

Potential impacts on the food industry

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choice

25

National
Federations

2 OUT OF 25

Observers

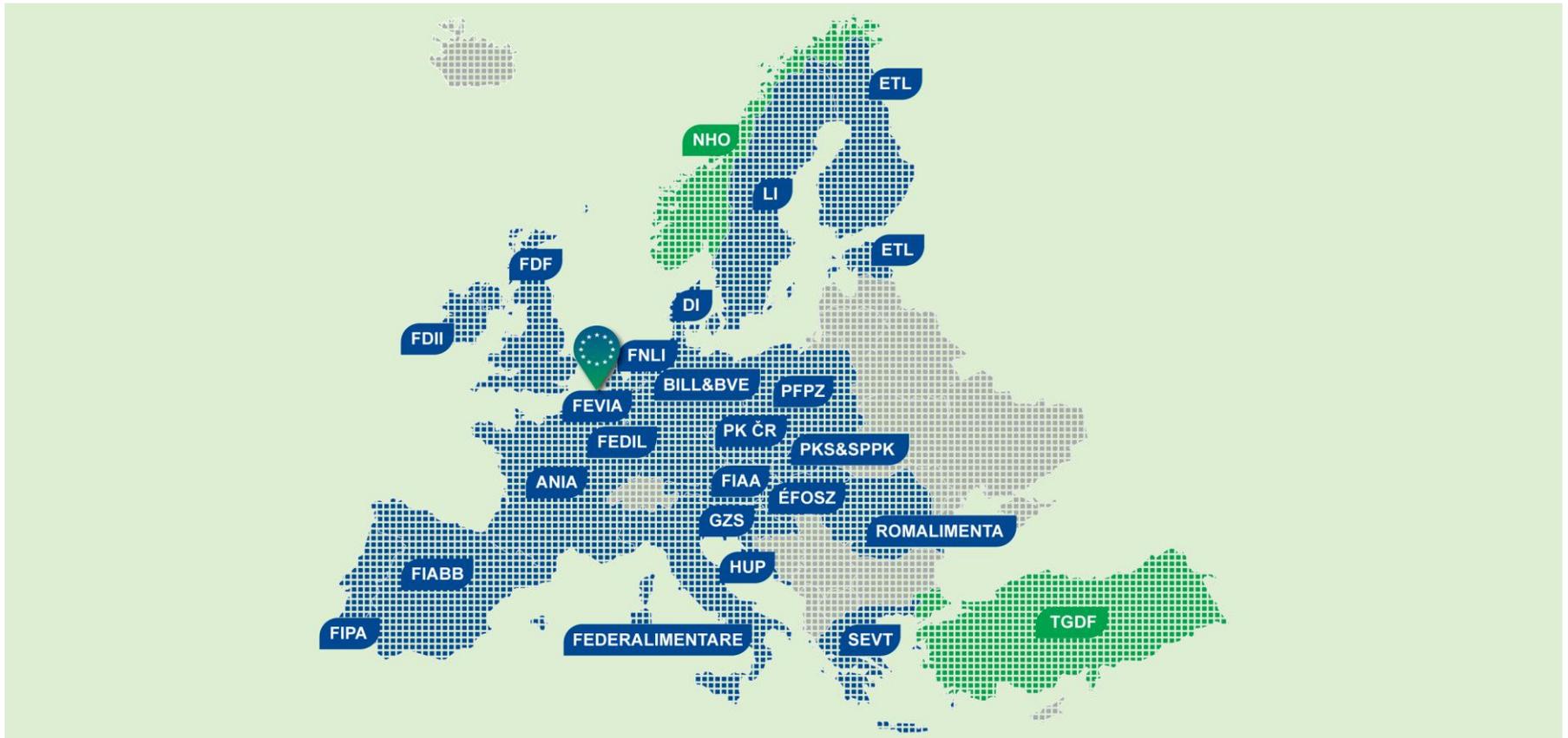
25



European Sector
Associations

20

Large
companies



Europe's Food & Drink Industry

286 000
companies

4.2 million
employees

Eur 1 048 billion
turnover

99% SMEs

1.8% of EU GVA

Food Safety

- A pre-requisite which protects consumer health
 - History suggests that the supply of safe food will always represent a challenge to society, anticipation can be improved and responses can be quickened and strengthened but there will always be surprises
 - The dimensions of the real risks which foods represent and those which the consumer perceives can converge when the consumer is better educated and informed

Are EDCs regulated?

- Chemicals are regulated on the basis of their adverse effects, regardless of the underlying mode of action.
- Endocrine disruption is a mode of action, and the adverse effects that could result from this mode of action are regulated through different legal texts in Europe

The Criteria discussion

- FoodDrinkEurope welcomes the discussion and ongoing effort to define the criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors in the context of the implementation of the plant protection product regulation and the biocidal products regulation.

EFSA Scientific Opinion on the hazard assessment of endocrine disruptors

(...) Furthermore, to inform on risk and level of concern for the purpose of risk management decisions it is the opinion of the SC that risk assessment (taking into account hazard and exposure data/predictions) makes best use of available information. EDCs can therefore be treated like most other substances of concern for human health and the environment, i.e. be subject to risk assessment and not only to hazard assessment (...)

EFSA Scientific Committee; Scientific Opinion on the hazard assessment of endocrine disruptors: scientific criteria for identification of endocrine disruptors and appropriateness of existing test methods for assessing effects mediated by these substances on human health and the environment. EFSA Journal 2013;11(3):3132.

Endocrine Active Substances

- Endocrine active substances (EAS) are substances having the inherent ability to interact or interfere with one or more components of the endocrine system resulting in a biological effect, but need not necessarily cause adverse effects'. (EFSA, 2010; 2013).
- More than a thousand natural or synthetic substances have been found to be positive in screening assays and to possess weak hormone-like activities without causing actual toxicity at the individual or the population level (Nohynek et al 2013).
- If EASs have not been demonstrated to lead to adverse effects in intact organisms, they cannot be described as EDCs.

Potential impacts on food industry

- The impact is difficult to quantify without knowing the criteria that will be used for the identification and classification of endocrine disruptors.
- Currently we can only identify some potential impacts resulting from the possible ban of specific plant protection products and biocides.

Potential impact of a ban of certain plant protection products for food production

- Consumers rely on the availability of high quality and safe food, therefore food producers need high quality and safe agricultural raw material from both Europe and third countries, produced in a sustainable manner
 - What would be the impact if some plant protection products would not be available any longer?
 - Are there suitable plant protection products available to remain efficient?
 - Can we cope with effects of climate change if for example some fungicides would no longer be available?

The use of biocides in food processing

Why are biocides used by Food industry?

- Cleaning
- Sanitation
- Disinfection
- To ensure food safety and maintenance of the hygienic status of the food

Potential impact of a ban of certain biocides for food processing

In the light of the expected impact from climate change on the hygienic status of the raw material it is important to answer the following questions:

- Can we maintain the necessary level of food safety if some of the biocides would be banned?
- Are replacement comparable substances efficient?



Thank you for your attention

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