

«CDG ARABLE CROPS – TOBACCO AND COTTON SECTORS»**13/05/16****Information on the status of the proposed regulation to extend the use of the herbicide glyphosate for 15 years**

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The EU Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee), where all 28 Member States are represented, will discuss on 18th-19th May the possible renewal of glyphosate (an active substance for herbicides). The Commission services and the Member States have been discussing extensively how to move forward on this issue.

The Commission services have made a new draft text for discussion available to Member States ahead of the May Committee meeting. The new draft takes into account comments received from Member States following the last Committee meeting in March as well as of the EP resolution voted mid-April.

The Commission proposes a renewal of 9 years, thus less than legally possible, because additional scientific elements become available faster for glyphosate compared to other substances. Glyphosate is probably the most studied active substance in the world. Moreover, several Member States indicated their preference for a shorter approval period and the European Parliament was in favour – via the adoption of a legally non-binding resolution - of a 7-year renewal.

The common agreement remains that the attention must be focused on co-formulants. The Commission draft text maintains the proposal to ban the co-formulant POE-tallowamine from glyphosate-containing pesticides.

Additional scientific evaluations on glyphosate are expected in the future, for example by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). If the ongoing ECHA evaluation leads to a classification relevant for the approval of the active substance, the Commission will review the approval. The current approval of glyphosate expires on 30 June 2016; a decision on renewal has to be taken before that date according to EU legislation.

The effects on biodiversity are now highlighted as an issue to which Member States should pay particular attention during the assessment of plant protection products containing glyphosate. Several Member States indicated that this topic should receive stronger emphasis in the draft text. Also, the Commission considered it appropriate to underline in the draft text the principles of integrated pest management and the need to reduce the use of pesticides, both in general terms, and in sensitive areas. Such issues are not specific to glyphosate.