

**SHORT REPORT  
OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN  
AND ANIMAL HEALTH HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2003 IN BRUSSELS**

President : G. Del Bino

*All Member States were present.*

- 1 Examination and possible vote on a draft Commission Decision recognising in principle the completeness of the dossiers submitted for detailed examination in view of the possible inclusion of sulfuryl fluoride, bispyribac sodium and paecilomyces lilacinus in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant-protection products on the market (Sanco/10071/2003 rev1).**

*Vote: favourable opinion by unanimity.*

The Decision will allow Member States to grant provisional authorisations for a period of three years, until the review concerning Annex I inclusion is finalised.

- 2 Examination and possible vote on a draft Commission Decision allowing Member States to extend provisional authorisations granted for the new active substances iodosulfuron-methyl-sodium, indoxacarb, S-metholachlor, *Spodoptera exigua* nuclear polyhedrosis virus, tepraloxydim and dimethenamid-P (Sanco/10069/2003 rev4).**

*Vote: favourable opinion by qualified majority (4 votes against).*

The Decision allows Member States to maintain provisional authorisations for these substances for an additional period of two years, so that the review for Annex I inclusion can be finalised.

- 3 Examination and possible vote on a draft Commission Directive concerning the inclusion of propyzamide in Annex 1 to Council Directive 91/414/EEC (draft Directive Sanco/10507/2002 rev 3; draft review report 6502/VI/99-rev. 7)**

The Committee took note of the Review Report outlined in document 6502/VI/99-rev. 6).

The following declarations were made:

Commission: At the adoption of the Uniform Principles by Council in 1997, the Council and Commission agreed to the following declaration:

“The Council and the Commission note that application of this Directive is without prejudice to the legislation in force concerning the protection of workers. The Council and the Commission state that this principle will be unequivocally clarified in Directive 91/414/EEC on the occasion of the first amendment of that Directive. The Commission intends to submit a proposal for such amendment within one year from the date of notification of this Directive.”

*Vote : favourable opinion by qualified majority (3 votes against)*

**4 Examination and possible vote on a draft Commission Directive concerning the inclusion of propineb in Annex 1 to Council Directive 91/414/EEC (draft Directive Sanco/10504/2002 rev. 4; draft review report 7574/VI/97-rev.6)**

The Committee took note of the Review Report outlined in document 7574/VI/97-rev.6).

The following declarations were made:

Commission: Same declaration as for propyzamide.

Sweden: Inclusion of propineb in Annex I of Directive 91/414/EEC is to our view not in line with the precautionary principle. We are aware that there are different opinions whether it is possible to base the risk assessments on realistic conditions including improper use. However, by taking advantage of this weakness in the directive to allow for continuous use we also allow for particularly consumers to be subject to unacceptable risks from the use of propineb. It is from our point of view not a sustainable approach to leave to the farmers to comply with use restrictions aiming at a group of substances with similar properties and uses, such as the dithiocarbamates. Particularly recognising the difficulty in practice to limit the maximum number of applications for these substances.

*Vote : favourable opinion by qualified majority (4 votes against)*

**5 Examination and possible vote on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation 451/2000 and 1490/2002 (Sanco/10005/2003 rev1).**

*Vote : favourable opinion by qualified majority (3 votes abstain)*

The amendment is related to the provisions concerning fees in Regulation 451/2000 and 1490/2002.

**6 Examination of a Guidance document on the assessment of the relevance of metabolites in groundwater of substances regulated under Council Directive 91/414/EEC (Sanco/221/2000 –rev.10)**

The following declarations were made:

Denmark: The Danish delegation declares that Denmark can not take note of this guidance document. Further the Danish delegation declares that a decision on the Guidance document should be postponed until certain issues have been subject to a political debate in The Environment Council.

The background for this position is the following.

It is essential to Denmark that the ground water is protected against pollution. This guidance document will lead to approval of pesticides that give rise to metabolites that may pollute groundwater with up to 100 times the present limit value. As the limit value in the Drinking Water Directive refers to the concept “relevant metabolites” there will be a direct consequence for the quality of drinking water.

In our opinion this draft proposal will lead to a drastic change in and deterioration of the level of protection of groundwater and drinking water as well as springs, streams and lakes.

