



A depleting toolbox

**The EU policy Omnibus update:
Need for simplification and
competitiveness**

Euroblight workshop Ourense 2026

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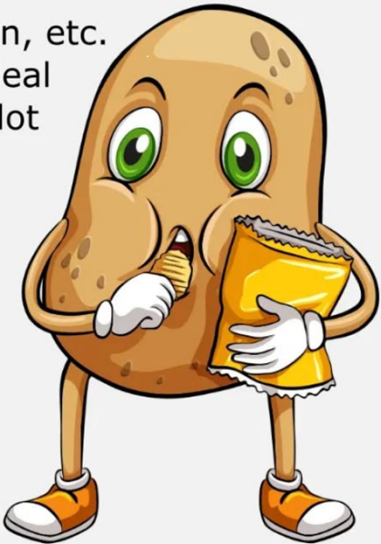
Crop Protection an example of a Hot Potato, at what cost...?


Policy change required to support growers to ensure the control late blight and EU food security

HOT POTATO

Meaning:
a problem, situation, etc.
that is difficult to deal
with and causes a lot
of disagreement

Example:
The issue has
become a political
hot potato.

A cartoon illustration of a brown potato with a face, arms, and legs. It is wearing orange sneakers and is eating a yellow potato chip from a bag. The potato has a surprised or happy expression.

The logo for Rapid English, featuring a blue stylized wave above the text 'RAPID ENGLISH' in blue capital letters.

Source: Rapid English



Agenda

EU Policy Development

A Depleting toolbox

Simplification and competitiveness



EU Policy development





Timeline



Commission Von Der Leyen I

Start Covid

Russian Invasion Ukraine

Commission Von Der Leyen II

Omnibus IV (Q4) on simplification

Next Commission



European Green Deal (121119)

Farm to Fork Strategy (200520)

Farmers protests

Strategic Dialogue (240904)

Policy proposals Vision for Agriculture and Food (Simplification)

A Vision for Agriculture and Food (250219)

European Board on Agriculture and Food (EBAF) (240125)





Farm to Fork

2030 targets

55%
Overall GHG
reduction by
2030

Reduction of
more
hazardous
pesticides use
by **50%**

25% of
agricultural
land under
organic by
2030

50%
reduction in
sales of
antimicrobials

50%
reduction of
nutrient
losses

Reduction of
pesticide use
and risk by
50%

20%
reduction of
the use of
fertilizer

10%
space for
nature



Green Deal Organic farming – high risk, low yield, low income

Lack of resilience limit contribution of organic farming to food and nutritional security

Green Deal ambition: Organic Farming practice



Date: 9th July 2024 – Yield forecast < 15 ton / ha

ICM – IPM Sustainable Farming practice



Date: 9th July 2024 – Yield forecast > 60 ton / ha

Source: Netherlands July 2024



From the Farm to Fork strategy...

...to the Vision for Agriculture

Farm to Fork Strategy

Vision for Agriculture and Food



Overregulation

- // **Regulations** as key lever to achieve policy objectives



Environmental focus

- // Focused on **environmental dimension** of sustainability
- // **Pesticides reduction** as core element



Prescriptive one-size-fits-all

- // **Prescribing** farmers what practices to follow / not follow
- // **One-size-fits-all** approach to farming



Sidelining industry

- // **Excluding stakeholders**, especially industry, from decision-making



Simplification & innovation

- // **Simplification** of the regulatory framework and **innovation** as key drivers



Sustainability across all three pillars

- // Sustainability expressed across **social, economic and environmental** dimensions
- // Recognition of the **importance of pesticides to ensure food sovereignty and security** and the threats of a depleting toolbox



Incentivizing outcomes

- // Incentivizing and remunerating sustainability outcomes while giving farmers **flexibility** to design best practices
- // Respecting **diversity of EU agriculture** and promoting **tailored approach** to farming



Consulting stakeholders

- // New way of working based on **trust and dialogue** across entire agri-food system
- // Industry stakeholders are well represented in **advisory body (EBAF)**



Farmers toolbox – Vision for Agriculture and Food

Acknowledgement of the importance of farmers access to tools and practices



Seeds. Conclude on the **new genomic techniques (NGTs) file as soon as possible.**

Chemical pesticides. **Carefully consider a ban on pesticides if no viable alternatives are available**, unless there is a threat to human health or the environment.

