

# Regulation and innovation in plant protection

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# Sustainability needs innovation

- Global warming
- Energy transition
- Pollution: air, water, soil
- Materials: cyclical economy
- Food: from farm to fork

# Innovation needs regulation

WHY: level playing field, externalities, incentives

WHY NOT: bureaucracy, protecting incumbents

- CO2 targets
- Renewable energy
- Pollution limits
- Recycling obligations, waste management
- Food: fertilizers, hygiene, plant protection

# Regulation trails innovation

- Substantively: understanding vs acceptance
- Conceptually: precaution vs risk
- Procedurally: policy cycle
- Institutionally: many actors
- Interests: public vs private

THEREFORE: Regulation needs innovation itself: urgent public interest needs, supporting new policy initiatives.

# Example: non-chemical plant protection products (1)

Regulation 1107/2009 regulates placing on market of plant protection products

(17) The evaluation of an active substance may reveal that it presents considerably less of a risk than other substances. In order to **favour the inclusion** of such a substance in plant protection products, it is appropriate to identify such substances and to **facilitate the placing on the market** of plant protection products containing them. Incentives should be given for the placing on the market of low-risk plant protection products.

# Example: non-chemical plant protection products (2)

Council action plan to accelerate sustainable plant protection (endorsed 27-28 June 2016)

Under existing legislation:

- **expediting administrative processes for the approval** of low-risk active substances and the authorisation of low-risk plant protection products, while maintaining the high standards of risk assessment;
- considering measures to guide and stimulate businesses to apply for authorisations to place their products on the market;
- identifying low-risk substances already on the market;
- **clarifying certain regulatory requirements** such as the criteria for low-risk substances and products and the assessment of their efficacy.

Under new legislation:

- **accelerate** the placing on the market of low-risk products;
- increase the availability of other alternatives, such as basic substances.

# Example: non-chemical plant protection products (3)

EP Resolution of 13 September 2018

23. Emphasises that the authorisation and promotion **of low-risk pesticides that are non-chemical** is an important measure to support low pesticide-input pest management; acknowledges the need for more research into these products, as their composition and functioning are radically different from those of conventional products; underlines that this also includes the need for more expertise within EFSA and the national competent authorities to evaluate these biological active substances; stresses that PPPs of biological origin should be subject to the same rigorous evaluations as other substances; in line with its resolution of 15 February 2017 on low-risk pesticides of biological origin, calls on the Commission to **submit a specific legislative proposal amending Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009**, outside of the general revision in connection with the REFIT initiative, with a view to establishing a **fast-track evaluation, authorisation and registration process for low-risk pesticides**;

Note: can only work if the fast-track evaluation is specific for non-chemical pesticides.

# Conclusion

REFIT review of existing legislation is not appropriate (cf. EP Resolution)

Options:

- Clarifications and expedited procedures under existing legislation
- Targeted fast-track legislation