 October 2023, substantially amending the Commission text. The report awaits a vote in plenary during the November II session, with a view to setting Parliament's position for negotiations with the Council. The Council has still to agree on a general approach.  More information: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2022)739218>  [**PESTICIDES: NON-RENEWAL OF TRIFLUSULFURON-METHYL**](javascript:void(0);)  The Commission published an Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2513 of 16 November 2023 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance triflusulfuron-methyl, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011. EFSA identified a critical concern in relation to the contamination of groundwater by one toxicologically relevant metabolite of triflusulfuron-methyl, IN-JU122. Therefore, it cannot currently be established that the presence of metabolites of triflusulfuron-methyl in groundwater will have no unacceptable effects on groundwater and no harmful effects on human health, as required by Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.  Furthermore, EFSA concluded that triflusulfuron-methyl has endocrine disrupting properties that may cause adverse effects in humans, as set out in point 3.6.5 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. According to EFSA, negligible exposure cannot be demonstrated for triflusulfuron-methyl since residues above the default value set out in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 be expected to occur in rotational crops. Therefore, the requirement set out in point 3.6.5 of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 is not fulfilled. EFSA also concluded that the consumer dietary risk assessment could not be finalised.  EFSA evaluated whether triflusulfuron-methyl is necessary to control a serious danger to plant health which cannot be contained by other available means including non-chemical methods in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. EFSA concluded that for some uses and in some Member States, there may be an insufficient number of chemical alternatives available at the time of assessment. However, some non-chemical methods are available (for instance, mechanical weeding), although they may not have the same efficacy as chemical methods and/or they may present economic or other feasibility limitations. In addition, further chemical alternatives could be made available in the Member States concerned via mutual recognition of alternative products that are available in other Member States, as provided for in Article 40 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. In addition, the Commission considers that no serious danger to plant health has been identified. Therefore, the Commission considers that the conditions for the application of the derogation in Article 4(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 are not fulfilled.  Therefore, the approval of the active substance triflusulfuron-methyl is not renewed. Member States shall withdraw authorisations for plant protection products containing triflusulfuron-methyl as an active substance by 20 February 2024. Any grace period granted by Member States in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 shall expire by 20 August 2024.  This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (published 17.11.2023).  More information: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202302513>  [**ORGANICS: UPCOMING INITIATIVE ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE LIST OF PRODUCTS AND SUBSTANCES AUTHORISED IN ORGANIC PRODUCTION**](javascript:void(0);)  The Commission informed about its upcoming initiative on the amendment of the list of products and substances authorised in organic production. This initiative will amend the list of products and substances that may be used in organic production, which must be revised regularly. The draft is currently in preparation, therefore not yet available.  Feedback: upcoming  Commission adoption: Planned for the second quarter 2024  More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14024-Amendment-of-the-list-of-products-and-substances-authorised-in-organic-production_en>  [**PESTS: REGULATION PROPOSAL ON NON-QUARANTINE PESTS**](javascript:void(0);)  The EU notified to the WTO its proposal for amending Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards multiannual survey programmes, notifications concerning the presence of regulated non-quarantine pests, temporary derogations from import prohibitions and special import requirements and establishment of procedures for granting them, temporary import requirements for high risk plants, plant products and other objects, the establishment of procedures for the listing of high risk plants, the content of phytosanitary certificates, the use of plant passports and as regards certain reporting requirements for demarcated areas and surveys of pest.  The Commission proposal consists of the targeted amendments. This is the main item subject for current update: clarification concerning the measures against pests which are provisionally qualifying as quarantine pests but have not been fully assessed yet, amendment of the requirements regarding the declarations on the phytosanitary certificate for regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQPs) and on reporting.  Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): June 2024  Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.  More information: <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/G/SPS/NEU694.pdf&Open=True>  [**PESTICIDES: EFSA ASSESSMENT OF GRAPE SEED EXTRACT AS A BASIC SUBSTANCE**](javascript:void(0);)  EFSA published its overall conclusions on the application for approval of grape seed extract as a basic substance to be used in plant protection as a fungicide on grapevines, apples, potatoes and lettuce. The intended basic substance grape seed extract is available on the global market including EU for use as dietary supplements. The uses proposed by the applicant of the intended basic substance and its products for plant protection are as a fungicide on grapevines, pome fruits and potatoes (field spray application) and on leaf vegetables (field and greenhouse applications). Considering that grape seed extract proposed for use in this application is available on the market as a food supplement (see section 3.1), there is no need to allocate reference values and to provide a quantitative estimate of non-dietary exposure. On this basis, no concern is raised for human and animal health from the proposed uses of this intended basic substance. This is also applicable to dietary exposure of consumers  For non-target organisms, a low risk can be concluded for all intended uses for birds and mammals, non-target arthropods, bees, soil macro-organisms and micro-organisms, other non- target organisms (fauna) and biological methods of sewage treatment.  More information: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.EN-8435>  [**RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2023/46 (13/11/2023 - 19/11/2023)**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below a FRUCOM report compiling RASFF notifications of week 2023/46 (13/11/2023 - 19/11/2023).  Information provided in the report is based on RASFF notifications published on the DG SANTE’s online database.  [FRUCOMRASFF2023\_Week46](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2208) | |