Biologicals. **Regulatory proposal end 2025 to accelerate access of biopesticides** to the market through **fast-track procedure** and **provisional authorisation** at national level. Additional resources for the European Food Safety Authority (**EFSA**).

Digital. Development of an **EU digital strategy** for Europe including ensuring **connectivity**, investment in **training** in digital skills and **advice** and encouraging **testing** and **adoption**.

Trade. Ensure **coherence between EUs trade and sustainability policy**, encouraging **reciprocity**: meaning EU import rules (pesticide, welfare, environment) should be enforced equivalently in third-country imports. Also export ban for pesticides is mentioned.

A depleting crop protection Toolbox





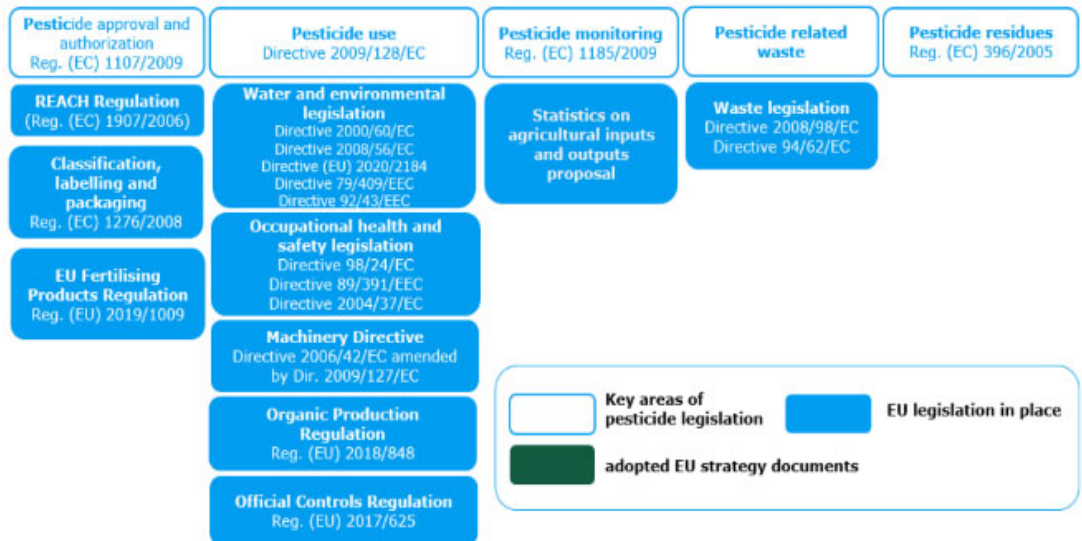
The farmers CP toolbox is depleting rapidly

Hazard-based regulation and complexity in the environmental risk assessment

RISK = HAZARD X EXPOSURE



Cumulation of regulations



1 ng/kg



1 mm

25 x





EU very strict regulation based on precautionary principle

Additional new legislation connected to Farm to Fork initiated





Chemical substances lost since 2018: > 100 actives



1. Acibenzolar-S-methyl	21. Chlorpyrifos-methyl	41. Ethoprophos	61. Ipconazole	83. Profoxydim
2. Alpha-cypermethrin	22. Chlorsulfuron	42. Etridiazole	62. Isopyrazam	84. Propiconazole
3. Asulam sodium	23. Chromafenozide	43. Famoxadone	63. Linuron	85. Propineb
4. Azimsulfuron	24. Clofentezine	44. Fenamidone	64. Lufenuron	86. Pyridalyl
5. Bacillus pumilus	25. Clothianidin	45. Fenamiphos	65. Malathion	87. Quinoxifen
6. Benalaxyl	26. Cyproconazole	46. Fenbuconazole	66. Mancozeb	88. S-metolachlor
7. Benfluralin	27. Cyromazine	47. Fenoxycarb	67. Mepanyprim	89. Spinetoram
8. Benthialdicarb	28. Denathionumbenzoate	48. Fenpyrazamine	68. Meptyldinocap	90. Spirodiclofen
9. Beta-cyfluthrin	29. Desmedipham	49. Flubendiamide	69. Metaflumizone	91. Spiromesifen
10. Bifenthrin	30. Dichlopropene	50. Fludioxonil	70. Methiocarb	92. Spirotetramat
11. Bispyribac	31. Diethofencarb	51. Flufenacet	71. Methomyl	93. Thiram
12. Bromadiolone	32. Difenacoum	52. Flumetralin	72. Metiram	94. Thiacloprid
13. Bromoxynil	33. Diflubenzuron	53. Fluquinconazole	73. Metosulam	95. Thiametoxam
14. Buprofezin	34. Dimethoate	54. Flurtamone	74. Metribuzin	96. Thiophanate-methyl
15. Carbetamide	35. Dimethomorph	55. Flutolanil	75. Myclobutanil	97. Triadimenol
16. Carboxin	36. Dimoxystrobin	56. Flutriafol	76. Oryzalin	98. Triazoxide
17. Chloropicrin	37. Diuron	57. Gamma-cyhalothrin	77. Oxamyl	99. Triflumizole
18. Chlorothalonil	38. Dodemorph	58. Haloxyfop-P	78. Pencycuron	100. Triflumuron
19. Chlorpropham	39. Epoxiconazole	59. Imidacloprid	79. Penflufen	101. Triflusaluron
20. Chlorpyrifos	40. Ethametsulfuron-methyl	60. Indoxacarb	80. Penthiopyrad	102. Tritosulfuron
			81. Phosmet	103. Zeta-cypermethrin
			82. Prochloraz	



