



Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014

## **NOTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FERTILISERS WORKING GROUP**

**Subject: Annotated agenda of the Fertilisers Working Group meeting of 07.03.2014**

### **Agenda point 1: adoption of the draft agenda**

No request for additional points has been received so far. Please note that a revised version of the draft is online since the beginning of March.

### **Agenda point 2: adoption of the draft minutes of the Fertiliser Working Group on 2 December 2013.**

ES made three minor comments to the draft minutes of the last Fertiliser Working group.

### **Agenda point 3a: application for the registration of glucoheptonic acid in the list of authorised complexing agents**

Glucoheptonic acid (GHA) is already accepted as complexing agent in Spain. The use of glucoheptonate salts for complexing micronutrients was developed in the USA more than 30 years ago. GHA is not commercialised in the acidic form but in the form of sodium glucoheptonate (Na GHA). Na GHA has been pre-registered in REACH and is not classified as dangerous substance under the CLP Regulation according to the applicant. However, a majority of notifiers under the CLP inventory have classified the substance Na GHA as skin and eye irritant category 2.

The development of a relevant EN standard will be financed by industry.

### **Agenda point 3b: follow-up discussion on synthetic wollastonite.**

The application was presented and discussed for the first time at the last FWG meeting (December 2013). Synthetic wollastonite is a by-product of the silicon metallurgy where quartz (the source of silicon) is mixed with Calcium Oxide in order to remove impurities, in particular boron. The material is already commercialised in Norway as a liming material. The applicant requests the registration of synthetic wollastonite in Table G.3 of Annex I but some Member States commented that the type designation is too specific and suggested a more generic approach. A new proposal will be presented during the meeting.

#### **Agenda point 4: presentation of the study ‘a legal framework for plant biostimulants and agronomic fertiliser additives’ by Arcadia**

In 2013, the Commission mandated a consultant to study existing regulatory framework and associated data requirements and procedures for similar materials in order to develop an appropriate set of data requirements as well as a efficient administration procedures for the envisaged EU registry on plant biostimulants and agronomic fertiliser additives. The consultant will present the results of its study.

#### **Agenda point 5: Revision of the Fertiliser Regulation - How to put fertilising materials on the EU market once the revised Fertiliser Regulation is adopted?**

Discussions in the last Fertiliser Working Group and Regulatory Committee have shown that there is a general lack of knowledge of the New Legal Framework (NLF – formerly called the New Approach).

The system is based on:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 which imposes clear obligation to Member States in terms of accreditation and market surveillance and consolidates the meaning of the CE marking;
- (2) Decision No 768/2008/EC which updates, harmonises and consolidates various technical requirements used in existing Union harmonised legislation: definitions, criteria for designation and notification of conformity assessment bodies, rules for the notification process, the conformity assessment procedures (modules), the safeguard clause, the responsibilities of the economic operators and traceability requirements.

All these different elements are interlinked, operate together and are complementary forming an EU quality chain. The quality of the products depends on the quality of the manufacturing process which in many instances is influenced by the quality of control carried out by internal or external bodies which depends on accreditation. The system depends also on the quality of market surveillance.

The objectives of the presentation are:

- to present the roles and obligations of economic operators under the NLF;
- to clarify how economic operators will demonstrate compliance with essential requirements
- to clarify the role of standards
- present a first draft of the essential safety and agronomic criteria

#### **Any other business**