



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health and Food Audits and Analysis  
The Director

Grange  
SANTE.F.3/RH/kod

Dear Ms. Munić,

Thank you for your mail to Commission President von der Leyen which I have been asked to respond to.

I would like to reassure you that the Commission is committed to the objective of protecting both citizens' health and the environment, while at the same time supporting the EU's farmers, agricultural production and food security. It is conscious that European citizens have expressed in numerous fora, including the Conference on the Future of Europe and European Citizens' Initiatives, their desire to reduce the use and risk of pesticides.

However, as the proposal for a Regulation on the sustainable use of plant protection products has been rejected by the European Parliament and there was no formal position in the Council, the Commission considered that progress was no longer possible.

The 2009 Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (Directive 2009/128/EC) remains in force. This sets the framework to reduce the risks and impact of pesticide use on human health and the environment. It also advocates alternative approaches or techniques, such as the use of non-chemical alternatives. Member States have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.

In addition, all users of pesticides must comply with the conditions and risk mitigation measures established in the individual authorisations for the placing on the market and use of plant protection products under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. Reducing the risk and use of the most hazardous pesticides will remain a key objective of the Commission's work on food safety.

The next months will be an opportunity to engage with stakeholders, notably in the context of the Strategic dialogue on Agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Pilar Aguar Fernández

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