Chemical substances lost since 2018: 35 actives in potato



- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Acibenzolar-S-methyl | 21. Chlorpyrifos-methyl | 41. Ethoprophos | 61. Ipconazole | 83. Profoxydim |
| 2. Alpha-cypermethrin | 22. Chlorsulfuron | 42. Etriadiazole | 62. Isopyrazam | 84. Propiconazole |
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| 14. Buprofezin | 34. Dimethoate | 54. Flurtamone | 74. Metribuzin | 96. Thiophanate-methyl |
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| | | | 82. Prochloraz | |



Anticipated restrictions late blight fungicides under EU review

(time period 2026 -2028)

Another > 10 key active ingredients to be restricted and/or banned in Europe

FRAC - coding	Common name	Phytophthora sensitivity	Mode of action
11	azoxystrobin	sensitive	QoI
21	amisulbrom	sensitive	Qil
	cyazofamid		
27	cymoxanil	sensitive	c.a. oxime
28	propamocarb HCL	sensitive	phospholipid synthesis
29	fluazinam	(resistance detected)	uncoupler
40	mandipropamid	(resistance detected)	CAA
43	fluopicolide	sensitive	vacuole ATP-ase inhibitor
45	ametoctradin	sensitive	QoSI
49	oxathiapiprolin	(resistance detected)	OSBPI
P07	phosphonates	sensitive	Host plant defence induction

 Under review

 Review completed

- Backbone of European fungicide control strategy to be strongly reduced
- Effective fungicide resistance management not any more possible (< 5 FRAC groups)

Potato production without effective crop protection solutions

Phytophthora damage in potatoes, yield < 15 tons / ha

High risk, low income: economic not viable

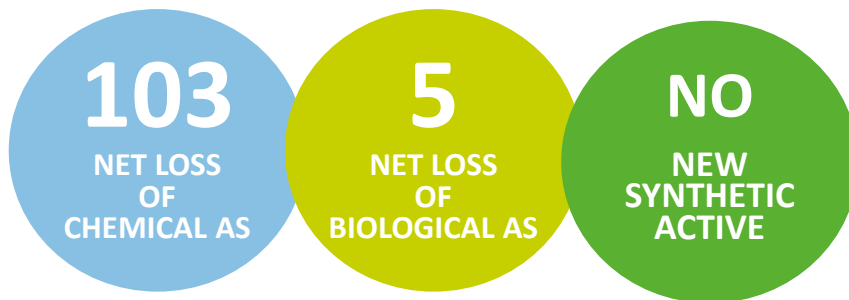
Source: Netherlands July 2024



The crop protection toolbox in EU



- During the 80' – 00' uptil 10 new active substance / year
- Even for biological substances the balance is negative
- Some active substances are already 10 years blocked in the system



