

Reasoned opinion of the Riksdag

The Riksdag has examined whether the proposal from the Commission for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, (COM(2022) 305) conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity. The Riksdag considers that the proposal is in conflict with the principle of subsidiarity.

The reasons for the Riksdag's assessment are as follows.

Binding targets for an increase in the utilised agricultural area engaged in organic farming (Article 8.1.d.) are included in the proposed regulation. Such targets already exist at member-state level and the areas engaged in organic farming are increasing. Binding requirements at EU level can, therefore, not be regarded as compatible with the principle of subsidiarity.

The current proposal is intended to replace the Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides, and is aimed at reducing the risks and consequences of the use of pesticides on human health and the environment. The background to the proposed regulation includes the fact that weaknesses have been noted in the implementation, application and enforcement of the Directive. The Riksdag notes that the proposal contains new requirements pertaining to registration of many different types of data and the establishment of new electronic registers, and that the provisions concerning the crop-specific rules are highly detailed.

The Riksdag's assessment is, furthermore, that the proposal in its current form as regards the rules concerning the various registers and the crop-specific provisions would mean a level of detail for Swedish agriculture that goes beyond what is necessary to achieve the set objectives. These parts of the proposal are thus not compliant with the principle of proportionality.