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Pesticides Update
Last updated in January 2012
Latest Developments
Overall assessment of Pesticide developments and impact on golf in Q4 2011: In 2011, Member states continued to focus on developing their pesticide national action plans. Even though there was no legislative update, MEPs have asked a number of Parliamentary questions to the Commission on the impact of pesticides on bees and water. In particular, the bees extinction debate has picked up momentum in Brussels and continues to be an important issue when discussing biodiversity loss and pesticides. On 15 November, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Romanian Socialist, Csaba Tabajdi, urged the European Parliament to allocate additional funding to the beekeeping sector, to support research and development, and to enforce regulations on pesticides. According to MEP Csaba Tabajdi the sector requires more rigorous comparable data on the number of hives, beekeepers and colony losses in the EU. Link: http://www.socialistgroup.org/gpes/public/detail.htm?id=136303&request_locale=EN&section=NER&category=NEWS On 8 December, the outcome of a study conducted at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig was published and indicated that pesticide contamination of waterways in Europe will increase in the next decades. This conclusion supports the Commission's proposals for the next Common Agriculture Policy which aims to introduce "greener" practices and decrease the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Link: http://www.euractiv.com/cap/study-warns-worsening-pesticide-pollution-news-509529
Impact for golf management
• Affect the range of pesticides available, but also ensure that all pesticides on the EU market will be compatible for environment and health.
Background
Last update July 2011 Overall assessment of pesticides developments and impact on golf in Q2 2011: <i>At the moment most activities related to pesticides are focused at national level. Member States are working on the implementation of the NAPs – National Action Plans – to reduce the use of pesticides to the minimum necessary in accordance with the EU Directive on Sustainable use of pesticides. It would therefore be important for the EGA GCC to engage with the relevant officials at national level to promote a sustainable approach to golf and avoid unnecessary restrictions of the use of plant protection products.</i>

On 11 June, the new pesticide approval regime was published in the EU Official Journal. The new rules were set out in the 2009 pesticides Regulation but did not apply until the Commission transposed the list of active substances that can be placed on the European market (Annex 1).

This new regulatory framework applies from 14 June 2011. It allows a tougher control for granting authorisations, with a shift away from risk-based assessment to hazard-based criteria. It also establishes a system of 'cut-off' criteria to be used in pesticide authorizations. In particular, the new Regulation sets up deeper controls on neurotoxic and immunotoxic and endocrine disrupters, and a ban on active ingredients that are carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMRs) and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBTs).

NGOs welcomed the publication of the new rules and urged the Commission to ensure that the new hazard-based approach is not eroded.

[Pesticides Regulation of 2009](#)

Please find the links to the Official Journal entries [L153](#) and [L155](#) here.

In March, the NGO Health and Environment Alliance published a guide on pesticide reduction for communities in advance of the Week for Pesticides Alternatives, which took place from 20-30 March 2011. The guide is based on the NGO's experiences in the field of pesticides and health campaigns.

[6 Steps to pesticide reduction: A guide for communities](#) and [Webpage of the Week for Pesticides Alternatives](#)

Last updated on January 2011

On 26 November, Conservative Italian MEP Oreste Rossi submitted a parliamentary question to the Commission on the pesticides' alternative methods. Mr Rossi stated that a new method for fighting rise pests by using pheromones has been adopted by Indian cultivators who now only use 2% of the amount of pesticide originally used. In light of this, Mr Rossi asked the Commission whether it was considering providing support for the development and use of alternatives to pesticides in the EU.

[MEP Question on pesticides and alternative methods](#)

On 21 October, NGO HEAL (Health and Environment Alliance) launched a website to strengthen the impact of its Sick of Pesticides campaign. The campaign, launched in 2008, aims to raise public awareness that reducing pesticide use could help reduce cancer rates in Europe, encourage pesticide-free public spaces, and support countries in the setting up of national action plans for pesticide use reduction by 2012 in accordance with EU regulations. The multi-language website versions reflect the country groups most active in the campaign at national level: Belgium, France, Hungary and the Netherlands. The first meeting of the groups responsible for carrying out activities in the partner countries took place on 30 November 2010. HEAL closely collaborates with Pesticide Action Network PAN UK and PAN Europe.

[Sick of Pesticides campaign website](#) and [HEAL press release on website launch](#)

Last updated on October 2009

On 24 September, the Council officially adopted the two new pieces of legislation for EU plant protection products. The new legislation will set out the rules for authorisation of plant protection products as well as help leading to a better protection of agricultural production.

The new legislation confirms the high level of protection of human health and the environment while at the same time harmonising further the availability of plant protection products. Moreover, it will facilitate innovation by establishing clear criteria for approval of substances to be used in plant protection products favouring at the same time an open and competitive market for plant protection products in the European Union.

The new Regulation for placing plant protection products on the market will enter into force later this year and will become fully applicable as from 18 months following the date of publication. The framework directive for sustainable use of pesticides will enter into force the day after publication in the Official Journal.

The final wording of the framework directive regarding the use of pesticides in sensitive areas including sports grounds reflects the needs conveyed the golf sector. Please find below the final version of the relevant article.

Article 12

Reduction of pesticide use or risks in specific areas

Member States shall, having due regard for the necessary hygiene and public health requirements and biodiversity, or the results of relevant risk assessments, ensure that the use of pesticides is minimised or prohibited in certain specific areas. Appropriate risk management measures shall be taken and the use of low-risk plant protection products as defined in Regulation (EC) No .../...+ and biological control measures shall be considered in the first place. The specific areas in question are:

- (a) areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No .../...+, such as public parks and gardens, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and children's playgrounds and in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities;*

[Directive establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides](#)
[Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market](#)

For more information, please visit:

[European Commission on plant protection](#)

[European Commission press release](#)

Links

Link to the Environment Council press release announcing the adoption of the Council position on the Biocidal Products Regulation:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/118635.pdf

Link to the text of the political agreement on the Biocidal Products Regulation:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st17/st17474-ad01.en10.pdf>

Link to the website of the campaign Sick of Pesticides:

<http://www.pesticidescancer.eu/>