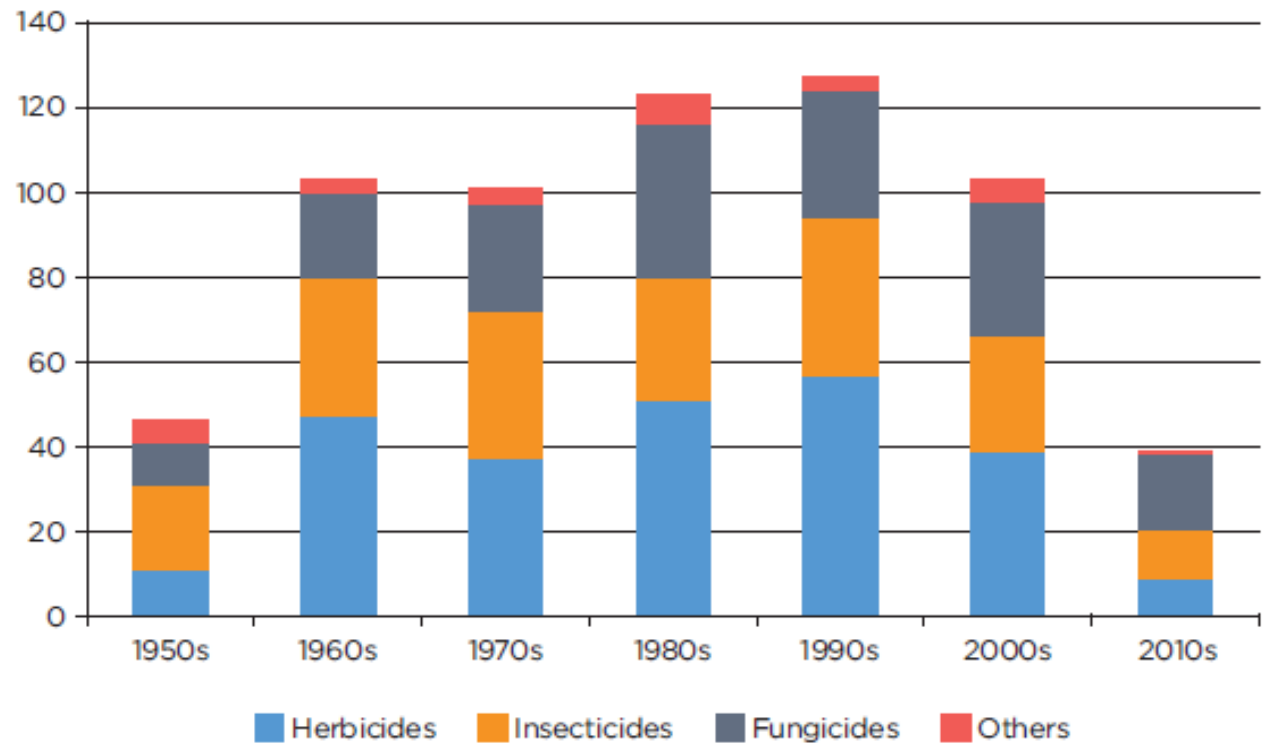
[Farmers' Toolbox - CropLife Europe](#)





Ever fewer active substances reach the market

Number of active substance introduced / decade since 1950



[Phillips-McDougall-Evolution-of-the-Crop-Protection-Industry-since-1960-FINAL-REPORT.pdf](#)



Conclusions and anticipated impacts

Policy change required to support growers to ensure the control late blight and EU food security

- **Without change in regulatory policy: farmers won't be able to control Phytophthora**
- Lack of modes of actions will further enhance resistance development towards the remaining active ingredients / modes of action
- **EU potato production will be faced with yield and quality losses and high risk for growers**
- EU seed potato production under immediate existential threat (!)
- EU potato production economic not viable / not competitive to non-EU production areas e.g. USA and Canada
- **EU AgroFood cluster potato to drastically shrink with significant loss of workforce across the whole foodvalue chain**



Recommendations

Policy change required to support growers maintain toolbox and accelerate innovation

- **Define a transition path / moratorium** to maintain the actual key crop protection products in the market till new innovations are registered with **equivalent levels of late blight control**
- **Re-introduce the risk / benefit analysis** on the evaluation of crop protection products in the EU (e.g. USA, Canada)
- **Ensure the protection / maintain the activity of novel resistance genes** through an integrated strategy = genetics + crop protection + decision support systems (DSS)
- **Support and accelerate timely registration** of innovative crop protection products (example USA – fee for service with respected timelines)
- **Increase resources to accelerate the discovery of new modes of action** either synthetic or biological crop protection

Simplification and competitiveness





Published Omnibus Simplification Packages

1. Omnibus – Sustainability

- Covers simplification in sustainability reporting (CSRD, CSDDD, Taxonomy, CBAM) and investment programmes.

