Many thanks for the information, Sabina. It’s good to know, I guess, that the Member States made the decision with their eyes open. Gives us a better idea of the scope of the problem. I hope we can get some information on the vote.

Craig

Hi Craig,
Thank you for sharing this update so quickly. Just to follow up and let you know that I worked with our FAS Member State network to inform them of the issues in advance of the ScoPAFF vote; this is disappointing but not unexpected news.

Best,
Sabina

Sabina Neumann
Senior Trade Advisor
Plant Division | Trade Policy and Geographic Affairs
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
Cell: Exemption 6
Exemption 6 usda.gov

From: Craig Thorn <dtbassociates.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Julie Callahan <Julie_E_Callahan@ustr.eop.gov>; Ahern, Robert <Robert.G.Ahern@ustr.eop.gov>; Neumann, Sabina - TFAA-FAS, Washington, DC <usda.gov>
Cc: Ben Conner <dtb-agritrade.com>; Molly O’Connor <croplifeamerica.org>
Subject: [External Email]FW: FOR INFO: SCOPAFF voted in support of EC’s proposal on environmental factor

Bad news from Brussels.

From: Wibke Meyer <croplife.org>
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 10:45 AM
To: CP MRL & Trade Task Force @croplife.org>
Subject: FW: FOR INFO: SCOPAFF voted in support of EC’s proposal on environmental factor

Dear all,
Please see below Lukasz message: the SCoPAFF has voted in support of the draft regulation.
Dear Colleagues,

FOR INFO: We just received information that SCOPAFF voted in support of EC’s proposal on environmental factor. Please see below.

We will be informing our partners and have discussions with journalists in the next couple of days in Brussels.

A special Thank you to EAN colleagues who supported our outreach in the last weeks.


Deepl translation:
Today, Member States supported the Commission’s proposal to lower the maximum residue limits (MRLs) of two neonicotinoid pesticides known to have adverse effects on bees. Evaluations by the European Food Safety Agency show that clothianidin and thiamethoxam pose a high risk to pollinators. For this reason, their outdoor use had already been banned in the EU in 2018. For food and feed imports, the new rules will lower the existing maximum residue limits for these substances to the lowest level that can be measured with the latest technology. The rules are expected to be adopted by early next year. Food operators and third countries will have sufficient time to adapt to the
new rules. The new MRLs will apply to food produced in the EU - where the threshold is already very low - and to food imported from third countries.

Health and Food Safety Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said: "This is the first time we are lowering MRLs to take into account the impact of active substances on the environment that can have global consequences. This is an important step in our work under the 'farm to table strategy'. Given their negative impact on pollinators around the world, including bees, the use of these two neonicotinoids has already been stopped in the EU. Today, we are taking another step forward, contributing to the transition to sustainable food systems, also on the global stage. Once the rules approved today are in place, imported products will no longer be able to contain residues of these two neonicotinoids."

The regulation will put into practice the Commission’s objectives, announced in the Green Pact for Europe and the Farm to Table strategy, and will take into account environmental aspects when assessing applications for import tolerances for pesticides that are no longer allowed in the EU, while respecting World Trade Organization (WTO) standards and obligations. After consultation with WTO members, the Commission’s proposal was submitted to the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, where it was supported by a qualified majority of Member States. The regulation will be submitted to the Council and the Parliament, which have two months to react. If there are no objections from the two institutions, the regulation will be adopted in early 2023.

Kind regards,

Łukasz Woźniacki  (He/Him)
Senior Manager Trade & Anti-counterfeit

Tel.: +32 2 663 15 50 (reception)
Mob. [Exemption 6]

CropLife Europe, aisbl
9 Rue Guimard, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

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ID No.0711826572-26
VAT: BE 0447 618 871
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