Basic information

2017/2284(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides See also Directive 2009/128/EC 2006/0132(COD) **Subject** 3.10.09.02 Plant health legislation 3.70.13 Dangerous substances, toxic and radioactive wastes (storage, transport)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	GUTELAND Jytte (S&D)	07/11/2017
	Shadow rapporteur FLORENZ Karl-Heinz (PPE) DOHRMANN Jørn (ECR) HUITEMA Jan (ALDE) HAZEKAMP Anja (GUE/NGL) HÄUSLING Martin (Verts/ALE) PEDICINI Piernicola (EFDD) MÉLIN Joëlle (ENF)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development (Associated committee)	RIBEIRO Sofia (PPE)	12/12/2017

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

18/01/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/01/2018	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
22/01/2019	Vote in committee		
30/01/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0045/2019	Summary
12/02/2019	Decision by Parliament	T8-0082/2019	Summary
12/02/2019	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/02/2019	Debate in Parliament		
12/02/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2284(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Amendments and repeals	See also Directive 2009/128/EC 2006/0132(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/11439

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE618.102	10/10/2018	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE630.478	21/11/2018	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE615.419	27/11/2018	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0045/2019	30/01/2019	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0082/2019	12/02/2019	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2019)327	17/07/2019	

Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides

2017/2284(INI) - 30/01/2019 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the own-initiative report by Jytte GUTELAND (S&D, SE) on the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, exercising its prerogative as an associated committee in accordance with Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure, also gave its opinion on the report.

Overall, Members regretted that, despite efforts made, the overall degree of progress in implementation by the Member States is insufficient to meet the Directive's main objectives and to unlock its full potential to reduce the overall risks deriving from pesticide use.

The Commission's 2017 progress report identifies significant gaps in the National Action Plans (NAPs) of Member States, suggesting a lower commitment to protecting the environment and health in some countries. They regretted that only 11 Member States have produced a revised NAP to date, although the deadline for revision was the end of 2017.

The report stressed that the CAP in its current form does not sufficiently encourage and incentivise the reduction of farms' dependency on pesticides and the uptake of organic production techniques. It considered that specific policy instruments in the post-2020 CAP are required in order to help change farmers' behaviour as regards pesticide use.

On the other hand, Members noted that EFSA's latest report on pesticide residues in food showed that 97.2 % of samples throughout Europe were within the legal limits under the EU legislation, which bears witness to an extremely rigorous and safe food production system.

Key recommendations

Members called on the Member States to:

- complete the implementation of the Directive without further delay;

- adhere to the established timelines for delivering revised NAPs and to deliver clear quantitative targets and a measurable overall objective of an immediate and long-term effective reduction in pesticide use;

- strictly follow the ban on imports of prohibited pesticides into the EU from third countries;

- move forward with the adoption and implementation of harmonised risk indicators as recently proposed by the Commission, in order to properly monitor the reduction impacts of pesticides;

The Commission is called on to:

- develop guidance on all the integrated pest management principles and their implementation;

- deliver on its commitment under the 7th Environment Action Programme to put forward a Union strategy for a non-toxic environment that is conducive to innovation and the development of sustainable substitutes, including non-chemical solutions;

- establish a fully operational and transparent system for the regular collection of statistical data on pesticide use, impacts of occupational and non-occupational exposure to pesticides on human and animal health, and presence of pesticide residues in the environment, especially in soil and water;

- set up a pan-European Platform on Sustainable Pesticides Use that would bring together sectorial stakeholders and representatives at local and regional level so as to facilitate information-sharing and exchange of best practices in reducing pesticides use;

- immediately prohibit the use of pesticides with active substances that are mutagenic, carcinogenic, or toxic for reproduction, or have endocrine-disrupting characteristics and are damaging to humans or animals;

- take a risk-based approach to the management and use of commonly used plant protection products that is justified by independent, peer-reviewed scientific evidence.

Members called on the Commission and the Member States to:

- place greater emphasis on the promotion of the development, research, registration and marketing of low-risk and biological alternatives, including by increasing funding opportunities within Horizon Europe and the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027;

- promote research programmes aimed at determining the impacts of pesticide use on human health, taking into account the full range of toxicological effects, including immunotoxicity, endocrine disruption and neurodevelopmental toxicity, and focusing on the effects of prenatal exposure to pesticides on children's health;

- no longer allow the use of PPPs in areas used by the general public or vulnerable groups;

- ensure that the 'polluter pays' principle is fully implemented and effectively enforced as regards the protection of water resources.

Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides

2017/2284(INI) - 12/02/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 546 votes to 79 with 36 abstentions a resolution on the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides.

National Actions Plans (NAPs)

Parliament noted that the Commission's 2017 progress report identifies significant gaps in the National Action Plans (NAPs) of Member States, suggesting a lower commitment to protecting the environment and health in some countries, possibly resulting in unfair market competition and an undermining of the single market. Members reserved the right to refer non-compliant Member States to the Commissioner for competition. They were concerned by the fact that the NAPs are inconsistent as regards the establishment of quantitative objectives, targets, measures and timetables for the various action areas, making it impossible to assess the progress made. They regretted that only five NAPs set high-level measurable targets, of which four relate to risk reduction and only one to use reduction. Only 11 Member States have produced a revised NAP to date, although the deadline for revision was the end of 2017.

Reduction of farm's dependency

Parliament stressed that the CAP in its current form does not sufficiently encourage and incentivise the reduction of farms' dependency on pesticides and the uptake of organic production techniques. Whilst specific policy instruments in the post-2020 CAP are required in order to help change farmers' behaviour as regards pesticide use, Parliament deplored the fact that the Commission proposal on the new post-2020 CAP does not incorporate the principle of integrated pest management (IPM) in the statutory management requirements of that proposal, stressing that lack of linkage between the directive and the new CAP model will effectively hamper the reduction of pesticide dependency. The resolution highlighted the need to fund agro-ecological methods that make the whole farming system more resilient to pests, noting that the best pesticide volume reductions are likely to arise from systemic changes that reduce susceptibility to pest attack, favour structural and biological diversity over monocultures and continuous cropping, and reduce pest resistance to active ingredients.

Members also noted that EFSA's latest report on pesticide residues in food showed that 97.2 % of samples throughout Europe were within the legal limits under the EU legislation, which bears witness to an extremely rigorous and safe food production system.

Key recommendations

Members called on the Member States to:

- adhere to the established timelines for delivering revised NAPs and to deliver clear quantitative targets and a measurable overall objective of an immediate and long-term effective reduction in pesticide use;

- strictly follow the ban on imports of prohibited pesticides into the EU from third countries, and to increase controls on imported food;

- move forward with the adoption and implementation of harmonised risk indicators as recently proposed by the Commission, in order to properly monitor the reduction impacts of pesticides;

The Commission is called on to:

- deliver on its commitment under the 7th Environment Action Programme to put forward a Union strategy for a non-toxic environment that is conducive to innovation and the development of sustainable substitutes, including non-chemical solutions;

- establish a system for the regular collection of statistical data on pesticide use, impacts of occupational and non-occupational exposure to pesticides on human and animal health, and presence of pesticide residues in the environment, especially in soil and water;

- set up a pan-European Platform on Sustainable Pesticides Use that would bring together sectorial stakeholders and representatives at local and regional level so as to facilitate information-sharing and exchange of best practices in reducing pesticides use;

- immediately prohibit the use of pesticides with active substances that are mutagenic, carcinogenic, or toxic for reproduction, or have endocrine-disrupting characteristics and are damaging to humans or animals;

- take a risk-based approach to the management and use of commonly used plant protection products that is justified by independent, peer-reviewed scientific evidence.

Members called on the Commission and the Member States to:

- place greater emphasis on the promotion of the development, research, registration and marketing of low-risk and biological alternatives, including by increasing funding opportunities within Horizon Europe and the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027;

- promote research programmes aimed at determining the impacts of pesticide use on human health, taking into account the full range of toxicological effects, including immunotoxicity, endocrine disruption and neurodevelopmental toxicity, and focusing on the effects of prenatal exposure to pesticides on children's health;

- no longer allow the use of PPPs in areas used by the general public or vulnerable groups;

- ensure that the 'polluter pays' principle is fully implemented and effectively enforced as regards the protection of water resources.

- place greater emphasis on further investment and research into the development and uptake of precision and digital farming technologies in order to render PPPs more efficient and thus significantly reduce pesticide dependency, as per the aims of the Directive.