2. Omnibus – Investments

- Aims to simplify InvestEU and EFSI regulations to facilitate investments.

3. Omnibus – Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

- Focuses on simplifying CAP rules, easing administrative burdens for farmers.

4. Omnibus – Small-Mid Caps & Digitalisation

- Extends simplification benefits to small-mid caps, overhauls GDPR record-keeping, and accelerates digital conformity procedures (e.g., due diligence in battery sector).

5. Omnibus – Defence Readiness

- Introduces fast-track permitting, simplified defence procurement, clearer funding access (including InvestEU), and harmonised regulatory frameworks across Member States.

6. Omnibus – Chemicals

- Includes simplifications of chemical product requirements—labels, cosmetics regulation, fertiliser registrations

7. Omnibus X – “Food and Feed Safety” issued on December 16th 2025

EU regulatory system Omnibus update - Euroblight Ourense 2026



Food and Feed Safety Omnibus

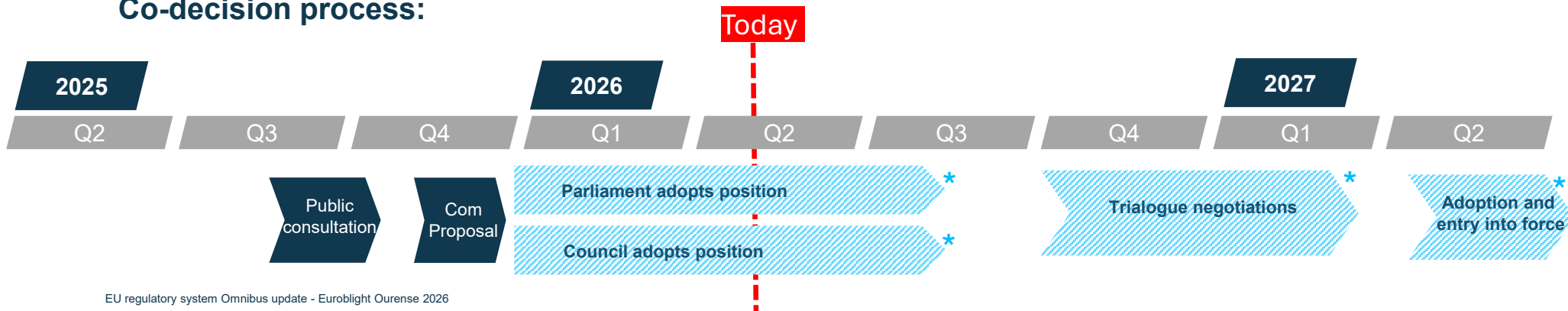


Food and Feed Safety Omnibus

Scope and Process

- // **Scope:** “This initiative aims to increase the competitiveness of EU farmers and the food and feed industry, as well as reduce the administrative burden on Member States authorities related to marketing authorisations of products.”
 - // PPPs, biocidal products; feed additives; food hygiene; official controls; other measures to simplify EU food law
 - // The draft Omnibus proposes amendments to existing EU legislation, including the plant protection authorisation framework (**Reg. 1107/2009**), the MRL Regulation (**Reg. 396/2005**) and the Sustainable Use Directive (**Directive 2009/128/EC**).
- // **Key Objectives:**
 - // accelerate access to the EU market for **biocontrol substances and products**
 - // **simply and clarify regulatory requirements on plant protection products**