Denmark finds it extremely important that also in the future we will be able to maintain a high level of groundwater protection. The unique properties of groundwater in particular

warrant the use of the precautionary principle and thus the use of the limit value of 0.1 µg/l for all metabolites that are not inherently of no-concern.

Key principles are at stake in this matter. The Guidance document changes practice in the use of the 0.1 µg/l limit value, which the Council has made a political decision about. In our opinion major changes in the original intention and the level of protection should not be implemented in a technical guidance paper without having been raised politically for a discussion in the relevant fora.

Sweden: Sweden supports the wish of Denmark to postpone the submission of the document to the Standing Committee. However, Sweden generally supports the document and has no difficulty to take note of it.

Commission: This technical guidance document, on the assessment of the relevance of metabolites in groundwater, is intended to provide guidance for notifiers and Member States in the context of the review of active substances under Council Directive 91/414/EEC. It confirms the principle laid down in the Directive that active substances and relevant metabolites thereof must not exceed a limit value of 0.1 µg/l in groundwater. It further provides for a scientifically-based assessment scheme<sup>1</sup> to decide whether or not a degradation product is relevant.

It is intended that this guidance be used henceforth for substances reviewed under the Directive. The document identifies a consensus approach in regulatory decision-making concerning the inclusion of active substances in Annex I to the Directive. The Commission notes that the Guidance document is not legally binding. Neither the document itself nor its principles will force Member States to change their current practice in granting authorisations at national level. The document does not prejudice the authority of Member States in national authorisations, nor does it prejudice the application of other Community legislation, such as the Drinking Water Directive, in force.

This declaration is supported by France, Greece, Belgium, The United Kingdom, Finland, Luxembourg, Italy and Portugal.

The Netherlands: The Netherlands are pleased with the taking note of the document, which goes back to an initiative started by The Netherlands several years ago. Basic elements of this original proposal can still be found in the final text. The document should now be used and benefit from experience. The document will help to speed up decision making, which is urgently necessary.

Ireland, Spain and Portugal join The Netherlands in welcoming the document.

The Committee took note of the Guidance document.

## 7 Other business

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<sup>1</sup> The scientific approach used is based on the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants, adopted on 30 November 2000, on an earlier version of the relevant metabolites document (available on the Internet at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scp/out82\\_ppp\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scp/out82_ppp_en.html)). A second opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants, adopted on 17 December 2002 on the relevant metabolites document concluded, inter alia, that the envisaged level of protection of consumers achieved by the proposed approach is adequate and in line with the level of protection required by Council Directive 91/414/EEC. It is available at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scp/out139\\_ppp\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scp/out139_ppp_en.pdf) on the Internet

Germany raised the role of the European Food Safety Authority in the future review process. It is concerned that the planned organisation of the review of active substances under Directive 91/414/EEC may meet difficulties in practice. It can be foreseen that the review by the Food Authority will require more meetings and more participation by Member State experts. In addition, decision making in the workgroups of the Standing Committee will further draw on resources from Member States. The Commission should discuss these concerns with the authority and make further efforts to streamline the review processes and the collaboration between the Commission, the Member States and the European Food Safety Authority.

The measures on which the Committee has given its opinion are subject to the appropriate procedures for formal adoption by the Commission.

A CHECCHI LANG  
Director

## Liste des participants à joindre au compte-rendu succinct

Comité                      Comité permanent de la chaîne alimentaire et de la santé animale - Pesticides  
Date: 26 février 2003

Etat Membre	Ministère ou Organisme	Nombre de personnes
BE	Federal Service for Public Health and the Environment	1
DK	Danish EPA	1
DE	Bundesamt fuer Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit	1
EL	Ministry of Agriculture	1
ES	Ministerio de Agricultura	1
FR	Ministère de l'Agriculture	2
IRL	Pesticide Control Service	1
IT	Ministerio della Salute	1
L	Ministry of Agriculture – ASTA	1
NL	Ministerie LNV	1
A	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft	1
P	Ministry of Agriculture	1
FIN	Plant Production Inspection Centre	1
SV	National Chemicals Inspection	1
UK	Pesticides Safety Directorate	1
COM	European Commission	7