

CDG on HORTICULTURE, OLIVES AND SPIRITS**OLIVES Sector**05-06-15

On the request of the US, pesticides were added to the TTIP agenda and are discussed under the overall heading of Regulatory Coherence. The US has put forward a number of topics for discussion, in particular to improve the co-operation at international level (such as CODEX or OECD), to align approval processes for pesticides including the setting of maximum residue levels (MRLs), and to share work in the risk assessment phase. The Commission (DG SANTE and DG TRADE) has suggested discussing (1) the US approach on the setting of MRLs established under CODEX, (2) the US zero-tolerance policy as regards residues of non-authorised pesticides, and (3) the possibility to agree on pre-export checks in the EU for specific high value commodities.

To date, little progress has been achieved in the discussions. The potential as regards the alignment of and work sharing in the approval processes of pesticides is limited, as EU and US have to respect their legal timeframes. In addition, Member States seem reluctant to continue investing additional resources into the work sharing process which so far only increased their workload. Nonetheless, the Commission continues the discussions at technical level, aiming for a constructive engagement of the US on the topics of interest.