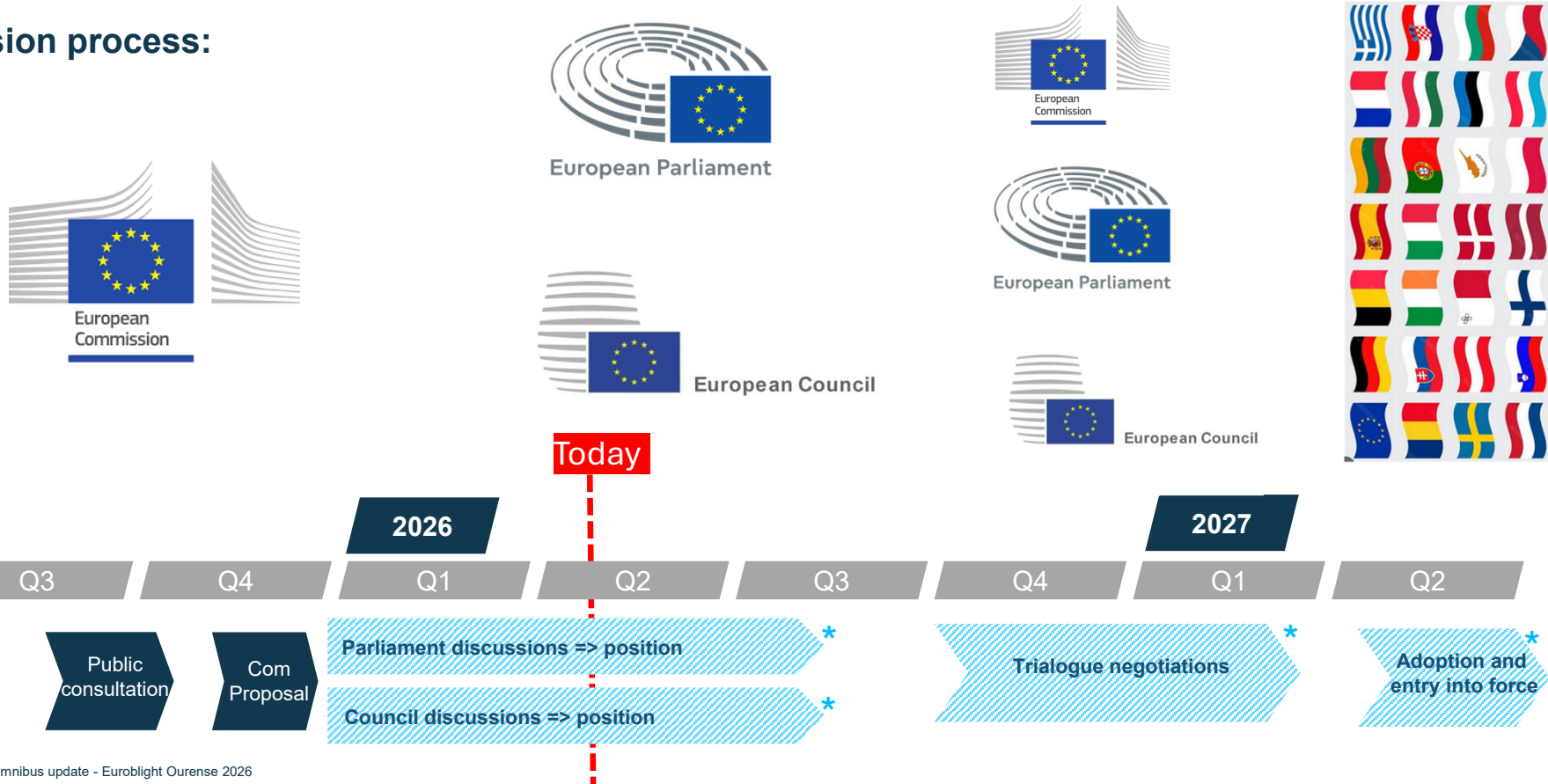
Co-decision process:





Food and Feed Safety Omnibus

Co-decision process:





Commission proposal

Dec 16th 2025



Proposal Dec 16th – Draft analysis

1. Biocontrol & Low-Risk Provisions

- // Broad future proof EU definition of biocontrol substances.
- // **Provisional authorizations for max 5 years before EU substance approval (post-DAR); possible transposition into standard PPP authorization**
- // **“One zone” system for product applications.**
- // **Automatic mutual recognition/cMS authorization (zonal process) if MS does not take a decision by 120 days legal deadline.**
- // EFSA can act as rapporteur MS for active substance evaluation.
- // Prioritization of biocontrol dossiers.
- // Record-keeping exemption for biocontrol products.
- // Clarified definition of biostimulants.



