

# 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