Resolution on the proposal for a Council regulation amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for tricyclazole in or on certain products

2023/2998(RPS) - 14/12/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 500 votes to 42, with 4 abstentions, a resolution **objecting** to the proposal for a Council regulation amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for tricyclazole in or on certain products.

Tricyclazole is a systemic and protective fungicide for the efficacious control of rice blast (Pyricularia grisea Sacc.) that occurs at all the stages of progression (leaf blast, stem blast and panicle blast). There are clear indications that it may be expected that it has harmful effects on human health. Since 2016, the use of tricyclazole has been banned in the Union as well as imports of products with residues above the analytical quantification level. Because of the ban on that fungicide, European farmers were compelled to invest in finding alternative agricultural practices. The ban on that fungicide in the Union has led to a major reduction in the production of rice among European producers.

The proposal for a Council regulation seeks to increase the maximum residue level (‘MRL’) for tricyclazole in rice from 0.01 to 0.09 mg/kg.

The vote on 11 May 2023 of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed delivered no opinion, meaning that the proposal for a regulation was not supported by a qualified majority of Member States. The vote on 20 September 2023 of the Council again delivered no opinion.

Parliament opposed the adoption of the proposal for a Council regulation stating that the proposal exceeds the implementing powers provided for in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. Moreover, it stated that the proposal is not compatible with the aim and content of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 nor does it comply with the commitments made to high consumer safety.

Parliament insisted that the MRL for tricyclazole in imported rice in the Union should remain at 0.01 mg /kg as for the European rice producers.

The Commission is called on to:

- withdraw the proposal for a regulation;

- safeguard a level playing field for the European farmers.