Proposal Dec 16th – Draft analysis

2. Unlimited Approval for Conventional & Biocontrol AIs

- // Removes periodic renewal (10–15 years); grants **unlimited approval** for AIs (except candidates for substitution or derogations).
- // Keeps possibility of **targeted review and emergency measures** based on new scientific evidence or safety concerns (art 21 -69)
- // **Full and targeted reassessment** in light of new scientific and technical evidence and/or new registrability criteria, data requirements or guidance documents applicable to these substances
- // **PPP** still need reauthorization at least every 15 years

3. Full & Targeted reassessment of Ais (Latest scientific evidence)

- // Commission can trigger full renewal or targeted reassessment, in light of new scientific and technical evidence and/or new registrability criteria, data requirements or guidance documents applicable to these substances
- // Lack of clarity on triggers and process for full reassessment.



Proposal Dec 16th – Draft analysis

4. Derogation Approval for Hazardous Substances

- // Article 4(7) revised: derogation dossier can be submitted later in process.
- // Scope broadened to include “plant production” (economic impact).

5. Conflict of Interest for EFSA Experts

- // EFSA to enforce independence and avoid conflicts of interest.

6. Grace Periods

- // 3 scenario's
 - // No grace period (immediate and serious concerns regarding Env or HH – cut offs)
 - // 6 months (end of sales) +12 months (end of use) : standard approach
 - // 12 months (end of sales) +24 months (end of use) : lack of alternatives

7. Assessment of “Current Scientific & Technical Knowledge”

- // For product authorizations MS must rely on the guidance that applied at time of application and on substance information resulting from the latest EU-level AI assessment (endpoints etc)
- // MS can request update of EU assessment (criteria unclear) through process for targeted reassessments or reviews



Proposal Dec 16th – Draft analysis

8. Minor Uses

- // Streamlined and simplified authorization extensions for minor uses.

9. Seed Treatment

- // Extends provisions of Art 49 also to tubers, bulbs and other PRM
- // Clarifies that treating seed and sowing treated seeds = PPP use
- // Treated seeds themselves not considered PPP.

10. Data Protection

- // Harmonized start date for data protection (first MS authorization) 10 years first authorization; 30 months Art 43
- // Adjusted provisions for targeted reviews needed

11. No MRL on Cut-Off Active Substances

- // MRLs may be revoked and set to technical zero based on hazard criteria (cut off substance) if considered appropriate in light of the outcome of a risk-assessment

12. MRL – Compliance of GAP with IPM


- // GAP is the base to set MRLs in EU and third countries
- // Dose rate used should be the lowest possible and aligned with IPM programs and principles established in the EU
- // But with consideration climatic zones and target control level.



Process and engagement



Anticipated Institutional Timeline

 **Lead Committee: ENVI / AGRI**
Others: INTA

BLUE – Parliament
GREEN – Council
ORANGE - Trilogues

16 Dec.
Commission proposal

Jan-March
Parliament
Confirmation
of Lead
Committee,
Rapporteur
and Shadows

April
Rapporteur
draft report

May
Committee
amendments

June-Sept
2026
EP Committee
vote

Sept-Nov 2026
EP Plenary vote and
mandate for
trilogues
established

Nov 2026-Feb
2027 Trilogues
between
Parliament-
Council-
Commission



Q2 2027
Political agreement
reached and formally
approved by EP and Council

Mid- to end-2027
Publication & entry into
force


Q4 2025 Q1 2026 Q2 2026 Q3 2026 Q4 2026

Today

Feb-June
Council Working
Party discussions

June-Oct
COREPER discussions
to agree on General
approach

Oct-Nov 2026
Council General
Approach adopted in
COREPER

 **Council configuration:**
ANTICI, "Simplification WP"

 **Lead DG: SANTE**
Others: AGRI;
Dombrovskis' cabinet



Engagement and outreach

EU Foodsecurity and competitiveness at stake

// Strategic window of opportunity for EU's agricultural sectors

- // Leverage omnibus as vehicle to drive change
- // Addressing the Depleting toolbox ensuring Competitiveness while safeguarding high safety standards
- // Political awareness and stakeholder openness to engage

// Proactive engagement with wide range of stakeholders most effective

- // Member States will play a crucial role in the level of simplification that can be successfully delivered
- // Engagement and alignment with grower groups, practical research, authorities, ... is important





Proposal and call for action

EU Foodsecurity and competitiveness at stake

Proposal / Call for action:

EuroBlight to communicate supportive position to foster changes in EU regulatory system to support AgroFood cluster potato in the EU



Health for all, Hunger for none



Thank
you!

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