

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Public Consultation on the Revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Prepared By: Tania Debelder

Approved By: Elisa Fertig

Report Highlights:

The European Commission launched a public consultation in January on its upcoming revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD). The rules encourage reducing pesticides through integrated pest management and alternatives to chemical pesticides. The SUD is also seen as a crucial tool to achieving the targets outlined in the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy. The public consultation is open until April 12, 2021.

General Information:

On January 18, 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation for the revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) as part of a broader consultation strategy, including stakeholder surveys designed to collect the views of stakeholder organizations and Member State Authorities. The revision of the SUD will address the limited effectiveness of the SUD in reducing pesticide use and potential risks to human health and the environment across Member States. The SUD sets objectives at the EU level to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides, but lets the Member States design and define the actions and methods to achieve the objectives, while taking into consideration the specific needs of each Member State. Various data and reports demonstrate shortcomings in the implementation, application, and enforcement of the Directive across Member States. The Commission is planning a revision of the legislation to address the identified problems. This is in line with the ambitions under the Commission's Green Deal to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides.

The public consultation aims to collect the views of EU citizens and relevant stakeholders on the EU legislation on the use of pesticides for agricultural and non-agricultural use as well as by professional and non-professional users. Relevant stakeholders that will be consulted include, but are not restricted to, farmers and contractors applying pesticides, non-agricultural users of pesticides, health and environmental NGOs, professional associations representing industry and economic actors in relevant sectors (e.g. beekeepers, chemical, pesticide application equipment and seed industries etc.), consumer associations, EU citizens, national competent authorities, foreign governments, and scientific experts.

U.S. Stakeholders who would like to comment can do so at the following page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12413-Sustainable-use-of-pesticides-revision-of-the-EU-rules>

The deadline for input is midnight on April 12, 2021 or 12:00 a.m. Brussels (Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on April 13, 2021. All comments provided through this consultation process may be released as public information. The questionnaire consists of two sections: the first one focusing on a general view concerning the use of pesticides/plant protection products and the second one is an introduction to specific policy options regarding the implementation of the SUD. The questionnaire should only be completed once. The revised SUD legislative proposal is scheduled to be ready by the first quarter of 2022.

Useful Links:

- [COMBINED EVALUATION ROADMAP / INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT](#) for revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive
- [Directive 2009/128/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009, establishing a framework to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides
- [Commission Directive \(EU\) 2019/782](#) amending Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the establishment of harmonized risk indicators
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1185/2009](#) concerning statistics on pesticides
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1107/2009](#) concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market

Background Information:

What is a pesticide? A pesticide is a product that prevents, destroys, or controls a harmful organism (the ‘pest’) or disease. The most important part of a pesticide is the active substance. Pesticides can be chemicals or microorganisms. They are further classified into categories depending on their hazard to health and the environment.

How is pesticide use controlled at the EU level? Pesticides (plant protection products) are used against plant pests, plant diseases, and for weed control mainly in agriculture but also in forestry and green urban areas. Since pesticides can have harmful effects on the environment and on human health, they are strictly regulated at the EU level through “*DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC, establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides,*” also named the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD).

The EU Member States are involved in implementing the rules of the SUD. The Directive sets the general objectives, while the Member States transpose them into national quantitative objectives, targets, measures, and timetables via their National Action Plans. The European Commission established harmonized risk indicators that are used by Member States for risk management at the national level. The Commission evaluates progress on the objectives based on national reporting on these indicators.

The [2020 implementation report](#) prepared by the Commission found significant shortcomings in the implementation, application, and enforcement of various elements of the SUD by Member States. In view of established deficiencies and in line with the ambitions under the Commission’s Green Deal to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides, the Commission is planning a revision of SUD to address its limited effectiveness. The Commission will base its revision on a [back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment](#).

This Public Consultation is part of a broader [consultation strategy](#), which includes stakeholder surveys designed to collect the views of stakeholder organizations and Member State Authorities. Further information on the consultation strategy, as well as links to the stakeholders surveys, can be found on a [dedicated website](#) of the European Union. The responses will be taken into consideration in preparation of a Staff Working Document, written by the European Commission, presenting the results of the back-to-back assessment.

Attachments:

No Attachments.