Basic information

2002/2015(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Plant protection products: placing on the market, evaluation of the active substances (Directive 91/414/EEC). Report **Subject** 3.10.09.02 Plant health legislation 4.60.04.02 Consumer security	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	LANNOYE Paul A.A.J.G. (V /ALE)	04/12/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	PARISH Neil (PPE-DE)	19/02/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2494	2003-03-17
Agriculture and Fisheries	2387	2001-11-20
Agriculture and Fisheries	2377	2001-10-23
Environment	2399	2001-12-12
Environment	2378	2001-10-29

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Health and Food Safety	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2001)0444	Summary

25/07/2001	Non-legislative basic document published		
23/10/2001	Debate in Council		
29/10/2001	Debate in Council		
20/11/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
12/12/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
16/01/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0155/2002	
29/05/2002	Debate in Parliament		
30/05/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0276/2002	Summary
30/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/08/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2015(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/16106

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0155/2002	23/04/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0276/2002 OJ C 187 07.08.2003, p. 0024-0173 E	30/05/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0444	25/07/2001	Summary

Plant protection products: placing on the market, evaluation of the active substances (Directive 91/414/EEC). Report

2002/2015(COS) - 25/07/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: To evaluate progress on the implementation of EEC Directive on the placing of plant protection products on the market. CONTENT: Council Directive 91/414/EEC on the placing of plant protection products on the market marked a departure for the European Community in that it placed consumer protection and environmental considerations over and above agricultural priorities. Moreover it was one of the first Directives to advocate use of the precautionary principle. It provided for a 12-year programme of evaluation of 834 active substances already on the market at the time of its entry into force in July 1993. These 834 active substances were placed on a positive list for use within the European Community. Products not listed were forbidden from use with the EU. Further, bearing in mind the need for subsidiarity the Directive provided that the Commission would be responsible for evaluating the active substances on the list whilst the Member States would be responsible for authorising and evaluating products containing these substances. Article 8 (2) of the Directive stipulates that the Commission should prepare a Progress Repot on the evaluation of the programme by July 2001. In preparing this Report the Commission is fulfilling its obligations under the terms of the Directive. The Article also suggests that the Commission should decide whether the 12 year deadline for the evaluation of the substances should be extended. In light of the many difficulties and lack of resources for the implementation of this Directive the Commission is urging an extension of the deadline to 2008 as opposed to 2003 as originally envisioned. The Report notes that progress on evaluating the substances has been considerably delayed thanks, in large part, to procedural difficulties. Thus, a typical dossier could contain around 50 000 pages and take approximately four and a half years to prepare. In addition standardised risk assessment procedures needed to be established before work could progress satisfactorily. The Report does make note of the fact that the Member States made a major contribution in agreeing to work in one language on technical assessments - in spite of the difficulties this imposed at national level. Because of these initial shortcomings, on average, only two decisions of the 834 substances a year were made. This has now improved with at least 20 decisions per year being made. In spite of these improvements, the Report notes that should the revised time-table of 2008 be completed an average of 50 decisions per year on existing active substances (peaking at 85 in 2007) will be needed. This, it is argued, can only be achieved through an increase in existing resources, procedural changes for dossier evaluation, tighter time-tables and improved use of information technologies. Certainly, the Report hopes that the new "European Food Authority" will help provide a foundation upon which to extend the activities of the Directive. It is estimated that at least 25 qualified evaluators will be required at the level of the EFA if the deadline is realistically to be met. Regarding the current state of play, the Report explains that prior to beginning the gargantuan task of assessing all 834 substances these substances were divided into four lists. The first is a priority list of 90 substances considered to be the most widely used in the market as well as those of clear concern.The current situation is that Directives have been or are about to be taken on 13 existing substances in Annex I of the Directive; Decisions have been taken not to include 16 substances in Annex I and withdrawing them from the market, 39 substances have been peer-reviewed and final discussions are on-going; 21 substances are undergoing or are scheduled for peer review; and one assessment report still has to be submitted. The second list contains 149 substances. Early indications imply that by 2003 at least 89 substances should be withdrawn from the market. The third list comprises the 402 remaining chemical substances, also considered "pesticides" but not as widely used as those on the second list. Again early indications would suggest that at least 235 substances should be withdrawn from the market in July 2003. Lastly, the fourth list, comprises the 193 remaining substances identified as being of lower concern and to which other data requirements might apply. Although of lower concern the Report nevertheless estimates that some 124 substances may be expect to be withdrawn from the market in 2003. The Commission is now awaiting comments on this Report from the European Parliament and Council prior to proposing any changes or amendments to the existing Directive.

Plant protection products: placing on the market, evaluation of the active substances (Directive 91/414/EEC). Report

2002/2015(COS) - 30/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Paul LANNOYE (Greens/EFA, Belgium) which is critical of the Commission's report. (Please refer to the document dated 24/04/02.) It called for the following before an active substance is included in Annex I: - the criteria for inclusion to be clarified and for them to constitute an integral part of the Directive; - the evaluation and authorisation procedure to consist of two stages, the first being the exclusion of any active substance which presents characteristics such as being carcinogenic, toxic, mutagenic, an endocrine disruptor, persistent, or bioaccumable; the second stage being that the active substance is on a priority list established under relevant international treaties ratified by the EU, or on a list of priority hazardous substances for water policy annexed to Directive 2000/60/EC. In the case of active substances not excluded, evaluation must take account of their incidence on the health of children or foetuses as well as any possible or synergetic effects linked to total exposure to certain pesticide products. Parliament added that the granting of authorisation should be conditional upon the producer providing information on the appropriate method of detecting the substance in respect of which the authorisation is requested. There needs to be a redefinition of the concept of "relevant metabolites" and for the revision of the corresponding "Guidance document", with a view to ensuring a complete toxicological evaluation of the metabolites of active substances equivalent to the toxicological evaluation of primary substances, as well as for the publication of the Guidance document on "Drinking water produced from surface water." Finally, there should be legally binding labelling requirements for produce treated with pesticides, so that the consumer is informed about all pesticides used during production, storage and marketing.

Plant protection products: placing on the market, evaluation of the active substances (Directive 91/414/EEC). Report

2002/2015(COS) - 17/03/2003

The Council reached agreement on the Decision concerning the non-inclusion of aldicarb in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing this active substance, on the basis of a Presidency compromise, which the Commission endorsed. The Decision was adopted by qualified majority, by way of written procedure. The German, Swedish and Luxembourg delegations voted against. The Austrian delegation abstained. The main changes of this compromise compare to the initial proposal are: - the inclusion of a derogation until 2007 for eight Member States to use aldicarb (instead of 18 months after the adoption of the Decision in the initial proposal); - this use must be motivated and only for essential purposes and main crops (ex: sugarbeet, citrus, potatoes, garlic, onions); - the use of this substance must

not harm human or animal health; - the Member States using this substance should look for alternatives; - the Member States concerned would present a report by 31/12/2004 to the Commission on the implementation of these conditions and estimates of the amounts of aldicarb used.