



Brussels, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Expert Group on the  
Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides**

**Mandate**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The **Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides**<sup>1</sup> (hereafter "The Thematic Strategy") was adopted by the Commission on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006 as part of the Sixth Environmental Action Programme<sup>2</sup>. It aims to fill a legislative gap regarding the use-phase of pesticides at EU level through setting minimum rules for the use of pesticides in the Community, so as to reduce risks to human health and the environment from the use of pesticides.

The objectives of the Thematic Strategy are reflected in four major pieces of legislation, bundled together as a "Pesticides Package". The central instrument resulting from the Thematic Strategy is the new **Framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides**<sup>3</sup>, which includes most of the measures on the use-phase. In addition to the Framework Directive, three other pieces of legislation contain specific measures contributing to the objectives of the Thematic Strategy, notably the **Regulation on the placing of plant protection products on the market, revising Directive 91/414/EEC**<sup>4</sup>; the **Regulation concerning statistics on pesticides**<sup>5</sup>; and the **revision of the Machinery Directive**<sup>6</sup>.

The Thematic Strategy called for establishing a system of information exchange at Community level involving Member States and all other relevant stakeholders in order to continuously develop and update appropriate guidance, best practice and recommendations. Article 18 of the above-mentioned Framework Directive established the Expert Group on the Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (hereafter "the Expert Group") and its priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2006)373 final

<sup>2</sup> Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme. It sets out the framework for environmental policy-making in the European Union for the period 2002-2012 and outlines actions that need to be taken to achieve them.

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EC) N°1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides

<sup>6</sup> Directive 2009/127/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009

## **2. ROLE**

The Expert Group is established to facilitate the exchange of information and best practice in the field of sustainable use of pesticides and integrated pest management, to monitor the implementation of the measures proposed in the Thematic Strategy and to guide where required.

The Expert Group will cover key aspects related to the implementation of the Thematic Strategy unless they are covered by other existing groups or committees. Temporary ad hoc sub-groups may be formed to take forward the discussion on a particular issue. These subgroups will be reporting to the Expert Group at the end of their specific mission. The main topics where information can be exchanged with the Expert Group are: national action plans, integrated pest management, buffer zones, training, inspection of application equipment and indicators.

The Expert Group will assist the Commission by reviewing its future proposals and by developing guidance where necessary. The Expert Group may also be asked to help finding data to support any assessment needed by the Commission for supporting revision proposals.

With the establishment of the Expert Group the Commission aims to facilitate exchange of information between Member States, stakeholders and the Commission not only at the meetings, but also between the meetings through electronic mail and/or CIRCA.

The Expert Group will cooperate and exchange information with the Pesticide Statistics Expert Group established to assist the Commission in the implementation of the Regulation concerning statistics on pesticides.

## **3. MEMBERS**

Members of the Expert Group are pesticides experts from:

- (1) Member States;
- (2) The European Commission (Directorate-Generals Environment, Health and Consumers, Agriculture, Enterprise, Statistics, Research, Joint Research Centre);
- (3) Plant protection products industry;
- (4) Non-governmental organisations, like environmental and consumer organisations, organisation on integrated farming schemes as well as professional organisations like farmer trade unions, etc.;
- (5) International organisations (OECD, EPPO<sup>7</sup>, ...).

The maximum number of representatives for each of the countries/organisations listed above is two.

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<sup>7</sup> The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation

#### **4. CHAIR**

The European Commission chairs the Expert Group.

#### **5. SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

- Member States appoint a maximum of two representatives and communicate their decision to the Commission.
- Representatives from the "broader stakeholder community" defined under 3.3-3.5 above are selected by the European Commission based on their specific expertise, European geographical balance and representativeness of the stakeholders group as such and of the range of stakeholders mentioned in point 3 above. Stakeholders not yet included may send a request to the Commission who will take a decision taking into account the overall balance of the group.
- Any change in the appointment of the members should be communicated in due time.
- The Commission reserves its right to re-consider the participation of certain members if necessary.

#### **6. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings will be established by the Commission and published on the website.

#### **7. GENERAL INFORMATION RELATED TO PARTICIPATION**

##### **7.1. Meeting place and frequency of meetings**

The meetings will take place in Brussels at least once a year. According to specific needs additional meetings can be organised on request of the Commission or the Member States.

##### **7.2. Languages**

The working language will be primarily English. The European Commission does not foresee interpretation. It is therefore essential that members of the Expert Group can express their views adequately in English.

Working documents will be in English. A limited number of translated documents can be provided in selected cases when specific needs arise.

##### **7.3. Electronic Tools**

In addition to meetings, contacts by electronic mail can take place between the meetings.

Furthermore, the members will be able to communicate and exchange information through the CIRCA system. This system is an electronic repository and library that allows the Commission services and the members

of the Expert Group to communicate, share different types of documents, exchange views and data on the implementation of the Thematic Strategy.

The agenda of the meetings will be inspired on the most discussed topics on CIRCA.

#### **7.4. Geographical balance**

During the evaluation of applications the European Commission will take into account the need for a balanced geographical representation.

#### **7.5. Cost related to participation**

All participants are required to cover their own expenses related to their participation.

### **8. CONTACT INFORMATION AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

ENV-PESTICIDES@ec.europa.eu

### **9. PESTICIDES INTERNET SITE**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ppps/home.htm>

### **10. PESTICIDES CIRCA SITE – ELECTRONIC LIBRARY AND DISCUSSION SITE**

To be completed.

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