Resolution on the draft Commission implementing regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances amidosulfuron, beta-cyfluthrin, bifenox, chlorotoluron, clofentezine, clomazone, cypermethrin, daminozide, deltamethrin, dicamba, difenoconazole, diflubenzuron, diflufenican, fenoxaprop-P, fenpropidin, fludioxonil, flufenacet, fosthiazate, indoxacarb, lenacil, MCPA, MCPB, nicosulfuron, picloram, prosulfocarb, pyriproxyfen, thiophanate-methyl, triflusulfuron and tritosulfuron

2019/2826(RSP) - 10/10/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 402 votes to 222, with 39 abstentions, a resolution objecting to the Commission Implementing Regulation on the draft Commission implementing regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances amidosulfuron, beta-cyfluthrin, bifenox, chlorotoluron, clofentezine, clomazone, cypermethrin, daminozide, deltamethrin, dicamba, difenoconazole, diflubenzuron, diflufenican, fenoxaprop-P, fenpropidin, fludioxonil, flufenacet, fosthiazate, indoxacarb, lenacil, MCPA, MCPB, nicosulfuron, picloram, prosulfocarb, pyriproxyfen, thiophanatemethyl, triflusulfuron and tritosulfuron.

Parliament considered that the draft Commission implementing regulation does not respect the precautionary principle. According to Members, the decision to extend the approval period for chlorotoluron is not in line with the safety criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, and is based neither on evidence that this substance can safely be used, nor on a proven urgent need for the active substance chlorotoluron in food production in the Union.

In support of its objection, Parliament stated that, according to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, chlorotoluron has a harmonised classification of very toxic to aquatic life, very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects, suspected of causing cancer, and suspected of damaging the unborn child.

Moreover, in 2015 chlorotoluron was placed on the ‘list of candidates for substitution’ by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/408 because it is considered to have endocrine-disrupting properties

that may cause adverse effects in humans, and because it meets the criteria for it to be considered a persistent and toxic substance.

Members considered it is unacceptable that a substance which is known to meet the cut-off criteria for active substances that are mutagenic, carcinogenic and/or toxic for reproduction or that have endocrine-disrupting properties, which are set to protect human and environmental health, continues to be allowed for use in the Union, putting public and environmental health at risk.

In view of these elements, Parliament asked the Commission to:

- to withdraw its draft implementing regulation and to submit a new draft to the Committee that takes into account the scientific evidence on the harmful properties of all the substances concerned, especially of chlorotoluron;

- to present draft implementing regulations to extend the approval periods of substances for which the current state of science is not expected to lead to a Commission proposal for non-renewal of the authorisation of the active substance concerned;

- to withdraw the approvals for substances if proof or reasonable doubt exists that they will not meet the safety criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

Member States are required to ensure the proper and timely reassessment of the authorisations of the active substances for which they are the reporting Member States and to ensure that the current delays are solved effectively as soon as possible.