

CDG on HOS – F&V sector

16/-2-17

Dimethoate

During the Standing Committee on pesticides residues of 28 April 2016 the Member States agreed that the approval of the active substance dimethoate and the MRLs should be addressed under the regular procedures for the renewal of the active substance and the MRL review, which will also allow taking into account the new data that were not available to EFSA at the moment the statement was drafted. Because these processes will only be finalised in 2018 and 2020 respectively, and in view of the need to get a better view on potential health risks, a prioritised MRL review was requested from EFSA that would also take into account all the currently available metabolism and residue trial data. The EFSA opinion on the prioritised MRL review was published on 28 November 2016. As EFSA did not consider in this review the new information that was submitted under the process for renewal of the active substance, it was not able to conclude whether metabolites other than omethoate could be of toxicological relevance. However it was able to propose for most commodities tentative MRLs for dimethoate and omethoate for which no risk for consumers was identified. The EU MRLs can now be amended in line with the EFSA recommendations, which could help to avoid further trade problems. A Regulation, amending the MRLs, will be presented for vote during the PAFF Committee on pesticides residues of 16 and 17 February 2017.

The new MRLs were notified via the WTO-SPS system on 14 December 2016 with a commenting deadline of 11 February 2017.

Chlorate

As the issue of chlorate residues in food and drinking water concerns different policy areas (food hygiene, drinking water, food for infants and young children and pesticides residues), the Cabinet of Commissioner Andriukaitis considered that it should be discussed at a more political level with Member States, not only restricted to pesticides experts. It would be the intention to discuss in such meeting the general actions that would need to be taken in the different areas. Once the general way forward would be clear, the discussion on specific MRLs could be taken up again in the PAFF Committee on pesticides residues. Currently internal discussions are still ongoing on the most appropriate forum for such general discussion.